



# Preserve Craig ~ Sustaining the Quality of Life We Value

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## Report to the Craig County Board of Supervisors July 6, 2017

Recent Activities Re: Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP), US Forest Service (FS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the VA Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

- 1. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued its Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on June 23, 2017, recommending approval of MVP, despite significant impacts. FERC Commissioners are required to vote yes or no by September 21, 2017, although they currently lack a quorum to convene. MVP filed over 4000 pages of additional data after the FEIS was issued. Comments are still being accepted on the FERC website.**
- 2. The US Forest Service (FS) issued a surprise Draft Record of Decision (DROD) on June 23, 2017 in support of MVP and agreeing the FEIS. The notices were not posted to the FERC and reversed prior FS scheduling notices. FS opened a 45-day OBJECTION period, only for those who have submitted comments about the Forest Management Plan, despite not having held a public comment period or public meetings. The DROD ignores the 2002 Record of Decision that this area is not appropriate for a utility corridor, a decision that Craig County has relied upon for 15 years in developing its economy and tourism plans. In addition**
- 3. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) opened their surprise 30-day comment period regarding the FERC FEIS, also on June 23. BLM is the agency that would issue the permit for MVP to cross federal land. Both the FS and BLM actions conflict with prior scheduling reports and even though the sequential processes required to review such a proposal have not been completed. MVP construction will be a disaster for our water and people.**
- 4. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will hold public hearings about MVP at Radford University on August 8 and Chatham High School on August 9 from 6 to 10 PM regarding stream crossing and 401 permits. NY and NJ rejected issuing similar permits, halting far less egregious pipeline projects.**
- 5. The national organization, Bold Alliance, is organizing landowners to legally challenge eminent domain for private gain and stop MVP. The case will be filed in federal court shortly.**
- 6. MVP continues providing flawed info to FERC. A lawsuit again EQM, owner of MVP, was recently certified to go forward regarding their fraudulent treatment of landowners.**
- 7. Preserve Craig continues to fund several legal efforts to protect our environment. Funds are needed to oppose MVP and requests for donations to Preserve Craig is ongoing.**
- 8. Over two years of work to date – over 3400 pages submitted on behalf of our community to defend Craig County, representing over \$340,000 in volunteer efforts. Over \$60,000 in actual tax deductible donations have been collected and used for educational and environmental protection efforts.**