Mountain Valley Pipeline to Proceed

Gulf Oil & Gas

June 3, 2023 Saturday

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Length: 551 words

Body

The President of the United States signed legislation that raises the Nation's debt limit and ratifies and approves all permits and authorizations necessary for the construction and initial operation of the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) and directs the applicable federal officials and agencies to maintain such authorizations. Further, and not later than June 24, 2023, the legislation requires the Secretary of the Army to issue all permits or verifications necessary to complete project construction and allow for MVP's operation and maintenance. The legislation also divests courts of jurisdiction to review agency actions on approvals necessary for MVP construction and initial operation. Given the legislation, and assuming the timely issuance of the few remaining authorizations, Equitrans Midstream, operator of the MVP, intends to work with its project partners to complete construction of the MVP project by year-end 2023, at an estimated total project cost of approximately \$6.6 billion.

"We are grateful for the full support of the White House, the strong bipartisan leadership of Democratic and Republican legislators, the resolute dedication of Senator Capito, and the unwavering commitment of Chairman Manchin for recognizing and declaring MVP as a critical energy infrastructure project," said Thomas F. Karam, chairman and chief executive officer of Equitrans Midstream.

Karam continued, "The MVP project has gone through more environmental review and scrutiny than any natural gas pipeline project in U.S. history, having been issued the same state and federal authorizations two and three times, only to have those authorizations be routinely challenged and vacated in court. Congressional involvement to legislate the approval of this project only magnifies the critical need for more robust and comprehensive permitting reform that goes beyond the important initial steps in this legislation. Absent a more certain regulatory review and approval process, we are impeding companies' ability to invest capital, including in renewable projects, for the benefit of our Nation's economy, energy security, and energy affordability."

The approval of this legislation expressly acknowledges the efforts of the state and federal agencies that have invested countless hours and worked diligently to develop comprehensive plans for constructing the pipeline with the least possible impact to the environment. Furthermore, the legislation recognizes the many benefits of the MVP in advancing our energy security, bolstering our ability to effectively transition to a lower-carbon economy, and providing energy reliability and affordability for American consumers.

Mountain Valley Pipeline to Proceed

Spanning approximately 303 miles across West Virginia and Virginia, MVP will provide cost-effective access to natural gas for use by local distribution companies, industrial users, and power generation facilities in growing demand markets of the mid-Atlantic and southeast regions of the United States. With the enactment of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, Mountain Valley will continue to work closely with all relevant agencies in reissuing the project's few outstanding permits and will maintain its steadfast commitment to environmental protection to ensure the responsible completion of the project's remaining construction.

Load-Date: June 5, 2023

'Dirty deal': protesters disrupt Joe Manchin event over Mountain Valley pipeline

Canadian Press

June 6, 2023 Tuesday 05:11 PM EST

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Section: NATIONAL Length: 827 words

Byline: James McCarten, The Canadian Press

Body

WASHINGTON - Protesters chanted "dirty deal" and belted out a John Denver favourite Tuesday as they disrupted moderate Democrat Sen. Joe Manchin to let him know what they think of the newly fast-tracked Mountain Valley pipeline.

Manchin, long a key swing vote in a bitterly divided Congress, had just taken the stage to talk about his latest win: getting the controversial West Virginia project shoehorned into last week's deal to raise the debt ceiling.

That's when a group of about 20 audience members rose from their seats and suddenly climbed on stage, locking arms, shouting epithets and unfurling banners that denounced Manchin as a "climate criminal."

"Dirty deal, M.V.P.," the protesters chanted, using the senator's preferred shorthand for a project he's been backing for years. "Manchin, you are killing me."

The event, a panel discussion on permitting reform hosted by online news outlet Semafor, was paused for several minutes as security, staff and moderator tried in vain to dislodge the interlopers.

Mediator Steve Clemons, Semafor's editor-at-large, eventually ushered Manchin and the remaining members of the audience into an adjacent boardroom, where he and the senator gamely resumed their interview.

But the day showcased an emerging tension in U.S. politics, one that's likely not far off in Canada: fossil fuel and renewable energy interests trying to merge simultaneously into a single express lane toward a climate-friendly future.

That lane is permitting reform — a catch-all term for streamlining and modernizing the multiple environmental assessment and regulatory hurdles that can hold up energy projects, green and otherwise, for more than a decade.

It's an overdue overhaul that's also underway in Canada, where the federal government has promised to unveil a new, more efficient regulatory regime for energy infrastructure before the end of the year.

