

Virginia Air Pollution Control Board Members

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Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Piedmont Regional Office

RE: Buckingham Compressor Station

4949-A Cox Rd

Glen Allen, VA 23060

[airdivision1@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:airdivision1@deq.virginia.gov)

PERMIT NAME:

- Minor Source Construction Permit issued under the authority of the APCB

APPLICANT NAME AND REGISTRATION NUMBER:

- Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC; 21599

FACILITY NAME AND ADDRESS:

- ACP – Dominion Energy Buckingham

January 4, 2019

Dear Air Pollution Control Board,

I am a resident/property owner of Buckingham County living at 12 Ramaa Lane, Buckingham, VA. I serve at Satchidananda Ashram-Yogaville as Director of Yogaville Environmental Solutions.

I live about 5 miles from the proposed Buckingham Compressor Station. I oppose providing an air permit for this project, because the siting of the compressor station in the Union Hill community, along with the two large pipelines connected in this siting, threatens the safety of the historic Union Hill community and the nearby surrounding homes and properties.

My comments will be focused on a few of the documents provided which provide critical information in the consideration of the air permit for the proposed compressor station.

First, I would like preface my comments by noting that I have represented Yogaville in these official matters involving the proposed ACP compressor station and pipeline, since

September 2014. At that time, we began to study, research, and analyze the proposed ACP and its impact on our community and the neighborhood, including Union Hill.

After some study of the project and routing, Yogaville took a formal stand against the project because of the siting of the pipeline and compressor station close to homes, farms, businesses and the potential negative impact to our air, water, health, safety, and property. The proposed siting of the compressor station and the ACP's request for a compressor station Special Use Permit (SUP) violated Buckingham County's Comprehensive Plan in the following ways:

- The plan for any emergencies in this request is inadequate, weak, or non-existent – response time for fire and police would be some 20-30 minutes
- The compressor station's use is not among the "Special Uses" enumerated in the Zoning Ordinance
- The Proposed Compressor Station is Inconsistent with the surrounding land uses and with the Comprehensive Plan
- The Compressor Station's "special use" is dangerous to county residents, property, animals, and environment

The Buckingham County Supervisors ignored our concerns and did not acknowledge the Union Hill community as an environmental justice community where the fragile culture and economic situation could be threatened. The supervisors passed the SUP with little research or study. The county's provision of the SUP is now being challenged in court.

In September 2015, Dominion held the first of three Buckingham Compressor Station Advisory Group Meetings which I attended by invitation. Only a few residents of Union Hill were invited and were able to attend. At this meeting, we asked about possible alternative sites for the compressor station. Dominion stated that there were no alternative sites that met their requirement to connect to the Transco pipeline and be along the route to the North Carolina and Norfolk Virginia locations. I was able to immediately point out on a map that Pittsylvania County already had a working compressor station on the Transco Pipeline and was located along the route that the ACP and MVP could use to reach those same locations. The Dominion representatives were unable at that time to address that alternative or any other alternative that had been or could be considered.

Additionally, our work with the fire department and police at the Advisory Group meetings resulted in the recommendation for a safety plan, evacuation plan, and an additional vehicle for emergency response for any potential accident that could occur from leaks, explosions and fire. Emmet Toms of Dominion said at the time, "Buy your own fire truck from the tax dollars you will reap from accepting the ACP siting". Over the next 3 years we continued to ask Dominion for a safety plan and an evacuation plan for the community but were ignored. It was only when Environmental Justice became an issue in the media in the past 6-7 months, that Dominion sent Mr. Basil Gooden, a Dominion consultant/employee from that neighborhood into the community to show interest in these concerns.

Please reference this link re: the Buckingham Compressor Station Advisory Group Meetings:

<https://www.farmvilleherald.com/2015/10/dominion-holds-first-advisory-group-meeting/>

Now to the key comments:

1) SAFETY MEASURES OFFERED –

Referenced documents:

a) [January 11, 2017 - Board of Supervisors Special Use Permit](#)

b) [November 2018 - Articles of Incorporation of The Greater Union Hill Community Development Corporation](#)

c) [November 28, 2018 - ACP Buckingham Compressor Station Environmental Justice Review](#)

From January 11, 2017 BOS letter of 41 conditions set up for CS Special Use Permit (SUP):

Condition 4 from those 41.

“During normal operating hours, the applicant is responsible for providing the first response to any emergency in relation to the compressor station. Applicant shall coordinate with the County for training needs of county volunteer first responders, to safeguard the public from any event that occurs from this compressor station. The applicant shall prepare, at its own cost, an Emergency Preparedness Plan, in accordance with the U.S. Department Transportation of Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration regulations, to be submitted to the County for review and comment prior to implementation of operations.”

