



Preserve Craig ~ Sustaining the Quality of Life We Value

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Report to the Craig County Board of Supervisors May 3, 2018

Status of Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP): Re-Hearing Requests before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Lawsuits against US Forest Service (FS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the VA Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and others.

1. Preserve Craig's lawsuits against the FS, BLM, and DEQ will be heard in two consolidated arguments in front of the Fourth District Federal Court next Tuesday morning, **May 8, 2018**.
2. The State Water Control Board questioned DEQ's OK of MVP E&S plans and a blanket permit for stream crossings. DEQ was forced to open a new public comment period about MVP stream crossings. **Comments must be submitted to DEQ by May 30.**
3. **MVP construction in Craig County is threatening to harm wetland and Sinking Creek and historic sites in Sinking Creek.** Two historic cemeteries are being ignored by FERC because of incorrect information provided by MVP. The Jones property needs to be revisited by the State Historic Preservation Officer.
4. MVP is under severe financial pressure to build. A letter from FERC to Senator Kaine said that **MVP is building at its own risk** because the re-hearing requests are still pending. MVP continued to cut trees after the March 31 deadline, which was extended without explanation.
5. Preserve Craig filed new re-hearing objections with the FERC today, **opposing extended tree-clearing approvals.** Other re-hearing requests regarding **expanded blasting** approvals and legal complaints against Paul Friedman for notice to proceed without any review or disclosure to the public were filed. Craig County's joint rehearing motion filed with Roanoke County is also pending.
6. The FS issued its 5th revised road closure order, banning the public from access to several roads, the MVP right-of-way, the tree-sitters, and limiting the width of the Appalachian Trail to 24". A new federal lawsuit was filed yesterday against the Forest Service for violating citizen constitutional rights under the first amendment. FS are using ATVs on the AT, in violation of their own ordinances.
7. Tree-sitters are protesting construction along the route on Bent Mountain, Franklin County, Giles County, and on the Appalachian Trail in Monroe County WV. National press coverage is now focusing on eminent domain taking of private property. Judge Irons in Monroe County refused to issue an injunction against the tree-sitters.
8. Two lawsuits to block MVP from eminent domain are awaiting trial in federal courts in Roanoke and DC. Both **challenge the FERC's authority to authorize eminent domain for private gain for MVP.**
9. **Preserve Craig has collected over \$18,000 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 three years of work to date – over 4300 pages submitted on behalf of our community to defend Craig County, representing over \$420,000 in volunteer efforts. Over \$84,000 in actual tax-deductible donations have been collected and used for educational and environmental protection efforts.