'Dirty deal': protesters disrupt Joe Manchin event over Mountain Valley pipeline

But business leaders there fear Canada is being leapfrogged by the U.S., where the regulatory reforms included in the Fiscal Responsibility Act, which codified the debt ceiling deal, are only the beginning.

As the protest continued beyond the boardroom, Manchin spelled out how his rationale for fast-tracking emerged from last year's energy and inflation crisis, much of it fuelled by Russia's war in Ukraine.

"Everything was going the wrong direction, the president's poll numbers were extremely low, so people were saying, 'Well, you got anything?'" Manchin recalled, the protesters' rendition of "Take Me Home, Country Roads" audible through the wall.

"I said, 'I got something, but I'm not sure you're going to like it."

What resulted was the Inflation Reduction Act, the centrepiece climate spending and tax package President Joe Biden signed into law in August 2022 — and which, thanks to Manchin, ensured Canadian-made electric vehicles would be eligible for tax credits that had originally been earmarked as only for U.S.-built EVs.

Manchin's second act was included in the bill Biden signed Saturday, language that establishes a central oversight agency for environmental reviews that would eliminate duplication and slash the decision timeline to no more than two years.

The idea, he said, is simply that the U.S. can have it both ways on energy security, relying more on North American fossil fuels in the short term while ramping up renewables at the same time.

"We can walk and chew gum, that was the premise," Manchin said. And permitting reform needed to be part of the process "from Day 1," he added.

"You can't do what needs to be done to be energy secure unless you can get the electrons where they're needed. And you can't do that unless you have the pipelines, and then you have transmission."

Not everyone during Tuesday's panel was convinced fossil fuel projects like Mountain Valley will be able to co-exist with new green energy initiatives without dramatically escalating the worsening climate emergency.

"The Mountain Valley pipeline, in my mind, fails on climate, on economic and on community safeguards," said Manish Bapna, president of the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Bapna cited the International Energy Agency — "not the most radical of global institutions," he joked — in saying new fossil fuel projects would make it impossible to meet the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

"It is incompatible," he said, making the same argument about other fossil endeavours as well, including the sprawling Willow drilling project in Alaska, which Biden approved in March.

"Willow will be another example of something that's going to lock us in, and make it virtually impossible, if we continue to build out that type of infrastructure, to meet our obligations," Bapna said.

"The future economic model we want to see in the United States, that we want to see in the world, is one that is going to be largely driven by the dynamism and innovation of a clean-energy economy."

This report by The Canadian Press was first published June 6, 2023.

Load-Date: June 7, 2023

Southern Environmental Law Center: Mountain Valley Pipeline Moving Forward

Targeted News Service

June 3, 2023 Saturday 6:17 PM EST

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Length: 460 words

Byline: Targeted News Service

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

(TNSgov) -- The Southern Environmental Law Center issued the following news release:

Communities across the South and Appalachia have once again gone unheard as the Mountain Valley Pipeline moves forward with the Biden administration's support.

"This is not how pipeline projects with little community support should move forward," said Greg Buppert, SELC senior attorney and leader of its regional gas team. "At a time when the nation must reduce reliance on methane gas and drive innovation for cleaner alternatives, pushing projects like MVP through outside of the normal process is counterproductive."

The bill to raise the country's debt ceiling that contains numerous implications for the environment passed the Senate late June 1. From its inception, it prompted outcry from environmental organizations and community-based organizations for its approval of all the remaining permits to complete the much-maligned Mountain Valley Pipeline, but the deal was done.

"SELC has been fighting for communities on the ground and working with decision makers to ensure that projects like MVP are not completed, and we will continue to do so," said Nat Mund, SELC's Director of Federal Affairs. "Communities across the region cannot continue to move from one environmental crisis to another, while also remaining overburdened due to past environmental injustices and in areas impacted by MVP, reliance on - and the subsequent collapse of - the coal industry."

The deal includes provisions that would strip away bedrock environmental safeguards and inflict harm at a level that's hard to predict.

"We are walking a fine line right now," said Alys Campaigne, SELC's Climate Initiative Leader. "We've seen some very positive steps taken on climate and environmental justice recently, but we need foundational safeguards to remain in place for implementation and further progress."

