



Commonwealth of Virginia

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

David K. Paylor
Director
(804) 698-4000

August 2, 2019

Mr. Robert Cooper
Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC
625 Liberty Avenue, Suite 1700
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

RE: INSTRUCTION TO STOP WORK

Dear Mr. Cooper:

Legal Authority

Virginia Code §§ 62.1-44.15:37.1 and 62.1-44.15:58.1 authorize the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to issue instructions to stop work for land-disturbing activities related to the construction of natural gas transmission pipelines if certain conditions are met. These conditions are:

1. the inside diameter of the pipeline is greater than thirty-six (36) inches;
2. the natural gas pipeline company has approved annual standards and specifications; and
3. DEQ determines that there has been a substantial adverse impact to water quality or that an imminent and substantial adverse impact to water quality is likely to occur as a result of the land-disturbing activities.¹

The pipe being used in the construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline project is greater than thirty-six (36) inches and Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC (MVP) has approved standards and specifications for erosion and sediment control and stormwater. Based on a DEQ inspection conducted on August 1, 2019, DEQ has determined that an imminent and substantial adverse impact to water quality is likely to occur as a result of land-disturbing activities. Specifically, MVP has failed to construct and maintain erosion and sediment control or pollution prevention measures in accordance with approved site-specific plans and/or the erosion and sediment control measures that have been installed are not functioning effectively.

¹ Enclosed is DEQ Guidance Memo No. 18-2004, Procedures for Pipeline Stop Work Instruction

Stop Work Instruction


This stop work instruction applies to work in the MVP construction right of way on spread H from STA 12482+67 to STA 12544+06 including sediment discharge to S-EF19 in Montgomery County, Virginia.

MVP must stop all ongoing land-disturbing activities including but not limited to ongoing clearing, grading and/or trenching activities in this designated area. The only land-disturbing activities authorized in this area are those necessary to install and maintain Erosion Control Devices (ECDs) as required by the approved site-specific Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) plans and Annual Standards and Specifications.

MVP must complete the following corrective measures:

- Installation/maintenance of all required ECDs on spread H between STA 12482+67 to STA 12544+06 in accordance with approved ESC plans and annual standards and specifications.
- Remediation of accumulated sediment in S-EF19 as soon as possible upon property owner approval for access.

This stop work instruction will be lifted once MVP has completed these corrective actions to DEQ's satisfaction. This evaluation will be based on field inspection/verification by DEQ staff. Please contact Jerome Brooks (804) 698-4403 to coordinate this inspection.

Signed: 
Jerome Brooks, DEQ Water Compliance Manager