



# Commonwealth of Virginia

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

RICHMOND

## **General Assembly Members Continue to Oppose Dominion's Proposed Gas-fired Power Plant in Chesterfield County and Call on the Department of Environmental Quality and the State Corporation Commission to Deny the Project**

As members of the Virginia General Assembly representing thousands of constituents across the Commonwealth, the region, and in communities directly adjacent to the proposed polluting facility, we express our concerns about Dominion Energy's permit applications for a gas-fired power plant in Chesterfield County. This proposed gas-fired power plant undermines Virginia's commitments to transition to a clean and renewable economy by 2050, ignores the Commonwealth's policy on environmental justice, and endangers the public health and safety of environmental justice and fenceline communities.

As current state legislators who support the Virginia Clean Economy Act and the Virginia Environmental Justice Act as the laws of Virginia and who are concerned with impacts of climate change and air pollution on the health, economy, and well-being of our Commonwealth, we call on the Department of Environmental Quality to deny Dominion's air permit and additionally call on the State Corporation Commission to deny Dominion's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. Further, we call on Dominion to change course and instead lead the way to a true clean energy transition.

Specifically related to Dominion's request for an air pollution permit:

1. Dominion is seeking permission to pollute *more* than its coal plant emitted in 2022 on the same property, which has since been shuttered. And it appears as though DEQ is ready to grant this increased pollution request. This is unreasonable and unacceptable. Dominion has polluted this neighborhood for 80 years with fossil fuels, not only air pollution from its smokestacks but also groundwater pollution from its long-standing unlined and leaking coal ash pits. Enough is enough. ([see CERC Construction Application, p. 3-16, Table 3-8.](#))
2. DEQ cannot grant this pollution permit without sufficient air analysis. To be sufficient, the analysis must be of the ambient air quality at the proposed site *and* in areas which may be affected by Dominion's gas plant emissions. So far, Dominion has failed to conduct preconstruction air quality monitoring at the site or in the nearby communities. Dominion has instead relied entirely on air quality data from the Shirley Plantation monitor, more than seven miles away in Charles City County, and more than 100 miles away in Arlington County. These are not sufficient data sources to represent the air quality at and around the proposed site. DEQ should require

- Dominion to conduct monitoring as required by the law, before considering this permit.
3. One of the pollutants of concern, more of which Dominion is seeking to emit, is fine particulate matter (PM2.5). PM2.5 lodges deep in our lungs and can cause respiratory distress, especially for young children, the elderly and those with chronic lung conditions. Because proper ambient air quality monitoring has not been conducted, Dominion's air quality modeling and subsequent analysis should not be relied upon for decision-making on its permit.
  4. Similarly, Dominion has failed to establish a baseline analysis for the environmental justice communities that surround the property. This analysis is meant to understand the potential effects of this specific project on the health of local residents and also to understand the distribution of those effects within the community (i.e., disproportionate impacts). Without this analysis, DEQ is incapable of fully considering facts and circumstances relevant to the "reasonableness of the activity," such as the character and degree of injury or interference with, safety, health, or the reasonable use of property, as required by law.
  5. DEQ must follow the requirements of the Virginia Environmental Justice Act, including the need to provide meaningful involvement and fair treatment for affected environmental justice and fence-line communities.

Further, with respect to the State Corporation Commission's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity:

1. As legislators who support the Virginia Clean Economy Act, Dominion's application for a new gas plant in Chesterfield contradicts the spirit and the letter of the law. The effects of climate change are impacting residents and economies across the Commonwealth—from flash flooding to extreme heat—and therefore, we must maintain our commitment to a carbon-free electricity grid and specifically, Dominion's requirement for a carbon-free electricity grid by 2045.
2. As required by the Clean Economy Act, Dominion has failed to meet its energy efficiency targets and therefore should not be allowed to build additional fossil fuel generation. Energy efficiency is the best way to meet energy needs and should be prioritized.
3. Dominion's proposed gas plant is not the *only* resource capable of addressing the energy needs of the company's system. Dominion should be maximizing clean, highly-deployable resources such as batteries, demand flexibility, and virtual power plants rather than prioritizing the dirtiest, most harmful solution. Multiple alternative modeling analyses point to these other deployable resources as cheaper and cleaner; they should be pursued instead.

- Cheaper and cleaner solutions directly affect residential utility customers in their wallets. The price tag for this project is expected to be \$4.5 billion plus the ongoing, pass-through expense of the gas fuel costs, which are a highly volatile market and expose customers to significant long-term risk. Residential customers will be on the hook for this gas plant through 2064, even though the majority of energy demand increases are coming from industrial users, mainly data centers. This simply is not fair.

For all of these reasons, we urge you to deny the permits for Dominion Energy's proposed gas-fired power plant in Chesterfield County.

### Signatories



Senator Ghazala Hashmi  
Senate District 15



Senator Jennifer Boysko  
Senate District 38



Senator Lamont Bagby  
Senate District 14



Senator Russet Perry  
Senate District 31



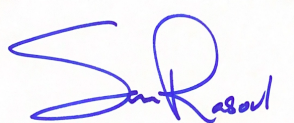
Senator Saddam Salim  
Senate District 37



Senator Kannan Srinivasan  
Senate District 32



Delegate Patrick Hope  
House District 1



Delegate Sam Rasoul  
House District 38



Delegate Richard 'Rip' Sullivan  
House District 6



Delegate Shelly Simonds  
House District 70



Delegate Rodney Willett  
House District 58



Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker  
House District 5



Delegate Michelle Maldonado  
House District 20



Delegate Nadarius Clark  
House District 84



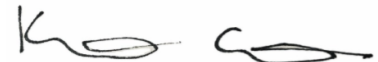
Delegate Rae Cousins  
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Delegate Amy Laufer  
House District 55



Delegate Katrina Callsen  
House District 54



Delegate Michael Jones  
House District 77



Delegate Debra Gardner  
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