* * *

Southern Environmental Law Center: Mountain Valley Pipeline Moving Forward

The Southern Environmental Law Center is one of the nation's most powerful defenders of the environment, rooted in the South. With a long track record, SELC takes on the toughest environmental challenges in court, in government, and in our communities to protect our region's air, water, climate, wildlife, lands, and people. Nonprofit and nonpartisan, the organization has a staff of 200, including more than 100 attorneys, and is headquartered in Charlottesville, Va., with offices in Asheville, Atlanta, Birmingham, Chapel Hill, Charleston, Nashville, Richmond, and Washington, D.C. southernenvironment.org

* * *

Original text here: https://www.southernenvironment.org/press-release/mountain-valley-pipeline-moving-forward/

[Category: Law/Legal]

Contact: Tasha Durrett, Senior Communications Manager (VA), 434/977-4090, tdurrett@selcva.org

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Load-Date: June 4, 2023

Climate Activists Funded By Oil Heiress, Wealthy Elites Willing To 'Risk Arrest' In Planned White House Protest

The Daily Caller
June 6, 2023 Tuesday 11:00 PM EST

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Section: DAILY-CALLER-NEWS-FOUNDATION; us

Length: 962 words

Byline: Nick Pope, Contributor, nick@dcnf.org

Body

Link to Image

A climate activist group planning to "converge" on the White House and "risk arrest" while protesting receives funding from an organization bankrolled by massive donations from wealthy American elites.

Climate Defiance, a climate activist group established in 2023, announced the impending protest in a Monday tweet, stating that "the President has stabbed us in the back" by backing House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's debt ceiling deal that would expedite approval for the Mountain Valley Pipeline project. A Los Angeles-based 501(c)(3) organization called the Climate Emergency Fund (CEF), which receives millions from wealthy elites, is a source of funding for Climate Defiance, according to a Politico interview with CEF's executive director.

Climate Defiance announced its upcoming White House protest "in rage and in sorrow," arguing that the fast-tracked gas pipeline represents "a death sentence." The group plans to protest Thursday at 2 p.m.

BREAKING: in rage and in sorrow, in love and in radical hope, today we share our plans: We will converge on the White House. And we will risk arrest. We call on every person of conscience to join us.

- Climate Defiance (@ClimateDefiance) June 5, 2023

CEF itself receives funding in the form of donations from dozens of American elites, according to CEF's 2022 annual report. Hillary Clinton's Onward Together organization funneled \$300,000 to CEF between March 2021 and April 2022, according to Fox News. (RELATED: Prominent Pro-Abortion Group Appears To Be Front For Radical Revolutionary Communists)

Other prominent elite donors to CEF include Abigail Disney, Chelsea Handler, former Harvey Weinstein attorney and advisor Lisa Bloom, Adam McKay, and the oil heiress Aileen Getty's charitable foundation, among numerous others, according to its 2022 annual report. McKay and Getty also serve on CEF's Board of Directors. McKay pledged to donate \$4 million to CEF in 2022, according to a 2022 CEF press release.

Three weeks ago today we made the pro-fossil fuel, pro-pipeline Senator Amy Klobuchar flee the stage at her book launch party.

Tonight she voted to stop the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

To our knowledge it is the first gas project she has ever opposed.

Climate Activists Funded By Oil Heiress, Wealthy Elites Willing To 'Risk Arrest' In Planned White House Protest

Direct action works. pic.twitter.com/0d7EdHiLqq

- Climate Defiance (@ClimateDefiance) June 2, 2023

CEF also provides grants to fund a number of extreme climate protest groups beyond Climate Defiance. Other groups receiving funding from CEF beyond Climate Defiance include Just Stop Oil, Extinction Rebellion, and New York Communities For Change.

- 5. At the Correspondents Dinner, a Secret Service SUV tried to drive through us to get to the event. We held our ground. Eventually, the driver had to back away. pic.twitter.com/4SqllchHCG
- Climate Defiance (@ClimateDefiance) May 25, 2023

CEF shelled out \$5.1 million in grants to 44 activist groups in 2022 alone, according to its website. The organization operates under the assumption that "disruptive, nonviolent activism can be an incredibly cost-effective way to catalyze transformational policy change," according to its 2022 annual report. (RELATED: Protesters Attempt To Derail Hearing On China, One Holds 'Stop Asian Hate' Sign Upside Down)

Tonight protesters with @ClimateDefiance blockaded the street outside @SenSchumer's New York home to demand he reject the #DebtCeilingAgreement, which they call a "Dirty Deal" for fast-tracking fossil fuel projects.

Video by @JonFarinaPhoto for @N2Sreports pic.twitter.com/PStVy3z6vl

- Ford Fischer (@FordFischer) May 31, 2023

CEF has funded disruptive activism in 34 countries, according to its 2022 annual report. The organization has funded 106 organizations, trained over 30,0000 climate activists, and mobilized over 1 million protesters since its inception in 2019, according to its website.

