

Bias and Abuse in FERC's management of the MVP Application
by Richard Shingles, Coordinator of Preserve Giles County
(Testimony to the People's Hearing December 2, 2016)

My name is Richard Shingles. I am the Coordinator of Preserve Gilles County in southwest Virginia, proposed to be transected by the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP).

Earlier, my colleague Russell Chisholm, spoke of the unprofessional, blatantly partisan behavior of FERC MVP Project Manager, Paul Friedman, at the Elliston Scoping meeting in May, 2015 and again in Roanoke last month. In both instances, Friedman turned "public" input in the scoping process upside down, using the proceedings to cloud the record of public opposition. Friedman has lied repeatedly. Two of the lies described by Russell are documented in the *Roanoke Times* (June 25, 2015 and Nov. 27, 2016).

That is not the full extent of Friedman's duplicity. Here are two more examples:

First Example: Citizens along the proposed MVP route commissioned a professional engineering geologist, Dr. Ernst Kastning, to write a detailed 89 page report (submitted to FERC on July 13) on geological hazards in our region that pose a threat to our communities by the construction of the MVP and to the very integrity of the pipeline itself.

At the Roanoke hearings, Kastning used his 3-minute comments to a stenographer to urge FERC to examine his report. A third person present, Mr. Friedman, interrupted to state the report had been examined and referenced in FERC's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (September, 2016). *In truth*, the Kastning Report was referenced only once, to document a minor fact made by MVP that had nothing to do with Kastning's main conclusion: that because of its unique geology, our region should be a "no build" zone for interstate gas pipelines.

Second Example: Another expert report, by cultural anthropologist Dr. Thomas King, was submitted to FERC on August. 30. It documents the threat to "cultural attachment" in the historic communities on Peters Mountain and the Greater Newport Historic District posed by the MVP to Giles County. However, the DEIS fails to take seriously a threat to cultural attachment, even though King's findings were supported by a second report (Applied Cultural Ecology) commissioned by FERC.

The author of second report, Cultural Anthropologist Dr. Rebecca Austin, was excluded from participating in writing the DEIS. Only one of those writing has an advanced degree beyond the B.A. and that person is an Archeologist (not a cultural anthropologist). One of them was Paul Friedman, who has a B.A. in Anthropology. In explaining during a phone conversation why he rejected "cultural attachment," Friedman stated he had never heard of the term and though it was "made-up."

Perhaps, Mr. Friedman is unfamiliar with the term because he earned his undergraduate degree some thirty years ago and has no professional training in cultural anthropology?

Not only did Friedman exclude a professional cultural anthropologist and author of a FERC

commissioned report from participating in writing a cultural effects analysis for the DEIS, he instructed her firm (Applied Cultural Ecology) not to include measures of mitigation of negative impacts of the MVP on cultural attachment in their report.

Conclusion: These examples convey the image of an arrogant, incompetent, partisan man who has no business managing this review process. His behavior in public scoping meetings and the DEIS assessment of geological hazards and of cultural attachment lie at the core of *bias and abuse* in FERC management of the MVP application.