

# Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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Sent: Via Email & Mail

January 16, 2019

David Paylor, Director  
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
PO Box 1105  
1111 East Main Street, Suite 1400  
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Director Paylor:

I would like an explanation why a date for the hearing to begin the process regarding revocation of the 401 water certification for the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline has not been set.

It seems the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ) is attempting to slow walk the direction given to you by the State Water Control Board (SWCB) at its December 13, 2018 meeting. This is an important meeting to prevent further degradation of the waters of the Commonwealth. As you are well aware, MVP has perpetrated over 300 violations by its poor construction methods and soil & erosion techniques through November 14, as described by your own staff. These violations resulted in a lawsuit filed by the Attorney General. Yet over a month after the direction given to VADEQ staff by the SWCB, this meeting has not been scheduled.

Why would I accuse VADEQ of delaying the direction of the SWCB? Six days after the SWCB meeting (December 19, 2018), the State Air Pollution Control Board, directed VADEQ staff to set up a "limited" comment period for additional comment regarding the air permit for the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline compressor station in Buckingham County, Virginia. That comment period was announced in less than 48 hours...on December 21. The comment period began on December 21<sup>st</sup> and ended on January 4, 2019. Additionally, a new meeting of the Air Board was scheduled and held on January 8, 2019, at which time the Air Board voted on the Air Permit. There was obviously some urgency given to the Air Board's request, but none given to the request by the State Water Control Board.

While VADEQ slow walks the direction given by the SWCB, VADEQ is complicit in allowing the construction of the MVP to continue and any additional violations to the waters of the Commonwealth. We demand, on behalf of our chapters and members, that a date be set immediately for the hearing requested by the SWCB regarding the revocation of the 401 water certification. VADEQ's efforts to delay this process must end now.

Sincerely,

Sharon Ponton  
Stop the Pipeline Campaign Coordinator

cc: Attorney General Mark Herring  
Governor Ralph Northam  
Preserve Franklin  
Preserve Roanoke/Bent Mountain