



ABRA Update #322 – December 2, 2021

Issue Highlights . . .

- Conservation groups comment to Army Corps on MVP permit
- Virginia Water Board to consider permit for MVP on Dec. 14
- Jordan Cove project in Oregon cancelled, ending a 17-year battle
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Conservation groups comment to Army Corps on MVP permit

Twenty-two conservation groups, including ABRA and several of its members, filed comments on November 19 with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the permit application for the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) to cross rivers and streams under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The comments were jointly prepared and submitted for the groups by Appalachian Mountain Advocates, Southern Environmental Law Center and Natural Resources Defense Council. Among major points made in the comments, were:

- MVP's proposed open-cut, dry-ditch crossings are not the least environmentally damaging practicable alternatives.
- Because the MVP would cause or contribute to violations of water quality standards, its application must be denied.
- MVP's restoration plans impermissibly focus solely on structure and ignore function.
- MVP has not remedied the inadequacies the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency identified in its compensatory mitigation plans.
- MVP's recently submitted draft mitigation framework is insufficient to ensure that potential adverse impacts are minimized.
- The Army Corps must issue supplemental public notice of pivotal data and allow time for meaningful public comment.

For a copy of the groups' comments, click [here](#).

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Virginia Water Board to consider permit for MVP on December 14

The Virginia State Water Control Board will consider at its December 14 meeting in Richmond the pending application for a water protection permit for the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP). The meeting will be held at the Gallery, Community College Workforce Alliance, 1651 East Parham Road, Richmond, VA 23228. The meeting will be live-streamed (link at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/>). There will not be an opportunity for public comment at the meeting regarding the draft permit. For a copy of the meeting agenda, click [here](#).

Jordan Cove project in Oregon cancelled, ending a 17-year battle

The proposed Jordan Cove LNG terminal in Coos Bay, Oregon and the associated 229-mile natural gas pipeline have been cancelled. The action was announced in a December 1 filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requesting that the agency vacate the project's authorization.

The Jordan Cove project was originally proposed in 2004 to serve an American market with nature gas from Canada. The project was later repurposed as a project to serve Asian markets. Environmental groups and landowners have tirelessly fought the proposed LNG facility and the pipeline since its inception 17-years ago.

In its filing with FERC, the project's sponsor, Pembina Pipeline Corporation, stated:

“Applicants remain concerned regarding their ability to obtain the necessary state permits in the immediate future in addition to other external obstacles. Accordingly, JCEP and PCGP hereby respectfully request that the Commission vacate the authorizations issued in the Authorization Order.”

For a copy of Pembina's FERC filing, click [here](#). For further analysis, click [here](#).

In the News:

Regional Issues

Army Corps of Engineers again pushes back deadline for DEP decision on key water permit for Mountain Valley Pipeline

- Charleston Gazette-Mail – 11/30/21

https://www.wvgazettemail.com/news/energy_and_environment/army-corps-of-engineers-again-pushes-back-deadline-for-dep-decision-on-key-water-permit/article_20127e8f-2936-5296-a8c6-b1db9c06f1do.html

Can is kicked once again: DEP now has until December 30 to decide on MVP's Section 401 water quality permit.

Ghazala F. Hashmi column: Mountain Valley Pipeline is unjust and our state board must deny new permits

- Richmond Times-Dispatch – 11/25/21
https://richmond.com/opinion/columnists/ghazala-f-hashmi-column-mountain-valley-pipeline-is-unjust-and-our-state-board-must-deny/article_30e510f6-c70f-5f18-90a8-a379471b9c82.html

Chatham residents and others to speak against Lambert Compressor Station at air board hearing

- Appalachian Voices – 12/1/21
<https://appvoices.org/2021/12/01/chatham-residents-and-others-to-speak-against-lambert-compressor-station-at-air-board-hearing/>
- Related:
- <https://appvoices.org/2021/11/19/opponents-lambert-compressor-station-mvp-environmental-racism/>

Stark Choice for Va. Regulators on Shared-solar ‘Minimum Bill’

- RTO Insider – 11/30/21
<https://www.rtoinsider.com/articles/29112-stark-choice-va-regulators-shared-solar-bill>
Dominion’s proposed \$75-\$95 monthly charge could discourage participation.

Green energy may flourish even with Republicans dominating Richmond

- NPR WVTF – 11/17/21
<https://www.wvtf.org/news/2021-11-17/green-energy-may-flourish-even-with-republicans-dominating-richmond>
- Related:
- <https://powerforthepeopleva.com/2021/11/17/%ef%bf%bchas-the-energy-transition-hit-a-roadblock-in-virginia-or-just-a-rough-patch-of-pavement/>

SCC approves settlement in review of Dominion Energy Virginia rates

- August Free Press – 11/20/21
<https://augustafreepress.com/scc-approves-settlement-in-review-of-dominion-energy-virginia-rates-refunds-coming/>

Big Picture:

How the U.S. Lost Ground to China in the Contest for Clean Energy

- The New York Times – 11/21/21
<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/21/world/us-china-energy.html>
Asleep at the wheel, two American administrations failed to safeguard decades of diplomatic and financial investments in Congo, where the world’s largest supply of cobalt is now controlled by Chinese companies backed by Beijing.

FERC Exploring GHG Emissions from LNG Projects as Court Cases Pile Up

- Natural Gas Intelligence – 11/23/21

<https://www.naturalgasintel.com/ferc-exploring-ghg-emissions-from-lng-projects-as-court-cases-pile-up/>

FERC Chairman Richard Glick last week argued that the “reasonably foreseen” carbon emissions from natural gas infrastructure should be included in every certificate review, but not everybody agrees with him.

Pricing carbon is vital to US climate goals and politically unlikely, but there is another way, analysts say

- Utility Dive – 11/24/21

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/pricing-carbon-is-vital-to-us-climate-goals-and-politically-unlikely-but-th/609618/>

The new way to think of pricing carbon is as 'a journey, not an endpoint'.

Climate's Uneasy Alliance With China Hawks and Corporations

- The Atlantic – 12/1/21

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2021/12/2-uneasy-alliances-are-remaking-climate-policy/620871/>

Climate advocates finally have some power—and all the dilemmas that come with it.

The quest for a power grid that can withstand extreme weather

- Vox – 12/2/21

<https://www.vox.com/recode/22812748/storm-hurricane-heatwave-climate-infrastructure-smart-grid-ai>

America's grid isn't ready for climate change. Here's how to fix that.

Think Climate Change Is Messy? Wait Until Geoengineering

- Wired – 11/30/21

<https://www.wired.com/story/think-climate-change-is-messy-wait-until-geoengineering/>

Someone's bound to hack the atmosphere to cool the planet. So we urgently need more research on the consequences, says climate scientist Kate Ricke.