

PRESERVE CRAIG, INC.
P O Box 730
New Castle, VA 24127

March 16, 2015

Craig County Board of Supervisors
c/o B. Clayton "Clay" Goodman III, County Administrator
108 Court St.
P O Box 308
New Castle VA 24127

Re: Request to Intervene, Object to, and Stop the Mountain Valley Pipeline and Submission of a Citizen's Petition Affirming this Request in Advance of the Re-scheduled March 19, 2015 Board Meeting

Dear Mr. Goodman,

Attached please accept a citizen's petition requesting that the Board of Supervisors and our government officials take whatever actions are needed to object to and stop the Mountain Valley Pipeline from proceeding with its proposed routes through Craig County.

Time is of the essence as the situation continues to become more urgent since the cancelled March 5 meeting, when this was originally scheduled. We are therefore submitting 1200+ names in advance of the re-scheduled meeting in the hopes that you can share this with all of the Board members. It is our further hope that the unanimity of the citizens and the speed at which people came together will convey to the Board the urgency of this matter so they can consider taking immediate steps to protect the citizens and our precious natural resources from this sudden threat.

Preserve Craig initiated this petition on February 22 online and in a few local stores the next day. Within 10 days we had over 1000 signatures, approximately 800 of whom are citizens of Craig County. The others are clearly interested parties concerned for our County.

Since that time several events have heightened the urgency for the Board to act now. In addition to the petition, over 300 citizens have participated in the two educational community meetings sponsored by Preserve Craig on March 1 and March 15. Also included in this letter is a photo of some of the supporters of this petition who attended the meeting yesterday.

Page 1 of 3

Preserve Craig, Inc. is a non-profit corporation formed in 1991 with the support of more than 80% of Craig County households to preserve and protect our natural, historical, and cultural resources.

The following outlines the issues which make it critical for the Board to act now:

1. It has become clear that the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) is not acting in a timely manner to hold Open Houses in Craig County regarding its new proposed Alternate Routes 110 filed with the Federal Energy Commission (FERC) on February 18, 2015.
2. This has resulted in an untenable and dangerous situation where surveyors are traveling the roads of our County and stopping at homes unannounced and without proper identification and, frankly, frightening our citizens.
3. On Friday, March 13 the US Forest Service re-opened public comment on a permit request by MVP to survey the new routes that pass through the Jefferson National Forest. How can citizens comment when MVP has not yet held open houses to inform us of their intentions? The comment period is scheduled to end on April 2, 2015, two weeks after the Board's next scheduled meeting.
4. Also on Friday, March 13 the FERC published "Comments on First Draft Resource Reports 1 & 10" to MVP addressing concerns about the December 1, 2014 filing (Resource Report 1) and the February 18, 2015 filing (Summary of Alternatives.) This is unfair to Craig County citizens as we have not had time to adequately review the alternatives and comment, nor is there any guarantee that the FERC will augment its comment to MVP with additional concerns we may have.
5. The original pre-filing schedule indicated that the FERC would issue a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement by now. FERC EIS can take as little as 60 days.

Given all these factors, we urgently request that our elected and government officials immediately intervene on our behalf. We believe that the Board and the County should:

- a. Pass a resolution in opposition to the MVP project;
- b. Intervene with the FERC to ask that they suspend the MVP pre-application;
- c. At minimum, ask the FERC to hold off on issuing the NOI for at least 120 days so that the citizens of the County have the same opportunities to collect information and comment on the pre-application as others on the original routes.
- d. Ask for an investigation regarding the procedures and inaccuracies of the MVP filings.

March 16, 2015
Letter from Preserve Craig to the Craig County Board of Supervisors
Craig County Board of Supervisors
Request to Oppose the Mountain Valley Pipeline

As further background, we also enclose the letter sent to the US Forest Service by Preserve Craig on March 4, 2015, which we intended to share with the Board at its meeting on March 5. That letter contains important information about the new route and why Craig citizens are in an unfair position. We hope this will be helpful background for the Board. An extract from that letter follows:

The original proposed route was a significantly different route, approximately 12 to 15 miles west of Alternatives 110, 110J and 110R and in a different county. The new route represents a completely different community of concerns and potential public. The public participation of the various pipeline routes has been organized by county and by moving to a different county the affected groups change....

Experts knowledgeable of the local areas' biology, geology, geomorphology and land use cannot imagine a worse route for a large scale pipeline than Alternatives 110, 110J and 110R. The further fragmentation of the existing USFS Wilderness areas, important Endangered Species habitat, unstable slopes with histories of failure and karst landscape make this route a particularly poor choice for locating a pipeline....

In closing, we appreciate your service to the community and know that you will act in the best interests of the citizens to defend us against this threat.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

On Behalf of the 1221 Signers of the Attached Petition

Preserve Craig, Inc.

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