

# Appalachian Gas Working Group

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October 24, 2017

Office of the Governor  
State Capitol, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E  
Charleston, WV 25305

Governor Justice:

We, the undersigned organizations, write concerning the Section 401 Water Quality Certification applications for the Mountain Valley and Atlantic Coast Pipelines, currently under review. As you know, the WV Department of Environmental Protection is tasked with protecting human health and the environment, and the economy that relies on access to clean, safe water.

According to WVDEP's 401 application requirements, "In order for the WVDEP to issue a Section 401 Certification, the project must comply with the State Water Quality Standards (§47CSR2) and not potentially result in an adverse long-term or short-term impact on water quality." West Virginians are counting on you to oversee WVDEP's thorough review of these massive projects to assure water quality will not be degraded.

Though the two newly-appointed commissioners of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved the certificates for the Mountain Valley and Atlantic Coast Pipelines, states still have the authority and critical role under the Clean Water Act to ensure that these projects will not violate water quality standards. The dissent by Commissioner LaFleur shows an awareness of the need to balance these projects' collective environmental impact with business interests to keep our water safe for human consumption and future economic development.

Both of these pipelines are proposed to be built over delicate caves, karst terrain, and groundwater systems. They will cross through state and federal public lands. Combined, the two projects will impact over 1,000 streams in West Virginia. The routes of both pipelines will require extensive construction on steep slopes in highly erodible soils that are likely to cause severe runoff and siltation into streams affecting aquatic life.

For these reasons, we are relying on your leadership to direct WVDEP to apply ample resources for the agency to do its due diligence to protect our water through these crucial 401 certification reviews and to include all needed provisions in their 401 Certification that assure water quality protection. West Virginia's \$5 billion tourism industry and the health of the state's citizens depend on clean water. It is your duty and responsibility to keep it that way.

Signed,

Natalie Thompson  
Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition

Cindy Ellis  
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy

CC: Secretary Austin Caperton

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Judy Azulay  
Indian Creek Watershed Association

April Keating  
Mountain Lakes Preservation Alliance

Justin Raines  
West Virginia Chapter of Sierra Club

Angie Rosser  
West Virginia Rivers Coalition

Julie Archer  
West Virginia Surface Owners' Rights Organization

Gary Zuckett  
West Virginia Citizens Action Group

John Walkup III  
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Dr. Stephen Miller  
Save Monroe

Laura Steepleton  
Eastern Panhandle Protectors

Maury Johnson  
Preserve Monroe

Allen Johnson  
Christians for the Mountains

Beth Little  
Eight Rivers Council

Wayne Woods  
Doddridge County Watershed Association

Johnathan Rosenbaum  
League of Women Voters of West Virginia

Laurie Ardison  
Protect Our Water, Heritage, Rights

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Brandon Richardson  
Headwaters Defense

Peter Anderson  
Appalachian Voices

Carolyn Reilly  
Bold Alliance