



For Immediate Release (December 16, 2014)

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### Dominion's Passive-Aggressive PR Irks Communities

Last week, residents of impacted and non-impacted counties received glossy flyers from Dominion, pushing them to “Stand up for new jobs and energy independence in Virginia,” and “Return the attached card today to show your support for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline.” All recipients were invited to attend Dominion’s early-January Open Houses in Nelson, Augusta and Highland County. (Document attached)

“As a resident of Rockbridge County, I was shocked to receive this invitation to Dominion’s Open Houses,” said Bridget Kelley-Dearing, of Lexington. “I thought the purpose of an Open House was to engage landowners along the route with legitimate concerns and to inform residents in affected areas.”

Dominion’s *Atlantic Coast Pipeline Public Engagement Plan*, formally filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Committee, states that Open Houses are hosted by Dominion to “build *trust* with stakeholders through meaningful dialogue” (original emphasis), and further, that Open Houses are “the first step in DTI’s commitment to communicating and working with landowners and stakeholders to identify and develop a route with the fewest potential environmental impacts, and which reflects the input of landowners and the communities it crosses.”

Friends of Nelson—a group of landowners and residents who oppose the proposed pipeline because of its impacts on Nelson County’s economy, environment, health, and safety, among other issues—fears that Dominion’s open invitation to those in non-affected counties will make all the Open Houses far too crowded and chaotic to be productive.

Julie Burns, a Nelson resident and Secretary of Friends of Nelson, remembers Dominion’s Open House in September as a “packed house.”

“There were guards at the door, and Dominion even asked people to leave to allow room for others to enter. Even with priority given to landowners over other residents, there was confusion. This time, representatives from the FERC will be present. How will there possibly be enough time to talk to them?” she asks.

Chad Oba, co-chair of Friends of Buckingham—a group opposing the pipeline and an associated planned compressor station in Buckingham County—says Dominion refused to hold an Open House in Buckingham, despite repeated requests to reconsider. “We wanted enough time with Dominion and the FERC representatives to have our questions answered and our concerns heard – and now we hear that Dominion is urging pipeline supporters to attend the Nelson Open House? The compressor station is unique to Buckingham and will have larger engines than the Titanic. Dominion needs to take our concerns seriously," she says.

Joanna Salidis, president of Friends of Nelson, also disputes the claim in Dominion’s flyer that the pipeline will aid Virginia’s economy. “Dominion’s assertions of economic gain don’t include any costs – like the cost of repairing secondary roads from heavy truck traffic, lowered property values, lost tourist revenue, and lost agricultural productivity. Further, Virginia’s constitution forbids using eminent domain to subsidize economic development, yet Dominion, and Terry McAuliffe in supporting the ACP, provide exactly this justification,” she states.

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(Note: This information is being submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission)