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Mountain Valley Pipeline Begins Transporting Gas

On Friday, June 14, after over a decade of development and regulatory hurdles, the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) began operations, upon receiving authorization from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transporting natural gas from northern West Virginia south-east to eastern markets.

The Mountain Valley Pipeline is a 303.5-mile interstate natural gas pipeline crossing nine West Virginia counties — Greenbrier, Monroe, Nicholas, Summers, Braxton, Harrison, Lewis, Webster and Wetzel. The MVP transports natural gas across these areas further south to East Coast markets.

The project was first proposed in 2014, and the original in-service target date was 2018 at a cost of \$3.5 billion.

However, after being frequently delayed for regulatory reasons, the cost of the pipeline project went up to roughly \$7.85 billion total.

Now, the MVP is part of a net-

work of over 300,000 miles of interstate natural gas transmission pipelines transporting the natural gas

fuels modern America and the U.S. economy.

Since the project's inception in

2014, Mountain Valley has worked closely with state and federal agen-

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US Senator Joe Manchin (I-WV) stands with Tom Karam (left), Executive Chairman of Equitrans Midstream and Toby Rice (right), CEO of EQT, to celebrate the opening of the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

Study: Project Labor Agreements Promote Strong Bid Competition and Control Costs

A new study has found that construction project labor agreements (PLAs) promote strong bid competition, control construction costs, boost apprenticeships, and expand construction career pathways for historically underrepresented communities.

The first-of-its-kind study, carried out by the Illinois Economic Policy Institute is the first to ever scientifically offer direct evidence that PLAs increase apprenticeships and improve workforce diversity.

The study analyzed 366 bids submitted on 95 projects from 2016-

2023 (23 covered by PLAs and 72 not).

The study found that PLA projects averaged 16% more bidders per project and were statistically more likely to be awarded below the engineer's cost estimate than non-PLA projects.

PLA projects also had 5% more la-

bor hours worked by apprentices and were 23% more likely to achieve apprenticeship utilization goals.

Furthermore, PLA projects were nearly twice as likely to meet women apprentice goals (55%) as non-PLA projects (29%).

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Charleston Building Trades and Kanawha Contractors Raise \$8,500 for HospiceCare

The 29th annual Kanawha Valley Construction Labor-Management Golf Scramble raised approximately \$8,500 for HospiceCare, a non-profit organization that provides end of life services to patients in need.

Representatives from HospiceC-

are estimate an aggregate total of more than \$100 thousand has been raised to support their work because of these annual efforts since 2002.

The charity fundraising event is part of a long-standing partnership between the Kanawha Valley Build-

ers Association and the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council.

This year's fundraiser marks the 30th year the HospiceCare fundraising event has been held.

"We believe it's important to give back, especially to such a great cause," said Fred Chandler, Business Manager for the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council. "By working together as labor and management, we double our efforts to support this charity and build a stronger relationship together in the process."

HospiceCare provides end of life

care for patients in 16 counties of West Virginia with services including 24/7 skilled nurses, pain management, and Certified Nursing Assistants that provide a full spectrum of personal care assistance for patients.

The organization has four in-patient care centers within its network including: Peyton Hospice House in Lewisburg, WV; Hubbard Hospice at Thomas Memorial Hospital, Hubbard Hospice House in Charleston, WV; and HospiceCare at CAMC in Charleston, WV.

For more about HospiceCare visit their website at www.HospiceCare-WV.org. ■



Luther Lasure (right), Executive Director of the Kanawha Valley Builders Association, and Fred Chandler (left), Business Manager for the Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council present Christopher Rawlings (center), Chief Executive Officer for HospiceCare WV, with a check at the HospiceCare office in Charleston, West Virginia.

Mountain Valley

Continued from Page 1

cies. With all permit requirements, the MVP was built under unprecedented regulatory oversight. Over the last several years, thousands of skilled workers worked to complete the project.

US Senator Joe Manchin is hailed as being one of the greatest proponents of the project, for actively ensuring the final permits needed for the project were included in a deal to raise the federal debt ceiling last year.

Manchin celebrated the opening of the pipeline at an event with Equitrans Midstream Executive Chairman

Tom Karam and CEO of EQT Toby Rice, hailing West Virginia's "legacy as America's energy powerhouse."

"This pipeline is essential in ensuring the nation's energy and national security and providing affordable, reliable natural gas to hundreds of thousands of Americans," said Manchin. "Today, with the Mountain Valley Pipeline officially in service, we are continuing to fulfill that legacy."

For more information on the MVP log on to: www.mountainvalleypipeline.info. ■

"We believe it's important to give back, especially to such a great cause,"

Fred Chandler

Business Manager

Charleston Building and Construction Trades Council

Study: Project Labor

Continued from Page 1

"The data makes clear that PLAs ensure a competitive bidding process, control construction costs, and increase the utilization of apprentices," said study coauthor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Professor, and PMCR Director Dr. Robert Bruno. "These findings are an important contribution to our broader understanding of PLAs because they involve robust analysis of more project bids than any prior comparable study."

Project labor agreements are pre-hire agreements between construction project owners and labor organizations that establish the terms and conditions of employment for skilled craft workers on large infrastructure projects.

