



Virginians for Healthy Air

November 23, 2010

Anita Riggleman
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Valley Regional Office
P.O. Box 3000
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Sent to: anita.riggleman@deq.virginia.gov

Dear Ms. Riggleman:

I am writing to express concerns about Dominion Virginia Power's proposed Warren County Power Station, and to request that the State Air Pollution Control Board directly consider and take final action on the permit application.

This massive, natural gas-fired power plant would be just five miles from Shenandoah National Park, consistently a top state tourist attraction, and a national treasure. Shenandoah already suffers from unhealthy smog, hazy skies which shroud scenic views, and acid rain which sours trout streams and forest soils.

As a business owner and advocate for clean air, I am concerned about the increased pollution's impacts on my customers and their enjoyment of the area, as well as the impacts on my family's health.

In 2004, after much public debate, the state Air Board approved construction of a much smaller facility at this location -- but the facility, then called CPV-Warren, was never built. Now, Dominion Virginia Power seeks to construct a facility that would be more than twice the size of the first project. The increased size would result in significantly increased pollution, which will threaten the health of area residents, park visitors, park views, and area trout streams.

In 2004, the Air Board required the power plant "offset" its smog-forming nitrogen oxide emissions by securing permanent pollution reductions from other sources within the immediate vicinity of the plant. This was a critical step to protect local and park air quality. Now, because of the doubling of the plant's size, Dominion states it must seek pollution reductions through offsets from sources hundreds of miles away.

I strongly encourage the Department of Environmental Quality and the state Air Board to work with the National Park Service to improve the permit requirements to protect Shenandoah National Park. If the National Park Service finds that the park cannot be protected from this increased pollution, then the DEQ and Air Board must reject Dominion's application.

Sincerely,

Tony Brown
Blue Ridge School
State Route 627
St. George, Va