So these safety measures should be automatically incorporated in the permit per the County SUP.

In the Nov 18 Articles of Incorporation of the Greater Union Hill Community Development Corporation and MOU, these safety measures are offered via funding this new LLC, organized and led by a Dominion employee and consultant. While these appear to be generous offers to the community’s concerns, in reality, these are hard requirements incorporated into the SUP.

The safety measures in both the new documents and the SUP do not provide an evacuation plan for the community residents within the impact zone of a gas leak, explosion and fire that could threaten the lives, health, and property of the community members.

Moreover, these documents, including the conditions in the SUP, have not prevented harm to property owners in the community who are already experiencing a devaluing of their property value and limitation to their land use from siting of the compressor station in that location.

Craig White, Union Hill property owner, stated that he was attempting to build a construction workers camp on his property because his property had already lost value. If you are choosing land for a home or development, would you choose a home close to or adjacent to a hazardous fuel pipeline and compressor station or one without such a potentially dangerous industrial site nearby?

This point is critical for such a minority, low-income site where the property owner's legacy land is often their most valuable asset. This site is critically inappropriate due to the impact the pipeline and compressor station could and is already causing to this community and the surrounding region.

## 2) SITE SUITABILITY –

Referenced documents:

- a) [December 14, 2018 - Union Hill Household Study Site and Methods Report](#)
- b) [November 28, 2018 - Buckingham Compressor Station Alternatives Analysis](#)
- c) [letter from SELC](#)
- d) [December 3, 2018 EJSscreen Report](#)

Public comments in the federal FERC DEIS comment record made by local farmers and residents about the Union Hill site choice were not included in the FEIS. These comments describe the close proximity of the compressor station to their farming operations, homes and churches, and individual wells, the only source for drinking water. Also what FERC did not know (was not told) was that the selected parcel was 1/2 the size of the Midlands Road alternative site mentioned, and then brushed aside.

Siting the CS on a larger parcel would have impacted less people in this case and provided a larger buffer zone between residents and the compressor station's noise and toxic pollution it would generate.

The [letter from SELC](#), concludes that the way facts and documentation have been manipulated provided skewed justification for siting at Union Hill. This would force Union Hill into becoming **“a small pocket of a minority population living right next to the proposed compressor station. Census data obscures that reality, and Union Hill deserves—and the Board must demand—more.”**.

Now to the [December 3, 2018 EJSscreen Report](#)

This document contains only information from the EJSscreen. This document is purported to show how the Environmental Justice issue does not apply to Union Hill. Unfortunately,

additional information is needed according to the EPA.

According to the EPA, "EJSCREEN is not used by EPA staff for any of the following:

- · As a means to identify or label an area as an "EJ community"
- · To quantify specific risk values for a selected area
- · To measure cumulative impacts of multiple environmental factors
- · As a basis for agency decision-making or making a determination regarding the existence or absence of EJ concerns"

This should outright disqualify the EJ Screen Report from consideration in this process. A closer look at the data from the EJ Screen Reports data in comparison to the Dr. Fjord study shows even more clearly how skewed the report's data is and how inadequate it is for any environmental justice review.

While FERC based their decision to permit the Union Hill site for the proposed compressor station based on census tract numbers given provided by Dominion, the data was inaccurate in claiming that there were 29.6 persons per square mile Based on these numbers. Dr. Fjord's study provides a more accurate door to door count of the Union Hill population near the compressor station. Having considered more correct data, FERC would not have been able to conclude that there were no environmental justice issues at play; and that the population of Union Hill was not a vulnerable community and would not be subject to a disproportionately higher burden of pollution and contamination, and other harmful impacts than other areas in the state of VA.

In conclusion, I ask that the Air Board deny the current request for an air permit for the proposed Buckingham Compressor Station.

The applicant should reapply when they have completed the following to accompany their new request for permit:

- 1) The applicant should complete an accurate demographic, cultural, and historic review with factual data
- 2) The applicant work collaboratively with all local residents and property owners to make sure the community's intrinsic resources are considered, particularly high consequence areas and those with significant historic and cultural value (i.e. unmarked grave sites)
- 3) The applicant conduct a Quantitative Risk Assessment and Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment to properly measure, evaluate, and mitigate potential harmful impacts prior to the approval of any air permit

4) The applicant provide a compelling reason why this site is the only site on which this compressor station can be built.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the submitted material.

Joseph Jeeva Abbate  
for Yogaville Environmental Solutions