

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BCS Site in Union Hill, VA

Richard Walker, representative, historic Harper Family, Union Hill, Buckingham, VA

Our family asks the Air Board to deny the air permit for the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline Virginia Compressor Station that will be on Harper heritage land if Dominion wins its eminent domain case against our family's legacy land at the Transco Right-of-Way – ROW in The United States District Court For The Western District of Virginia. (Case No. 6:18CV00042).

Injunction reveals site applied for has not enough acreage to conduct proposed activities

On March 28, 2018, we received a notice of injunction for eminent domain by Dominion, which we have not granted. Nor will it be decided in court before the Air Board makes its decision on the air permit for this site choice on Jan. 8th, 2019. The recent date of this injunction proves that Dominion filed for an air permit for a compressor station and metering and regulatory station, two above-ground and one underground storage tanks of volatile chemicals at this intersection of the existing 4-pipeline Transco -- before they have the acreage they need to conduct the activities for which they apply at this site.

On that point alone, the permit should be denied. **(See Comment Prof. Lakshmi Fjord)**

More specifically, the proposed eminent domain easement seizure is on Buckingham County Tax Map, Section 62, part of a 25-acre total parcel, and belonging to Taylor Harper. This portion of land sought is located within the corridor of the current Transco pipeline within 50 yards of the proposed ACP Compressor Station.

In a conversation with Dominion Energy representative from Doyle Land Services; I was informed that this parcel would be used to connect the 2 pipelines (Transco & ACP) as a transmission point for the ACP. However, Dominion has yet to succeed in receiving this parcel through eminent domain. They have not received clearance to seize this parcel through the United States District Court.

In addition, and unconnected with the parcel they wish to seize for an easement, on Dec. 29 2018, I discovered that Colonial Pipeline Company, a contractor for ACP, was using our private family access road that has clearly marked NO TRESPASSING signs within the roadway -- as access to the Transco ROW. This use is on our family land and does not connect in any way to ACP-owned land. Nor, if it did, does ACP have rights to use it. The use of this private road is NOT a part of the eminent domain easement sought. Yet, Dominion's subcontractor has already caused significant damage to our access road through Parcel 62 and 98; which is inheritance land for the Harper descendants. Our tenants next door reported heavy bulldozers and loaders using this private road, causing major erosion and flooding. These impacts amount to criminal trespass on private land.

Historic nature of this land and its cultural resources

The parcel of land that Dominion seeks to include at part of their compressor station site is Family Legacy land that has been passed down from my Great-Great Grandfather, Taylor Harper, who in 1885 purchased this parcel for \$15.00 from former slave owner Robert D. Moseley (see attached hand written deed). Taylor Harper was a Freed Slave when he purchased this parcel.

Subsequently, Arthur Harper, son of Taylor Harper, my Great Grandfather, purchased the adjacent parcel from former Slave owner, H.G. Moseley, son of Robert D. Moseley, 27 acres in 1916 for 25.00. This land has been passed down to 8 generations of Harper descendants. I am a 5th generation Harper descendant; and there are currently 3 additional generations behind me. The other parcel of land (Section 98) is 27 acres. Through generational history, it has been told that the land should never be sold outside of the family. This Coat of Arms has been our legacy from generation to generation regarding both parcels of land.

After speaking with several older relatives; particularly my 83 year old Great Uncle, Charles Harper; it had been determined through his recollection that there are unmarked graves of deceased Harper family members near the same parcel of land 100 yards east of the parcel that Dominion is seeking to possess. He also informed me that the Harper family also has family grave sites from our Bondurant, Perkins and Pride bloodlines in Union Hill area. Further physical investigation will be forthcoming by the heirs and friends to succinctly identify these burial sites. Lakshmi Fjord has the names of Harper family members buried there. Also there are adjoining property owners whose existence is as long as the Harper legacy. This parcel and compressor station will affect surrounding historically freedmen properties owners such as: Estelle Rose whose property is approximately 20 yards from proposed Compressor Station; who Dominion has not convinced to sell; Mr. Berkeley Laury (also history of inheritance land); who has property 2 parcels within 100 yards and 1/10 of mile respectively from proposed site; which Dominion has not acquired; and several other historical property owners within 1/4 to 1.1 mile on Shelton Store Road and Union Hill Road that will adversely be affected by this culturally racial and environmental injustice.

For more than 50 years the Harper family has held a Family Reunion at our homestead where family members would come from all over the country to reunite and celebrate our heritage. The family reunion would also be inclusive of the ENTIRE COMMUNITY of UNION HILL. We are deeply concerned about the impacts of and very close proximity of this Compressor Station site and its intersection with the Transco on this heritage property, with our family homestead. It has caused great distress, distrust, resentment, and stress to our family. Especially now that Dominion is trying to divide Union Hill by proposing to give money to particular individuals they have identified as supporting their project in exchange for “support of entrepreneurs.”

There are 5 households of Harper family members that reside within less than ¼ mile from the proposed Compressor Station; of which each head of household is on a fixed income below the

poverty level and has one or another chronic health issue. This compressor station and all the potential noise, air, and water pollution will all but reduce their Quality of Life and longevity of life they would have remaining. On Behalf of the Harper legacy and others who reside in Union Hill. I sincerely ask the Air Board to deny the permit because of its huge impact on former slave and freedmen descendants This proposed site will adversely affect our family and community to continue its tradition of family reunions. It will also decrease the sale value of our property if you we have to decide to sell over ancestors' wishes in order to meet farther away from these toxic emissions.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Walker

Harper Family Spokesperson