

Letter to the Editor

Group says MVP pipeline will damage historic districts

Virginia State Historic Preservation Office: MVP Pipeline Will Permanently Damage 5 Virginia Historic and Rural Historic Districts

In a letter to Mountain Valley Pipeline, Dr. Roger Kirchen of the Commonwealth of Virginia's State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concluded that the proposed natural gas pipeline would do permanent damage to five Virginia historic and rural historic districts. On July 7, 2017 Dr. Kirchen wrote:

"It is our opinion that the Greater Newport Rural Historic District, Big Stony Creek Historic District, North Fork Valley Rural Historic District, Bent Mountain Rural Historic District, and Coles-Terry Rural Historic District will be adversely affected by the MVP bisecting them and leaving a permanent fifty-foot wide imprint on their landscapes."

The proposed pipeline slashes through 6 miles of the Greater Newport Rural Historic District, including the heart of the Village of Newport. The Village of Newport is the last remaining village in the Commonwealth and has been recognized by the General Assembly as a unique and historic rural community. The yet-to-be-approved pipeline tears through the

village between the 1853 Newport-Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church (pictured below) and the historic 1933 High School Campus and Fairgrounds. The pipeline also passes immediately uphill of the 1912 Sinking Creek Covered Bridge (one of six such bridges left in Virginia) on an exceptionally steep and heavily forested slope – as with most karst mountain topography the slope, and much of the route, is comprised of numerous caves, boulders and springs which are highly unstable when disturbed.

The Greater Newport Rural Historic District Committee (Committee) and Preserve Newport Historic Properties (PNHP) are two Newport community organizations dedicated to the preservation of the Newport rural historic community, and opposed to the pipeline route through the Greater Newport Rural Historic District. The Committee and PNHP concur with the SHPO's conclusion above. There are known alternatives to the proposed route that avoid the destruction of these rural communities. These alternative routes avoid all five historic districts and have other significant environmental advantages as well, including substantially less impact on

the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (ANST), another historic property and valuable source of tourism and income locally.

However these alternatives have not been adequately studied by key Federal agencies nor fully documented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement. By law, Federal agencies must, in consultation with the SHPO, fully assess options for avoiding the destruction of historic rural communities. The

Committee and PNHP are hopeful that the Federal agencies, working with other consulting parties, will:

- recognize that these alternatives exist,
- conduct the needed additional studies, and
- should a final determination prove a pipeline is needed (a point we strongly contest), adopt an alternative route that does not destroy unique rural historic communities and the natural resources they depend on.

The Committee and PNHP continue to look for opportunities to work with the appropriate agencies in seeking a way forward that does not impose irreparable harm to our community.

For more information contact David Brady (540-230-5833) flyngcow@pemt-tel.net

Jerolyn Deplazes
Secretary
Preserve Newport
Historic Properties

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Quote of the Week



Sudoku Puzzle

Puzzle Answer on Page 3

				3	9	7
6		5	7			1
3		9				2
			1		3	
6	1	3		7	2	4
		3		9		
8				9		7
2			8	5		4
5	4	2				

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Letter Policy

The *Virginian Leader* welcomes letters to the editor. All letters should be neatly printed or typewritten and pertain to a subject of general interest. All letters must be signed and include the address of the writer. Unsigned letters will not be published. Telephone numbers also should be included for verification purposes. If the letter is written for a group or organization, the name of at least one member must be signed. All letters are subject to editing. The newspaper reserves the right to reject any letter that may be libelous or contrary to the public interest. Only letters from a resident of Giles or Monroe Counties or a direct connection will be accepted for publication. Thank you notes cannot be printed as a letter to the editor. They should be submitted to the Classified Advertising Department. Letters should be submitted as early in the week as possible. The deadline for the next issue is noon on Monday. All letters become the property of the newspaper.

Crossword Puzzle

Answers on Page 3

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13				14				15			
16				17							
18				19				20			
21		22				23	24				
25						26			27	28	29
30	31				32				33		
34				35					36		
37				38				39			
40			41	42				43			
44						45				46	
47	48	49				50			51		52
53				54	55				56		
57									58		
59					60				61		

Across

- Water carrier
- Panhandles
- Be an omen of
- Persia, now
- Pulsates rapidly from disease
- Gold in color
- Work mates
- Amniotic
- Locale
- Ecological community
- Caring
- "Wheel of Fortune" choice
- Contact, e.g.
- Fall behind
- Belittle
- Drag
- Cold and wet
- ___ carotene
- A quick raid
- Decline
- "Malcolm X" director
- Affectedly creative
- One who goes for the gold?
- Final stages of any activity
- Shiny on top?
- Lying, maybe
- Fatty tissue of animals
- Cheerful
- Baptism, for one
- ___ de deux
- Classic movie password
- Allocate, with "out"
- Vehicle scraping side of another
- Length x width, for a rectangle
- Sean Connery, for one
- Donald and Ivana, e.g.
- Actor's goal

Down

- ...
- Dickens's ___ Heep
- Thought out
- Discharge letters?
- Butter up?
- "... or ___"
- Mail place: Abbr.
- Order to attack, with "on"
- Sheep making noise
- "Beetle Bailey" dog
- Adjudge
- "___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto)
- Nuisances
- Leg bone
- All there
- ___ Verde National Park
- Digress
- Hunted
- Alphabetizes, e.g.
- Serious, tragic opera
- Channel
- The America's Cup trophy, e.g.
- ___-bodied
- "___ here long?"
- Blasé
- Notability
- Heir lines?
- Drone, e.g.
- January's birthstone
- Moderated
- Multiplied by
- End of the quip
- Forest growth
- "Beowulf," e.g.
- Change
- Seize or carry off by force
- Accommodate
- Female sheep
- Half a dozen
- Blueprint

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Office Staff

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