



RE: 25-0752- followup

From King, Christian M <cmking2@burnsmcd.com>

Date Wed 7/30/2025 12:23 PM

To Mussomeli, Michael (DEQ) <Michael.Mussomeli@deq.virginia.gov>; Chalmers, Cory <cory.chalmers@eqt.com>

Cc Hardwick, Steven (DEQ) <Steven.Hardwick@deq.virginia.gov>; Justin Curtis <justin@aqualaw.com>; Ferry, Lori M <lmferry@burnsmcd.com>

1 attachment (2 MB)

MVP Standards & Specifications - June 2025 Edition.pdf;

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Hi Mike,

Please see the responses below to the minor discrepancies identified. The table evaluating route alternatives and variations provided in Comment Letter 1 has been updated to include field delineated data comparisons where available. The updated table and updated Figure 3 are included at the following link:

[Final VDEQ Email Response July 30, 2025](#)

Streams

- Missing callout for S-B032 (Sheet CL-052) on the revised map.
 - The callout for S-B032 on Sheet CL-052 of Figure 3 has been added. Please see the updated Figure 3 at the link above.
- Temporary impact (linear feet) total is listed as 5,671 on Table 4: Stream Impacts Summary, came up with 5,667 from the impact tables.
 - We checked the stream impact tables and summary to verify that the total is correct and consistent throughout the package. The temporary impacts (linear feet) for streams in Virginia totals 5,671 linear feet in Table 2, Table 4, Table A-1, and Table A-3 provided in the July 16, 2025, response to Comment Letter #2 by DEQ.

Wetlands

- W-A001: Table 3- Wetland Impacts has this listed with a temporary impact of .0629ac, but the detail map has the temporary impact listed as .0593ac
 - The temporary impact for W-A001 should be 0.0629 acres. Figure 3 has been updated to show this impact callout for W-A001.
- W-B013b: Table 3- Wetland Impacts has a permanent conversion impact of 0.1438ac, but the detail map has it listed as 0.1619ac. Table 15- Compensatory Wetland Mitigation has a required mitigation of 0.1438 at a 1:1 ratio.
 - W-B013b straddles the Virginia-North Carolina border, and the total conversion impact to the wetland is 0.1619 acres. The permanent conversion impact for W-B013b in Virginia is 0.1438 acres, while the permanent conversion impact for W-B013b in North Carolina is 0.0181 acres. Figure 3 has been updated to show separate impact callouts for each state.
- W-B023: Table 3- Wetland Impacts has a permanent conversion impact of 0.0348ac, but the Detail Map has the conversion impact as 0.0009ac. The Detail Map appears to be showing the secondary impact. Table 15-Compensatory Wetland Mitigation has a required mitigation of 0.0348ac at a 1:1 ratio.
 - The permanent conversion impact for W-B023 of 0.0348 acres in Table 3 includes both the proposed open cut impact of 0.0339 acres and the secondary impact of 0.0009 acres. Figure 3 has been updated to show both impact callouts.

Following up on Friday's conversation, we wanted to clarify a question about the location of the pipeline and travel lanes within the 75-foot right-of-way (ROW) at stream and wetland crossings. In short, the precise locations of the pipeline and travel lanes may shift slightly within the ROW during construction, but those minor shifts will not increase the impacts shown in the application. DEQ reviews any minor shifts in the location of the pipeline or travel lane within the ROW as part of its regular inspection program for the Project. It was an oversight on our part for not explaining this process more clearly in the JPA.

The maps in Figure 3 depict the proposed pipeline position within the ROW as a dashed black line. The ROW boundaries (i.e., limits of disturbance) shown on the figures are fixed and cannot be changed without modifying the relevant approvals. The placement of the pipeline within those boundaries (as depicted as the dashed black line in Figure 3) generally follows the centerline of the ROW except where it has been shifted based on known site-specific conditions. Due to field conditions encountered at the time of construction, the final placement of the pipe within the permanent ROW may be shifted within a narrow band centered on the pipeline location shown in Figure 3. Stream and wetland crossings are 75 feet in width. To comply with pipeline safety regulations, Mountain Valley must keep a 15-foot area on each side of the pipe free from woody vegetation. That 15-foot area cannot extend outside the permanent ROW, which leaves a 45-foot-wide section of the ROW available for placement of the pipe (75-foot ROW minus a 15-foot buffer on both sides of the ROW). Because cofferdams, pumps, sediment controls, and other related features also must be fit within the 75-foot ROW to complete an open cut crossing, the area available for installation of the pipe will be narrower than 45-feet-wide in most cases. The travel lane (i.e., timber mat crossings) also may shift within 75-foot ROW to accommodate placement of the pipeline and other activities necessary to complete the crossing.

Most importantly, minor shifts in the placement of the pipeline and travel lane within the ROW at open cut crossings will not increase the impacts depicted on the figures and impact tables for open cut crossings. The 75-foot ROW is necked-down to the maximum extent practicable to minimize impacts at stream and wetland crossings. The entire 75-foot width is needed to safely operate equipment and environmental controls. For that reason, Figure 3 depicts any stream or wetland resources within the 75-foot ROW as impacted. Accordingly, minor shifts in the placement of the pipeline or travel lane within the 75-foot ROW will not increase the stream or wetland impacts depicted on Figure 3 and documented in the Project's impact tables.

The current version of Figure 3 shows several conversion impacts associated with travel lanes and permanent ROW maintenance at trenchless crossings. Mountain Valley erred on the side of caution for calculating the proposed impacts at each of those locations. If field conditions permit minor shifts that will *reduce* conversion impacts to less than is shown on Figure 3, those shifts will be made. Mountain Valley does not anticipate any foreseeable scenario in which the proposed impacts at a trenchless crossing will be increased due to minor changes made in the field. In that unlikely scenario, Mountain Valley will submit a request to modify its VWP permit prior to impacting the resource.

Lastly, please be aware that any minor shifts within the ROW are subject to DEQ oversight through its inspection program for the Project. In accordance with Section 2.5 of the Project's Standards and Specifications (approved by DEQ most recently on June 30, 2025), any shifts in the location of the pipeline or travel lane within the ROW must be shown on the Project's plans and documented in a log. The Standards further provide, "*The log will be presented to the VADEQ Inspector upon request for signoff.*" A copy of the most recent version of the Project's Standards and Specifications is attached for reference.

Please let us know if you have any issues accessing the materials or have any questions in your review of the responses and attachments.

Thank you,

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Sent: Friday, July 25, 2025 1:32 PM

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Subject: 25-0752- followup

Cory/Christian:

Thank you for meeting this morning. I was hoping to have this completed by the time we met but didn't finalize the review until this afternoon. Just a few minor discrepancies in the tables/figures that may need to address:

Streams

- Missing callout for S-B032 (Sheet CL-052) on the revised map.
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Small, negligible differences between Table 5 and figure (5.1218 vs. 5.1216 ac). We would round up so not necessarily a concern. The total permanent conversion impact for wetlands is 6.3132ac according to Table 5- Wetland Impact Summary, but added the total permanent conversion wetland impacts to be 6.3131ac; we'd round to the hundredth so not necessarily a concern.

Thanks,



Michael J. Mussomeli, PWS

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