



## ***ABRA Update #319 – October 22, 2021***

### ***Issue Highlights . . .***

- Comments on MVP stream crossings due October 27
- Final SEIS on ACP Restoration to be published by November 19
- REMINDER: Army Corps hearings for MVP on November 1 & 4
- Endangered species regulatory changes close to happening
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### **Comments on MVP stream crossings due October 27**

Comments on the request by Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC to have a new Section 401 Water Protection Permit issued by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for MVP related to its crossing streams and wetlands in Virginia are due October 27. The POWHR Coalition and Appalachian Voices have issued a guidance document on how to file comments, with suggested talking points to include in comments. For a copy of that document, click [here](#).

### **Final SEIS on ACP Restoration to be published by November 19**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will be releasing by November 19 the final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the restoration work that must be done on the route for the now-cancelled Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP). The SEIS will be a crucial document in FERC's approval for the restoration plans submitted earlier this year for the ACP and the related Supply Header Project. FERC staff has told ABRA that it anticipates meeting that deadline and that a final decision on a restoration plan will be made by FERC by or before February 17, 2022. For more background, click [here](#) and [here](#).

### **REMINDER: Army Corps hearings for MVP on November 1 and 4**

Public hearings by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding the permit application submitted by Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC for its proposed pipeline to cross certain bodies of water along the project's path in West Virginia and Virginia will be held November 1, 6-8 pm (for West Virginia interests) and November 4, 6-8 pm (for Virginia interests). The hearings are virtual, but in order to participate as a commentor advance registration is necessary. For details on how to register, click [here](#).

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## **Endangered species regulatory changes close to happening**

The significant revisions made to the Endangered Species Act regulations by the Trump Administration in December 2020 are close to being reversed by the Biden Administration. The U.S. Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) developed last summer proposed regulations to undue the Trump changes that had relaxed protection criteria for critical habitats of endangered species. This past week the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs completed its analysis of the proposed changes, clearing the way for FWS to proceed with formally proposing the new regulations. For more, click [here](#).

### ***In the News:***

## **Regional Issues**

### **The common wealth of water**

- Virginia Mercury – 10/18/21

<https://www.virginiamercury.com/2021/10/18/the-common-wealth-of-water>

In the final months of 2021, a decision is looming in Virginia about the controversial Mountain Valley Pipeline, which would carry fracked gas on a 303-mile route that crosses hundreds of bodies of water and traverses steep slopes that are prone to erosion.

### **Dominion, attorney general and SCC staff reach deal in contentious rate case**

- Virginia Mercury – 10/18/21

<https://www.virginiamercury.com/2021/10/18/dominion-attorney-general-and-scc-staff-reach-deal-in-contentious-rate-case/>

If approved, customers would see \$330 million in refunds and a \$50 million rate reduction...or a \$67 refund and about 90 cents off your bill for 5 years. Party time!

### **In Virginia, momentum grows for grassroots group mobilized against now-canceled gas plant**

- Energy News Network – 10/19/21

<https://energynews.us/2021/10/19/in-virginia-momentum-grows-for-grassroots-group-mobilized-against-now-canceled-gas-plant/>

The natural gas plant that brought them together is finally canceled, but Concerned Citizens of Charles City County is just getting started. The group is now aiming to block a second power plant and its accompanying pipeline, plus a growing landfill, in their coastal plain community.

### **Gubernatorial candidates comment, or choose not to, on Mountain Valley Pipeline**

- The Roanoke Times – 10/9/21

<https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Gubernatorial-candidates-comment-or-choose-not-to-on-MVP-Ronaoke-Times-10-9-21.pdf>

### **Major U.S. offshore wind plan hits obstacles**

- E&E Energywire – 10/20/21

<https://www.eenews.net/articles/bloody-expensive-major-u-s-offshore-wind-plan-hits-obstacles/>

## Big Picture:

### Manchin has raked in \$400K in fossil fuel donations

- E&E News – 10/20/21

<https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Manchin-has-raked-in-400K-in-fossil-fuel-donations-EE-News-10-20-21.pdf>

How is this the guy determining our energy policy?

### FERC names first-ever director of public participation Office

- E&E Energywire – 10/13/21

<https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/FERC-names-first-director-of-public-participation-office-EE-Energywire-10-13-21.pdf>

### U.S. Supreme Court refuses stay request for Spire Missouri natgas pipe

- Reuters – 10/15/21

<https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/us-supreme-court-refuses-stay-request-spire-missouri-natgas-pipe-2021-10-15/>

Spire has warned that the shutdown of the 65-mile (105-km) pipeline could cause gas outages for as many as 400,000 in St. Louis this winter.

### Potential Carbon Cost Hike Spurs Fears of Energy Project Delays

- Bloomberg Law – 10/21/21

<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/environment-and-energy/potential-carbon-cost-hike-spurs-fears-of-energy-project-delays>

### Can the Biden Administration Meet Its Offshore Wind Goals?

- JD Supra – 10/19/21

<https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/can-the-biden-administration-meet-its-8487010/>

### Renewable Energy Could Pay the Price for Fuel Crisis

- Bloomberg – 10/16/21

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2021-10-16/global-fuel-crisis-could-thwart-shift-to-renewable-energy>

Consumers' discomfort with rising oil and gas prices doesn't bode well for what might be a costly shift to solar and wind power.

### This isn't the first energy shock of the green era. It's the last energy shock of the fossil-fuel age

- The Globe and Mail – 10/18/21

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/editorials/article-this-isnt-the-first-energy-shock-of-the-green-era-its-the-last-energy/>

The green era, for all the talk and promises, hasn't yet begun. The world's energy sources in 2021 are little changed from the late 20th century. We are still deeply dependent on fossil fuels.