A sign-up portal for Climate Defiance's "pledge of resistance" asks whether or not a prospective protester would be willing to risk arrest for participating in the group's activities. A separate fundraising page for the group promotes Climate Defiance's aim to "make complicit climate cowards' lives f*cking miserable." (RELATED: Woman Charged With Spitting In Cop's Face Is NYU Grad, Former Nadler Intern)

The announcement came just a day before a group of its members interrupted Democratic West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin's remarks at a permitting reform summit hosted by Semafor.

BREAKING: we just **majorly disrupted** a speech by Biden advisor Heather Boushey, demanding the dirty deal be shelved. The Mountain Valley Pipeline is equivalent to adding 19,000,000 cars to the road. This is unconscionable. This is a death sentence for us. It's time to rise. pic.twitter.com/IE4EI6Uyy9

- Climate Defiance (@ClimateDefiance) May 31, 2023
- 5. At the Correspondents Dinner, a Secret Service SUV tried to drive through us to get to the event. We held our ground. Eventually, the driver had to back away. pic.twitter.com/4SqllchHCG
- Climate Defiance (@ClimateDefiance) May 25, 2023

Climate Defiance has garnered attention for disruptive climate activism throughout 2023: they have protested the White House Correspondents Dinner, heckled Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota and disrupted speeches from Biden administration officials.

Neither Climate Defiance nor CEF responded immediately to the Daily Caller News Foundation's requests for comment.

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Load-Date: June 6, 2023

Climate Activists Funded By Oil Heiress, Wealthy Elites Willing To 'Risk Arrest' In Planned White House Protest

Climate Protesters Invade The Stage, Shout Down Joe Manchin Event Over Permitting Deal

The Daily Caller
June 6, 2023 Tuesday 08:54 PM EST

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Section: DAILY-CALLER-NEWS-FOUNDATION; us

Length: 511 words

Byline: Nick Pope, Contributor, nick@dcnf.org

Body

Link to Image

A group of climate protesters disrupted Democratic West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin's remarks at Semafor's permitting reform summit Tuesday.

Nearly two dozen protesters from Climate Defiance interrupted Manchin's comments, chanting about the Manchin-backed "dirty deal" to expedite the Mountain Valley Pipeline project in his home state. The group also unfurled a banner and sang John Denver's "Take Me Home, Country Roads" to convey their displeasure at Manchin's support for the project, according to Semafor.

As part of the recent bipartisan debt ceiling negotiations, lawmakers agreed to fast-track the pipeline project in the Fiscal Responsibility Act, according to NPR. The pipeline carries a \$6.6 billion price tag and has encountered years of delays from administrative sluggishness and environmental reviews, according to the Washington Examiner. (RELATED: Climate Group Behind Headline-Grabbing Protests Is A 'Cult,' Former Member Says)

BREAKING: We just fully shut down Senator Joe Manchin's keynote address.

He is shoving a 2,000,000,000 cubic-foot-per-day fracked gas pipeline down our throats.

Manchin is not a moderate. Manchin is an ecocidal millionaire. We must resist him with all we've got. And we will. pic.twitter.com/xd8CmKwsHL

- Climate Defiance (@ClimateDefiance) June 6, 2023

Manchin eventually returned to the main stage to conclude his remarks, adding that "what these people did today helps me tremendously in my state," according to Bloomberg News. There were no further disruptions after Manchin resumed his remarks, according to Semafor. (RELATED: Video Shows Annoyed London Driver Pushing Through Climate Protest Blockade)

Climate Defiance has attracted significant media attention in recent months for several disruptive public protests against individuals and organizations it considers complicit in the perceived climate emergency. The group made headlines in late April when they disrupted a speech from a high-ranking climate and energy official in the Biden administration and blockaded the White House Correspondents Dinner, an act for which they claimed responsibility on Twitter. A group of its members also heckled Democratic Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar off the stage at a May event promoting her newest book.

Climate Protesters Invade The Stage, Shout Down Joe Manchin Event Over Permitting Deal

Climate Defiance aims to "make complicit climate cowards' lives f*cking miserable," according to an online fundraiser it launched. It describes its membership as "young" and "livid" about perceived environmental negligence, according to its website. The protest group describes climate change as "an existential crisis that threatens every fiber of every being in every corner of the world."

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Graphic

Screen Shot 2023-06-06 at 3.17.33 PM

Load-Date: June 6, 2023