



## ABRA Update #332 – May 5, 2022

### Issue Highlights . . .

- MVP admits to more delays, cost overruns
- Applications for ABRA director position still being accepted
- Opposition voiced to invoking Defense Production Act for MVP
- *In the News* – page 2

### MVP admits to more delays, cost overruns

Equitrans Midstream Corporation (ETRN), the largest owner (48%) and operator of the still uncompleted Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP), [announced on May 3](#) that the pipeline is not expected to be in operation until the “second half of 2023 at a total project cost of approximately \$6.6 billion.” The delay is the result of several federal permits being invalidated by court decisions resulting from legal challenges by conservation groups. The new cost projection for the project is double what the company originally estimated when the MVP was first proposed some 8 years ago. At the end of 2021, ETRN was projecting the MVP would be operational in the summer of 2022.

ETRN continues to claim that total project work on the MVP is 94% complete, which by the company’s own data filings with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is a gross exaggeration (click [here](#) for earlier *ABRA Update* story). The exaggeration is made more prominent given that the MVP must still cross some 180 streams and wetlands, meaning that the pipeline is at this point a series of unconnected sections of pipeline. While [FERC agreed on April 8](#) to allow the project to bore under bodies of water and wetlands instead of the open-cut method that the project’s original certificate approved, that work remains to be done.

### Applications for ABRA director position still being accepted

Applications for a new director to manage the Allegheny-Blue Ridge Alliance are still being accepted. Persons interested in the position or those with recommendations of persons that might be considered are urged to contact ABRA Chair Allen Johnson at [allen@eight-rivers.org](mailto:allen@eight-rivers.org). A copy of the job posting is <https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ABRA-job-posting-4-18-22.pdf>.

### Opposition voiced to invoking Defense Production Act for MVP

Twenty-four conservation groups, including ABRA, joined by 17 Virginia state legislators, wrote U.S. Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner on April 22 to express strong opposition to a March 10 recommendation by West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin that the Biden Administration invoke the Defense Production Act to complete the Mountain Valley

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Pipeline. Sen. Manchin cited the need for domestic and European energy security during a March 10 congressional hearing. The letter (click [here](#) for a copy) stated:

“We must not mistake MVP as a ready source of energy or done deal as Senator Manchin insists. MVP is a non-viable solution for current energy concerns, and should be recognized as an environmental catastrophe with no certainty of completion.”

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

### **Regional Issues**

#### **Mountain Valley pipeline delayed as costs rise to \$6.6B**

- E&E News – 5/4/22

<https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Mountain-Valley-pipeline-delayed-as-costs-rise-to-6.6-billion-EE-News-5-4-22.pdf>

Embattled project now eyeing new federal permits, late 2023 startup goal.

#### **Gold mining comes with risks and rewards. But those aren't equally shared.**

- Virginia Mercury – 5/4/22

<https://www.virginiamercury.com/2022/05/04/gold-mining-comes-with-risks-and-rewards-but-those-arent-equally-shared>

Well, the mining company and its shareholders get the rewards. So, what do the local community and those downstream get?

#### **Gas Giants Have Been Ghostwriting Letters Of Support From Elected Officials**

- Huffington Post – 5/2/22

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/williams-tc-energy-pipeline-projects-influence-virginia-north-carolina\\_n\\_6261e382e4b0dc52f494659e](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/williams-tc-energy-pipeline-projects-influence-virginia-north-carolina_n_6261e382e4b0dc52f494659e)

#### **Panel says Virginia should do more to promote solar development on brownfields**

- Virginia Mercury – 5/2/22

<https://www.virginiamercury.com/2022/05/02/panel-says-virginia-should-incentivize-solar-development-on-brownfields>

Everyone says “it’s a great idea”, yet there is zero policy to support this beneficial re-use and there are zero incentives to promote it.

#### **Virginia’s solar output more than doubles in one year**

- Cardinal News – 4/26/22

<https://cardinalnews.org/2022/04/26/virginias-solar-output-more-than-doubles-in-one-year>

Related:

- <https://www.virginiamercury.com/2022/04/26/five-takeaways-from-the-landmark-virginia-solar-survey>

#### **Is Joe Manchin Worth Compromising With Anymore?**

- The New Republic – 5/2/22

<https://newrepublic.com/article/166252/joe-manchin-compromise-climate>

My Magic 8-Ball says “It Doesn’t Look Good”.

## Big Picture:

### Who Will Profit From Saving Scotland's Bogs?

- The New York Times – 5/5/22

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/05/05/headway/scotland-peatlands-climate-change.html>

Repairing the country's extensive peatlands could help the world mitigate climate change. It could also make a fast-fashion billionaire even richer. Interesting read on "who benefits" from tackling climate change? Are alternatives better? *Is there a near-to-medium-term net benefit to society if these activities are simply used as offsets?*

### The fight for a national clean energy transmission system emerges on three fronts

- Utility Dive – 5/3/22

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/the-fight-for-a-national-clean-energy-transmission-system-emerges-on-three/621720/>

Two federal agencies and transmission advocates are exploring the possibility of a "macrogrid"

### If Chevron, Exxon and Shell can't get Gorgon's carbon capture and storage to work, who can?

- IEEFA – 4/26/22

<https://ieefa.org/ieefa-if-chevron-exxon-and-shell-cant-get-gorgons-carbon-capture-and-storage-who-can/>

"CCS technology has been operating for 50 years. If Chevron and its partners can't get it to work these past 5 years at Gorgon, it's not an effective technology for reducing carbon emissions."

### How companies blame you for climate change

- BBC – 5/4/22

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20220504-why-the-wrong-people-are-blamed-for-climate-change>

### Clean energy at a crossroads: The Made-in-America push

- E&E News – 5/4/22

<https://www.abralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Clean-energy-at-a-crossroads-The-Made-in-America-push-EE-News-5-4-22.pdf>

The massive clean energy transition that Biden and Democrats are seeking could require total investments of nearly \$10 trillion by 2050, according to Princeton University analysts. How much of that infrastructure is built in America or bought elsewhere could have huge consequences for the U.S. economy and global trade relationships.

### 'Cash for Clunkers' can cut gas prices, climate change — and Putin's income

- The Hill – 5/5/22

<https://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/3478315-cash-for-clunkers-can-cut-gas-prices-climate-change-and-putins-income/>

### Biden admin weighs offshore wind in deepwater Atlantic, Ore.

- E&E Greenwire – 4/27/22

<https://www.eenews.net/articles/biden-admin-weighs-offshore-wind-in-deepwater-atlantic-ore/>