

December 30, 2014

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Nathaniel J. Davis, Sr., Deputy Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20426

Re: Docket Number PF 15-6

Dear Secretary Bose and Deputy Secretary Davis:

I am writing you to seek your help in blocking Dominion Power's approval for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. I have lived and worked in Nelson County, Virginia all my life. Nelson is one of the counties in Virginia that Dominion has deemed necessary for its pipeline route. My family and I are vehemently opposed to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline for many reasons.

First and foremost of my concerns focuses on the safety surrounding the building and use of Dominion's pipeline. A 42" pipe has never before been constructed on the east coast by Dominion or by any other power company. I cannot imagine that any government agency would want the citizens of a rural and economically disadvantaged county such as Nelson to be "guinea pigs" for such a tremendous pipeline. This pipeline will transport huge amounts of natural gas through our county and while we understand that Dominion is required to service and maintain their structures, we also know they have no expertise in a massive structure such as a 42" pipe. Explosions would kill or maim our families. Leaks would pollute and destroy our water. Our homes would be leveled or damaged structurally. In our county, all we have for emergency fire and medical response are our local volunteer fire and rescue personnel. These individuals are not trained for serious situations such as a pipeline rupture. Our county could not sustain a 42" pipeline disaster. Research tells us that pipelines leak and explode routinely. I do not think anyone could possibly believe that the Atlantic Coast Pipeline is a totally safe idea.

Second in my concerns are the geographical features of Nelson County that do not lend themselves to the building of an enormous pipeline. Our county is rural and mountainous. Many of the mountains the proposed pipeline will cross are extremely rocky which will make for tremendous blasting and destruction of our land. Acres and acres of timber will be destroyed and will never be able to be harvested again. The pipeline will cross hundreds of small creeks in our county as well as two main rivers, the Rockfish and James. All these waterways are in danger of being compromised forever with the building of the 42" pipeline. Most of the residents of Nelson receive their water from wells, and these wells receive their water from the surrounding mountain springs and creeks. Our water supplies which are needed to sustain our very life are in jeopardy if the pipeline is built. There has also been much

concern expressed over the fact that Dominion has not determined where they will obtain the water necessary to pump their natural gas. Our creeks and groundwater cannot sustain a 42" pipe. We cannot be robbed of our water resources so that Dominion can pump their product.

Third, I am very concerned with the process Dominion plans to use in acquiring property in Nelson County. They have stated publicly that "eminent domain" will be required to obtain property if landowners do not comply with Dominion's requests. Eminent domain was put into effect so that "the good of the people" would be the priority when land was needed for a project. There is certainly no "good" that will come out of the 42" Dominion pipeline for the people of Nelson County. The only "good" with this project is the "good" Dominion will make in its profits. The economically disadvantaged people in Nelson County will see no public good as this natural gas is only being transported through central Virginia and into other states or directly to the coast. Eminent domain should not be and never was intended to be a way for huge corporations to take what is not theirs. Property owners in Nelson County will be forced to give up their land to a private company with absolutely no benefits whatsoever. My father's property is in the proposed route of the pipeline. This property has been in our family for over 7 generations. Our ancestor came from Scotland and settled in the beautiful and serene hills of Shipman. We have maintained this land for decades. It has produced crops of corn, tobacco, and timber. It has sustained cattle, pigs, and sheep. The land has been good to us. And we have in turn been good stewards of the land. Please do not allow a private company to invade our land and grab it from us using "eminent domain" as its excuse for land acquisition.

My fourth concern is for the future of Nelson County. As stated earlier in my letter, Nelson is a rural county. Our primary methods of revenue are centered around two main areas: agriculture and tourism. Many farmers will be greatly affected by the proposed pipeline as it is cutting through many acres of pasture and farmland. Those farmers with timber will lose that revenue forever when their trees are cut and re-planting of hardwoods is not feasible. Sources of water for cattle and other livestock will surely be compromised as the pipeline interrupts the flow of our creeks and springs. Agriculture will surely suffer in Nelson County if Dominion is granted permission to build their massive pipeline. Tourism is Nelson's other primary source of income. Our county boasts access to the Appalachian Trail, Crabtree Falls, hiking and camping in the George Washington National Forest, scenic trails along the Blue Ridge Parkway, and winter sports activities at Wintergreen Resort. The beauty and serenity that Nelson offers appeal to thousands of tourists who make their way to us each year. Many of those tourists fall so in love with Nelson County that they decide to retire to our county or build a second home here. The 42" pipeline would cut a tremendous, ugly slash across our mountains, our trails, our overlooks, our rivers. Many who once found pleasure in our peaceful surroundings will very likely look elsewhere for recreation and the quiet beauty of nature. I fear for the future of our county if our tourism is jeopardized by Dominion. Many will no longer want to even live in a

county where property values are certain to decrease. No one wants to build or buy property close to a potentially dangerous pipeline. Our county is facing a future economic crisis all set into motion by Dominion's greed. Please do not allow this pipeline to hurt the innocent people of Nelson County.

Finally, I appeal to your sense of honor in not desecrating large portions of land in Nelson County. In 1969 Hurricane Camille ravaged our county. Over 150 people lost their lives the night of the hurricane. Approximately 40 people were never recovered. Their remains are thought to be entombed beneath soil and rock along the Davis Creek, Muddy Creek, and Rockfish River areas. These Nelsonians do not deserve to have Dominion tear apart their final resting places, scattering their bodies further. Please research the death and destruction that happened the night of August 19, 1969. You will find the names of those missing and you will also find their supposed location of entombment. A pipeline should never be built across areas where these victims most surely lie.

Thank you for taking the time to read my thoughts and concerns. I urgently ask that you not grant Dominion Power to proceed with the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The citizens of Nelson County will be hurt forever if this monstrosity is built.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Purvis Shepard

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Nelson County Supervisors: Connie Brennan, Alan Hale, Larry Saunders, Tommy Harvey,  
Tommy Bruguiera  
Friends of Nelson