Preserve Craig ~ *Sustaining the Quality of Life We Value*

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Report to the Craig County Board of Supervisors June 4, 2026

Submitted by Dr. Marge Lewter, email preservecraig@gmailcom Phone: 540-392-4773

Fracked Gas and Data Centers

We packed the fire hall on Tuesday, May 12 for a very educational meeting with POWHR and Danny Goad from Botetourt County. Thanks to the SVFD for the use of the facility. Especially thanks to Brian Lipes for his help and being engaged with the message. It has come to light that data centers are driving the need for energy infrastructure buildout. Virginia's goal of being the data center capital of the world is facilitated by the tax incentive being offered including sales tax exemption, property tax reductions, and other tax credits. None of these will offer local communities an economic benefit.
Rural, industrial, and reclaimed mine land are being targeted where cheaper land and a smaller population are found. The long-term effects on the economy and especially the environment are being ignored. We urge our representatives to become fully informed on data center effects on citizens, the economy, and the environment considering their immense electricity demand, water consumption, and pollution.
The MVP Compressor Station would be part of this new energy infrastructure. Preserve Craig will be filing as an intervenor and we ask the county to appeal its rejection of Late Intervenor status on the grounds of lack of notification. A document substantiating this is being prepared by Preserve Craig. If the Elliston site is rejected, MVP can switch to Alternative Site A which is right here in Craig County. Thank you to the Board for keeping informed and letting MVP know that we know and we will not approve of such energy infrastructure along with its permanent scar on our landscape and people.

Preserve Craig meets with Lieutenant Governor Ghazala Hashmi

Preserve Craig and POWHR (Protect our Water Heritage Rights) met with Virginia's Lt. Governor in Richmond on Friday, May 29 to discuss the MVP Boost gas compressor station. The resistance focuses on data collected by Virginia Tech demonstrating that the Elliston site is an Environmental Justice Community defined as lower income, higher percentage of health issues and susceptible population. In Craig, we have not documented this, but it was pointed out that we depend on tourism and agriculture and that in fact, no community is appropriate for the largest compressor station on the pipeline route. Lt. Governor Hashmi was very concerned to hear that our government officials were not notified of this alternative proposal. Our safety concerns about raising the pressure in the pipe regardless of where the compressor station is built were heard loud and clear. Ms. Hashmi promised to communicate these concerns to Attorney General Jay Jones and to communicate with the Virginia DEQ regarding the Air permit which is the final requirement for FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) approval.

Hanging Rock Raptor Observatory Report

Preserve Craig will sponsor a fundraising event for the Hanging Rock Observatory in September. The access road has been built for bringing in building materials.

Dark Sky Community

We have facilitated three educational events and have received generous public support for the Dark Sky Community Effort. Dark Skies and tourism are mentioned together and are frequently in the news when new construction is discussed including fracked gas booster stations, Data Centers and even the border wall plans in Texas near Big Bend National Park. New Castle's Star party made the International Dark Sky News last month!

Artivism

The Artivism Tapestry is finished and will be displayed first in Lenny McDonald's office. Look for it around town as a reminder to keep our skies dark.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Marge Lewter