



# Preserve Craig ~ Sustaining the Quality of Life We Value

P.O. Box 730, New Castle, VA 24127 Phone: (540) 309-9560  
www.PreserveCraig.org Email: PreserveCraig@gmail.com

## Report to the Craig County Board of Supervisors February 1, 2018

Current Status of Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) reviews by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), US Forest Service (FS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the VA Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and WV DEP

1. MVP is behind schedule and under severe financial pressure to proceed. MVP must complete tree-cutting in March or will be delayed by a year.
2. Yesterday, Roanoke US District Judge Elizabeth Dillon **delayed MVP's request** to take property from several hundred Virginia landowners, including Craig County citizens opposing eminent domain. MVP will be required to provide full appraisals and post bonds before the judge will rule.
3. **Two lawsuits to block MVP from eminent domain are in federal courts in Roanoke and DC. Both challenge the FERC's authority to authorize eminent domain for private gain for MVP.**
4. The FERC issued its first Notice to Proceed with limited construction at 93 access roads and 6 storage yards in West Virginia only. This action is in direct conflict with the re-hearing requests. MVP has filed additional **requests to begin construction on the pipeline in Monroe and Giles County.**
5. Congressman Morgan Griffith joined Senator Tim Kaine and Governor Northam's requests to the FERC to Re-Hear its controversial 2 to 1 vote to approve MVP on October 13, 2017.
6. Preserve Craig's attorney has filed extensive Re-Hearing and Stay requests with the FERC to block MVP. Craig County also joined Roanoke County in filing a similar motion.
7. **Preserve Craig is pressing the Governor to require the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to protect Virginia's waters. Preserve Craig has sued the Water Control Board and DEQ for approving a 401 Water Quality Permit to MVP in December. DEQ has not approved MVP's inadequate Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) and Stormwater Management (SWM) plans.**
8. **Preserve Craig filed suit in Federal Court on Sept 17 against the US Forest Service (FS) to block eleven illegal changes to the Jefferson Forest Management Plan. The FS would allow MVP to build in roadless areas, on very steep slopes, erode soils, cut old growth, damage streams, and harm viewsheds and the Appalachian Trail. 16 violations by FS are cited, including required protection of public lands and prior decisions regarding cultural attachment. The 2002 decision by the Forest Service to protect this area are an integral part of Craig County's economic plans. A separate lawsuit has been filed against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for illegally issuing permits to cross public lands. There has been no public comment period or public meetings on these proposed changes.**
9. **Preserve Craig has collected over \$15,000 of its initial \$30,000 goal for the Forest Service legal fund to oppose MVP. Tax deductible donations to Preserve Craig are needed now.**
10. Over 2 ½ years of work to date – over 4000 pages submitted on behalf of our community to defend Craig County, representing over \$400,000 in volunteer efforts. Over \$80,000 in actual tax-deductible donations have been collected and used for educational and environmental protection efforts.