

# MOUNTAIN VALLEY PIPELINE

## September 2022 Summary and Status

Eight years after the Mountain Valley Pipeline was proposed, some members of Congress are attempting to resuscitate the flailing project through legislation that would seek to circumvent the judicial process and potentially force federal agencies to arrive at congressionally determined outcomes regarding MVP's compliance with bedrock environmental laws. MVP, LLC, the company behind the project, and its backers claim the company has nearly completed construction of the pipeline, but this is misleading: the project is far from finished, and in fact the most challenging and risky work is yet to be done.

Below is a summary of key points from the report "The Status and Impact of the Mountain Valley Pipeline," available in full at [AppVoices.org/mvp-report](https://AppVoices.org/mvp-report).

### What is the Mountain Valley Pipeline?

Mountain Valley Pipeline is a 303-mile, 42-inch diameter proposed fracked-gas pipeline routed through steep slopes and the pristine water resources of West Virginia and Virginia.<sup>1</sup> Construction began in 2018. Currently, MVP has an estimated cost of roughly \$6.6 billion and its proposed completion date is late 2023.<sup>2,3</sup> This is despite the fact that, at the company's request, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) recently granted MVP four more years — until 2026 — to finish the project.<sup>4</sup>

MVP, LLC has also proposed an extension known as MVP Southgate that would traverse 73 miles from MVP's terminus in Virginia, to Alamance County, North Carolina. State regulatory authorities in both North Carolina and Virginia have denied essential permits and construction has not begun.<sup>5,6</sup>

### Where does the project stand?

The Mountain Valley Pipeline **currently lacks authorizations from four federal agencies**. In recent years, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit has found permits authorizing the construction and operation of Mountain Valley Pipeline to be noncompliant with federal environmental laws: the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Forest Management Act and the Mineral Leasing Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Water Act. These laws play a critical role in protecting communities, waterways and endangered species.

A total of **429 water crossings remain**, 236 in Virginia, and 193 in West Virginia.<sup>7,8</sup> The first incomplete stream crossing is at milepost 0.7 — the project cannot even move the fracked gas one mile before encountering the first of hundreds of incomplete water crossings.<sup>9</sup> Water body crossings are among the most difficult and complicated parts of pipeline construction.

In its public statements, MVP references a completion percentage in terms of the miles of pipe in the ground — more than 90%. This is misleading because remaining work to be done is some of the most difficult and complex construction work, and it also excludes the final stage of construction, the process known as restoration. According to its own reports, Mountain Valley Pipeline is **currently only 55.8% complete to full restoration**.<sup>10</sup>



Aerial image of MVP construction by Mountain Valley Watch



Don Jones, a seventh-generation farmer in Newport, Virginia, holds an image of his late father George Jones, who was also opposed to the Mountain Valley Pipeline. Portrait by Matthew Pickett / Loud Valley Productions, LLC

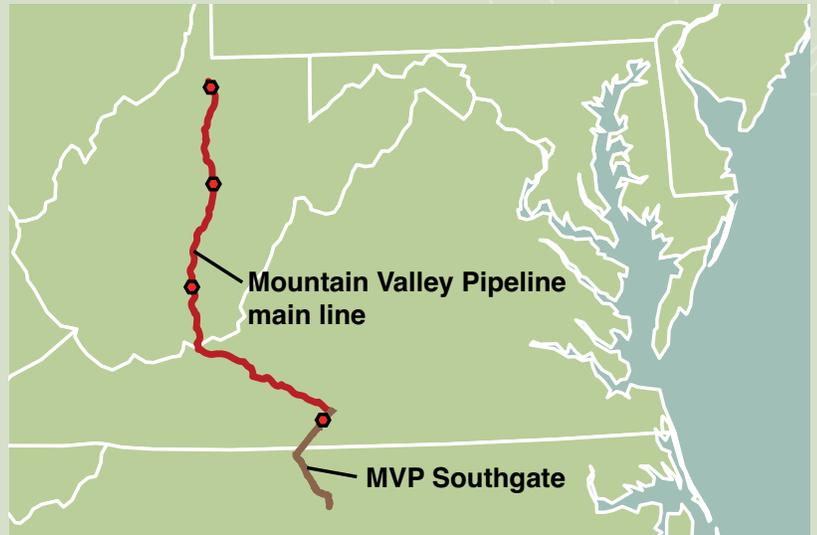
## How are communities, land and water impacted by the Mountain Valley Pipeline?

**Water quality violations:** Mountain Valley Pipeline has amassed more than 500 violations of permit conditions and state environmental laws and regulations to date during construction.<sup>11,12,13</sup>

**Safety risks:** Almost 75% of the project's route is through areas with "high susceptibility" for landslides, the highest total percentage for any pipeline of its diameter.<sup>14,15</sup>

**Damage to water, land and livelihood:** Landowners have suffered damage to property, water resources and operational farms. Personal wells have been damaged by construction, resulting in loss of clean drinking water, and generational farms have been rendered unusable.<sup>16,17</sup>

**Damage to Indigenous sites:** Construction of the project has damaged Indigenous cultural and sacred sites.<sup>18</sup>



Red dots indicate compressor stations. The southernmost dot represents a proposed compressor station on the MVP Southgate line.

Map by Jimmy Davidson / Appalachian Voices

The MVP's repeated inability to comply with environmental laws is a result of the project's poor design and irresponsible project construction. Eight years in, pipeline developers still have not shown that they can build this project while complying with environmental laws and protecting communities.

Read the full report at [AppVoices.org/mvp-report](https://AppVoices.org/mvp-report)

### NOTES

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This report was developed by Appalachian Voices, with contributions from the POWHR Coalition and the Sierra Club.