PLAs include provisions for preventing strikes and lockouts, creat-

ing uniform work rules and safety standards, harmonizing schedules between different types of crafts, and delivering a stable supply of the sufficiently skilled labor that such projects demand.

"As is the case with many policies that improve labor standards, there is a great deal of mythology around PLAs and their impact on businesses seeking to compete for bids," said study coauthor and ILEPI Economist Frank Manzo IV.

"With trillions in new infrastructure funding and an Executive Order from President Biden expanding the utilization of PLAs, the data [from these projects] offers a useful comparative analysis that will help communities and policymakers separate myth from fact and maximize the impact of these investments." ■

PSC Approves Siting Certificate for Gas Turbine Plant in Doddridge County, WV

Last month, the siting certificate for a gas-turbine electric generating facility in Doddridge County, West Virginia was approved by the WV Public Service Commission (PSC).

A Commission staff memo estimated the total investment in construction and the facilities in

Doddridge County at \$3.3 billion, providing up to 1,300 construction and 60 permanent jobs once the facility is completed.

CPV Shay, LLC, filed a petition on December 1, 2023 for the development of the facility and a high-voltage electric transmission line on 54 acres of a 230-acre parcel located at the unincorporated village of Blandville, 4.5 miles southeast of West Union, West Virginia.

The application proposed a 2,060-megawatt natural gas-fired

combined cycle gas turbine power-generating facility, capable of supplying electricity to 1.8 million homes annually.

The transmission system is a 9-mile, 500-kilovolt high-voltage line to run northeast to the Flint Run substation, which is owned by Monongahela Power Co.

The company said it would “deploy three advanced-class gas turbines, each with a high-efficiency secondary cycle steam turbine system.”

The company said the plant may also incorporate an integrated carbon capture facility to be operated as an affiliate of CPV Shay.

“The applicant asserts that it is not a public utility providing service to the public in West Virginia and that the construction and operation of the

combined facilities will not impact West Virginia ratepayers,” the application said.

CPV says the project will benefit from the federal Inflation Reduction Act that expanded the 45Q federal tax credit for carbon capture and sequestration.

Furthermore, in a news release CPV explained the \$3 billion investment “will serve as one of the cornerstone projects for CPV’s decarbonization platform that will build on two decades of prior success in the development of highly efficient and low emitting electric generation projects.”

The CPV Shay Energy Center is named for West Virginia’s official state steam locomotive, the Shay No. 5, which is located at the Cass Scenic Railroad State Park in Cass, West

Virginia. The Shay locomotive, first built in 1880, was considered a technological advancement, as it was especially well-suited for operating in the mountains of West Virginia.

CPV in its news release said, “Just as the Shay locomotive served as an engine for economic growth and development, CPV Shay represents another technological advancement that will serve as an important catalyst for the transition to a low-carbon future.”

The power generated from the planned facility will be sent on the regional electricity grid for the wholesale market.

Construction is to begin in the fourth quarter of 2025.

More information on this project can be found on the PSC website: www.psc.state.wv.us. ■

Roofers Local 242 Apprentices Win Awards at Inaugural National Apprentice Competition



For the first time ever, Roofers apprentices from across the country competed in the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers, and Allied Workers (UURW&AW) Apprentice Competition.

Out of only 9 total apprentices selected nationwide, West Virginia Local 242 had 2 of their own apprentices qualify to compete. Both apprentices placed 2nd in their respective categories.

Zach Delo (left) competed in the first-year apprentice category and Jeremiah Johnson (right) competed in the second-year apprentice category. The event was hosted by Local 2 in St. Louis Missouri and featured winners of regional events from all across the country.

“To have two of the nine competitors in the inaugural UURW&AW National Apprentice Competition speaks volumes to the skill and hard work of both our apprentices and our instructors Ben Harrison and Derek Slack,” said Tim Maxcy, Business Manager for Roofers Local 242.

“To say that I am extremely proud of all these men and the way that our apprenticeship program has progressed would be a monumental understatement. We are a small program with plenty of work left to do, but we are obviously headed in the right direction.”

Operating Engineers Local 132 Holds 10th Annual Equipment Rodeo in Medina, WV

On Sunday June 2, the Operating Engineers Local 132 held their 11th annual Equipment Rodeo event at their training center in Medina, West Virginia.

The annual Equipment Rodeo is held as a way to show appreciation for members and their families and also to give IUOE 132 members an opportunity to compete in certain

equipment-related events.

Each year, the equipment rodeo is held as a way for members of IUOE 132 to show off their skills in five different competitions.

petition was held for kids and lunch was prepared for those in attendance.

“We look forward to holding this event every year,” said Chuck Parker, President of Operating Engineers



A member of International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 132 competes in an excavator skills competition at the 11th annual IUOE Equipment Rodeo, held at their training center in Medina, West Virginia on June 2.



Members of IUOE 132 and their families line up for lunch at the 10th Equipment Rodeo.

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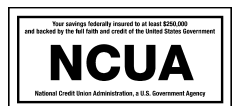
These competitions include events in dozers, rubber tire backhoes, cherry pickers, excavators, and mini excavators.

In addition to the competitive events for members, a fishing com-

Local 132.

“The Rodeo gives our new members a chance to reconnect with the old, and it gives us an opportunity to show appreciation for everyone who makes our organization great.” ■


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