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RE: Concerns About Dominion's Proposed Warren County Power Station

November 15, 2010

Dear Ms. Riggleman:

My name is Peter G. Rice. My mailing address is 2784 Shelby Rd, Madison, VA 22727, and my telephone number is 540-948-6415. I am a former member of the Madison County Planning Commission and a member of the Board of Trustees of the Shenandoah National Park Trust.

For the reasons articulated below, I am requesting that the State Air Pollution Control Board directly consider and take final action on Dominion Virginia Power's proposed Warren County Power Station.

As a neighbor of Shenandoah National Park and a citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia, I have grave concerns about the massive, natural-gas fired power plant that Dominion is proposing to build just five miles from one of our nation's most treasured national parks, with its extensive designated wilderness area.

In 2004, after considerable public input and debate, the Air Board approved the construction of a much smaller facility at this location. Now, Dominion Virginia Power is proposing a power plant that is more than double the size of the initially approved project. This significantly raises the likelihood of adverse air quality and public health impacts. The plant site remains in hiking distance of Shenandoah National Park.

I am particularly troubled about the increase of smog, haze, and acid deposition in Shenandoah National Park. In 2004, the Air Board mandated that all of the power plant's smog-forming nitrogen oxide emissions would be offset by reductions from other sources within the immediate vicinity of the plant and that would directly benefit Shenandoah National Park. Now, because of the enormous increase in size of the plant, Dominion states it is unable to obtain 100% of these essential offsets from within the surrounding area. Instead, it seeks to take credit for offsets that might be obtained from sources hundreds of miles away.

The National Park Service has the responsibility of protecting the natural and historic resources of Shenandoah National Park. I strongly encourage the Air Board to work with the National Park Service to assure that this vital asset is fully protected. If, according to the Park Service, adverse impacts to Shenandoah cannot be mitigated, then the Air Board must reject Dominion's application.

Sincerely,

Peter G. Rice