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Air Board Members,

I would like to take this opportunity to voice my opinion on the Virginia City Power Plant. Being a resident of Wise County, living a few miles outside of the town of Wise, I am concerned about both the impact of the power plant's impact on air quality, as well as its impact in other areas.

While I know that the plant will give off air pollution at levels that are within the legal limits, I am still concerned that this will have a significant health impact on people. Has there been a study that predicts how often the proposed power plant is expected to violate the legal pollution limits? I am concerned that because the plant is located in a mountain valley, and that because the climate for this area is known to have many overcast days, that inversions could frequently make it likely that the proposed power plant would exceed pollution levels in the immediate area. Has there been a study that examines how often inversions are expected and how many days the plant might create dangerous air pollution levels in the immediate area?

In relation to possible inversions and low local air quality, I would like a rule that if the plant is found to be exceeding any pollution standards that it would be shut down for a period of time. I believe "time-outs" will be more likely to make Dominion obey the law than monetary penalties. For them, the decision on whether to pollute is a monetary decision based on a cost-benefit analysis where they balance the amount of money they can make against the cost of the penalty. Given that they can raise rates, reduce profits or use a variety of other methods to defray monetary costs, I believe they would be more likely to feel the impact of time-outs for a variety of reasons.

I am also concerned about visual air quality. Southwest Virginia has a rapidly growing tourist industry. Has there been a study done on how much the proposed power plant will impact visual air quality? Areas that are especially susceptible to problems with visual air quality include the Shenandoah National Park and the Great Smokies National Park. How much will the proposed power plant affect these areas? But locally, how much will the plant degrade the visuals from our own premiere tourist attraction, High Knob? And has there been a study done on how much the proposed power plant will affect visual air quality in southwest Virginia, especially Wise and surrounding counties?

How will the proposed power plant affect people with respiratory problems? The plants emissions of carbon monoxide, nitrous oxides, and sulfur dioxide will all form a mix that can impact the health of

children, people with health problems, and even the general public. Have studies been done to determine the effect of the higher levels of air pollution on these susceptible populations as well as the general population? And again, have these studies examined health effects on days with good air flow as well as days with inversions or poor air flow?

I am a wildland firefighter and my understanding of global warming and my experiences with increased fire danger due to record summer temperatures makes me leery of the proposed power plant because it will contribute to carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Have there been studies done to determine the amount of carbon dioxide produced by the proposed plant, and the expected contribution to global warming, and the cost to pay for the effects of global warming? Has there been a comparison of the cost of conservation measures to save energy in Virginia with the cost of the proposed power plant? Wouldn't air quality be better, with lower carbon dioxide emissions if we conserved power rather than generating more?

And why with all the talk of sequestration can't we wait until that technology is available. If the technology is not readily available, then the claims that the proposed power plant can be retro-fitted with sequestration technology are not likely.

Because of the mining we have in the area, we already have a problem with the acidification of our waterways. What will be the impact of the proposed power plant's emission on the acidification of our water and our forests? Has our local problem with acid mine drainage been taken into account when examining the effect of sulfur dioxide on acid rain in the area?

Thank you for your careful consideration of the proposed power plant. I believe that the people of Wise county, and the surrounding counties will pay the non-monetary costs of the proposed power plant and that Dominion will make a profit. There is no justice when a corporation and its stockholders make a profit, and that the coal mining industry makes a profit, and that a few more coal miners might get jobs (if increased mechanization does not reduce the net number of jobs), while the children, the people with health problems, the general public, and the environment all incur the costs of this plant. While I urge you not to approve the proposed plant, at the very least I urge you to pass rules which make Dominion and the coal industry pay for all the costs of the plant.

Yours Truly,

Patrick Withen /s