

September 21, 2018

Air Pollution Control Board  
Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Air and Renewable Energy

To whom it may concern:

RE: Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC and Buckingham Compressor Station (ACP 2) air permit

My name is Ruby Laury, I am originally from southern California. I moved here 15 years ago with my husband, John W. Laury. After moving here, I understood why he wanted to come back home to Buckingham. Buckingham is a beautiful place, and one of the most **quiet and peaceful**, no pollution—lots of clean air, and plenty of greenery...**Usually No stress, that is, until these past four and a half years.**

I have a great concern for our water. What is going to happen when the underground pipes leak? If this proposed compressor station and pipelines go through, we won't be able to drink the water. **Are they going to supply us with drinking water?** We won't be able to go outside because of the air and noise pollution.

What about our gardens? What about our livestock, domestic animals, and wildlife? They and we all need fresh, clean air. What about our water—water, a most precious commodity?

What about our senior citizens, some who are having health issues, what will happen to them? What about the younger generation whose parents/grandparents plan to leave them an inheritance of their property/homes, etc.? This legacy will be gone. Property values will go down—**will we still be paying the same taxes?**

We live in an agricultural area where we raise crops, cattle, dairy cows, donkeys, goats, and chickens; that is until Dominion/ACP convinced the Board of Supervisors that they wanted a special permit to change the zoning—is this legal? This is still an agricultural area—Not for Dominion—who has said we will be able to receive this natural gas—not true— this gas will have to be fracked, which will emit unsafe gases, and poisons, **polluting this most precious air** that we breathe. **Dominion has not been telling the truth.**

As a resident of Buckingham, Virginia, I am opposed to the proposed Atlantic coast Pipeline & compressor station because of its potential impacts on my community and to our democracy as a whole. I want you to know that many Buckingham landowners are being treated as criminals **on their own property** and are now being threatened in court. A declaration of eminent domain looms on the horizon, the most un-American of practices. Did you know that it was Samuel Adams, who said:

*Among the natural rights of the colonists are these: first a right to life, secondly to liberty, and thirdly to property; together with the right to defend them in the best manner they can.*

Our agricultural lands will be destroyed in the path of these monsters; and this beautiful scenery that attracts many of my relatives and friends from California to Buckingham is in jeopardy. They come here to relax and get away from the smog in Southern California.

**The proposed ACP and Compressor Station just want to come in here and condemn this community, as if we don't exist.**

Sometimes the Lord allows things to happen to get me out of my comfort zone – because if this had not happened, I would not have met so many wonderful, beautiful, and caring people from all over the United States.

I don't know if you have seen any of the videos as to what happens when these compressor stations have a blow-down: You'll see children and adults with serious nose bleeds, severe headaches, respiratory problems, polluted water, the extremely loud noise, etc. Fracking emits poisonous gases. If you or your staff would view these videos, you could see first-hand the problems with these proposed pipelines, and compressor stations.

I have a great concern for our water. What is going to happen when the underground pipes leak? If this proposed compressor station and pipelines go through, we won't be able to drink the water. Are they going to supply us with drinking water? We cannot live without water. I am concerned that the ACP will damage our water, that it will leave silt in the water, disrupt underground water systems and leave unprotected soil to just wash away.

What about our heritage, the African-American slave graves, the churches where we worship. The Union Hill Baptist Church was built in the 1800's. I live in Union Hill; our churches are in the Union Hill area. What will happen to them?

As I said, I am retired and spend most of my time in this community; breathing the clean air that is here and using water from our private well. My friends, children, and grandchildren like to visit here – where the Union Hill ancestors owned the land. I did not ask for the ACP to come through our community. I cannot see any way that we will benefit from it. I also am not convinced that either Dominion, the ACP, or the government will protect us and our environment.

What about the effect of noise on the performance, stress, and behavior of animals? So, my concerns are the effect this noise will have on our cattle (especially the newborn calves) and our donkey. It has been proven that cattle/animals hear high-frequency sounds much better than humans. Can you image the stress, this will have on our cattle on a continual basis? Can you image the trauma this noise will have when the mother cow is trying to give birth? This is why I am so adamant about this proposed pipeline and compressor station. It only is not fair to the animals, but it is also not fair to us humans?

Finally, many studies have shown that hazardous and solid waste facilities, power stations, and industrial plants like the proposed compressor station and ACP are excessively cited in communities of color and low-income neighborhoods. And most importantly, these plants that **emit toxic air and noise pollution** will definitely have a negative effect on the health and well-being of us living in the Union Hill/Woods Road areas.

A review of environmental justice and equity law by the American Bar Association and the Hastings College of Law revealed that poor communities of color **breath some of the least healthy air in the nation.** This study was taken from the South Coast Air Basin in Southern California, where Latinos, African Americans, and the Asian populations in the region face a 50% higher cancer risk than Anglo-Americans in other regions.

Even the United States General Accounting office released finds that three-quarters of the hazardous waste landfill sites in eight southeastern states are located in primarily poor, African-American and/or Latino communities.

The United Church of Christ's Commission for Racial Justice published "Toxic Wastes and Race in the United States" **determined that race** was the most important factor in determining where toxic facilities were located.

We, John and I, want to live out our golden years here in this beautiful serene area; where we can sit outside and breathe in the clean air, and be able to look up in the dark sky at night and see the many beautiful stars that the Lord has put up into the heavens. God put us here to be good stewards of this beautiful land. We are to take care of it – not pollute it!

I will leave you with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

*Never, never be afraid to do what's right,  
especially if the well-being of a person or  
animal is at stake. Society's punishments  
are small compared to the wounds we inflict  
on our soul when we look the other way.*

And at our sister church, Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church, there's a banner behind the pulpit that reads:

*Stand up for what is right even if you are standing alone...*

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to read our letter.

Respectfully,

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