

Comments for FERC Scoping Notice Meeting

Stuarts Draft High School, 3-19-15

My name is Nancy Sorrells, 3419 Cold Springs Rd., Greenville, VA, co-chair Augusta County Alliance. I served 8 years on Augusta Co. Board of Supervisors and 4 years on Augusta Co. Service Authority. Now that I am a recovering supervisor I can devote all my efforts to making sure that this pipeline does not ruin one of the best places to live on this earth – which is Augusta County.

The district I represented on the board is the Riverheads District where the headwaters of the James and Shenandoah Rivers arise. In fact, no water flows into Augusta County, it all flows out. Billions and Billions of gallons. It flows to your faucet in D.C., to the Governor's mansion in Richmond, to the Chesapeake Bay.

Your scoping notice requests that our comments be specific – “the more specific, the more useful.” Then you ought to love the wonderful reports that the Supervisors and Service Authority have put together giving you all the specifics about our water and our karst. It is so specific that it should scare the heck out of anyone planning to put a pipeline here. Bottom line: Our Water, public and private, is TOO Valuable and too Vulnerable to gamble with. Our homes, our farms that feed the nation, our businesses -- It is everything to us and everything to you and everything to Virginia.

You ask that we speak to reasonable alternatives. Absolutely! For Virginia's communities, the proposed route of this pipeline is All Pain with No Gain. We will get NOTHING out of it, while we will lose a lot. If at the end of the FERC process it is determined that there is a public need for this natural gas then the pipeline HAS to be placed on an ALTERNATE, RESPONSIBLE ROUTE. Responsible being the key word here because we all know that Dominion can come up with Alternate Routes. At last count, there are at least 12 variations in Augusta County alone.

However, the bottom line is that the current proposed route, in all its variations, is 100% in the wrong place – over 90% on private lands and most if not all of the rest on our special public lands. If this pipeline goes in, it must protect private property rights, our natural resources, our communities, our schools, and our cultural and historical resources.

That can be done if Dominion co-locates on existing utility corridors, especially pipelines.

Dominion says it is committed to safety, and communities, and ethics, and the environment. Yet, they are fined a lot. Their projects have experienced pipeline welding problems, slope failures, water contamination, explosions, fires, and, yes, deaths.

Recently, Dominion has been fined for devastating environmental violations on a much smaller pipeline project in West Virginia, they are in court right now over leaking coal ash pits on a Virginia river and they have safety violations at two of their nuclear plants.

And in Augusta County anyone near their electrical transmission line upgrade can see what a good neighbor they are: slope failures, rock slides, destroyed roads, silt fences down....

Let's put it this way: A savvy courtroom lawyer once said when building his legal defense: "When the clock strikes 13 you must question everything!" Actions really do speak louder than words. For the Atlantic Coast Pipeline's proposed route, the clock has struck 13.