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## Mountain Valley Pipeline will not start full: Panel

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Boston, 10 June (Argus) — The long-delayed Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) will not ship gas at its full capacity of 2 Bcf/d (57mn m<sup>3</sup>/d) when it enters service — possibly Tuesday — but will ship less than half of that until downstream constraints are remediated, a panel of analysts said today.

"You're not going to fill MVP right away," East Daley Analytics senior director Jack Weixel said at the Northeast LDC Gas Forum in Boston, Massachusetts. "It's not going to be this great release valve, but it will help."

East Daley forecast that shortly after the 300-mile (483km) West Virginia-to-Virginia pipeline enters service, it will ship about 700mn cf/d, followed by a gradual ramp-up as production increases and debottlenecking projects are carried out. RBN Energy projected MVP filling to about 800mn cf/d after entering service.

MVP's developer Equitrans said today that it had finished construction and asked for federal authorization to begin flowing gas to customers.

Debottlenecking and expansion projects downstream from MVP on Williams' Transcontinental pipeline could increase market access for Appalachian producers in the future, leading them to incrementally fill MVP past the 800mn cf/d mark, according to RBN consultant Jen Synder. But those projects are "on uncertain timelines," she said.

Mostly, the initial start-up of MVP will unlock new markets for Marcellus producer EQT, Synder said. EQT agreed to acquire Equitrans in a \$5.5bn all-stock deal that is expected to close in the fourth quarter of 2024. As MVP's start-up date approaches, EQT was recently seen restoring close to 1 Bcf/d of gas production that it had curtailed in early March on lower gas prices.

By Julian Hast

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