



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

Winchester Hall • 12 East Church Street • Frederick, Maryland 21701
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www.co.frederick.md.us

June 23, 2008

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Kimberly D. Bose
Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

**Re: Docket No. PF07-12-000 - Dominion Transmission –
Proposed Natural Gas Compressor Station in Jefferson, MD**

Dear Secretary Bose:

The Board of County Commissioners of Frederick County Maryland (Board) is writing to share our position and input on Dominion Transmission, Inc.'s proposal to construct a natural gas compressor station near Jefferson, Maryland. The Board opposes the location of a natural gas compressor station at the proposed location near US Route 340 and MD Route 180 because the use is inconsistent with agriculturally zoned land, is in close proximity to residential housing and an elementary school, presents public health and welfare concerns, and is inconsistent with the county comprehensive plan.

A natural gas compressor station is clearly an industrial use and should be located on industrially zoned land. The Board has written to Dominion (DTI) previously to encourage them to look for a more appropriate site for the proposed compressor station placing the highest priority on a site zoned for industrial use. The county commissioners do not believe that DTI has adequately searched for sites and has narrowly defined a search ring. The flow modeling provided by DTI suggests that upstream sites outside of the search ring and possibly outside of Frederick County could be feasible and less expensive.

The proposed site presents public health and safety concerns. The proposed location for the natural gas compressor station is in a geologic area with evidence of a fracture line and the possibility of sinkholes. Sinkholes are a fairly common occurrence in Frederick County. The fracture line creates a higher potential to bring contaminants to existing wellhead areas for residents who rely on ground water in the surrounding Jefferson community. We have unfortunately had actual experience with contamination of public drinking water supplies in similarly located geologic areas in Frederick County. Since the station would be unmanned, contamination of the wellhead area and water supply can occur quickly and create serious risk to public health. This concern cannot be underestimated or dismissed.

Given Dominion's soil and groundwater contamination incident at another compressor station in Pennsylvania, we believe our concerns related to locating this station near residential and school properties should be strongly considered.

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The proposed natural gas compressor station is also located near Hempt Meats, a local working farm and butchery that has been in operation in the immediate vicinity for over 150 years. Negative impacts to their operation and damage to their livestock would be devastating to the local Jefferson community and others. Route 340 is also an evacuation route for points west and north; any incident or failure associated with the gas compressor station could cut off the only major evacuation route we have in this area of Frederick County.

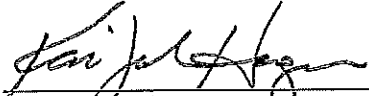
The location proposed for the natural gas compressor station is near two historic properties included on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties sites (F-2-85, Mrs. Easterday House, 4411 Gene Hemp Road, south of US 340; F-2-86, W. A. Hemp House, 3302 Burgee Rd., also south of US 340) and three Field Note sites identified in the 1991 Brunswick Region historic sites survey (3206 Jefferson Pike, 3004 Jefferson Pike, and 2860 Jefferson Pike.)

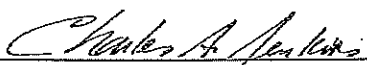
The County Commissioners are aware that you have received a large number of comments from local residents and other concerned citizens opposing the proposed compressor station. We share public concern about noise levels, pollution of air, soil, and water by emissions and waste from the compressor station, and public safety risks from accidents and ongoing operations as well as long-term environmental impacts. The community clearly supports the County's Comprehensive Plan and ongoing efforts to preserve the cultural and agricultural heritage of the Jefferson community. Residents are legitimately concerned about noise, public safety, wellhead protection, and all the associated impacts from an industrial project on an agricultural and residential area. Thus, we respectfully request that the further consideration of this site for the proposed gas compressor station be abandoned. We encourage Dominion Transmission Inc. to continue its search for an appropriate alternative location on industrially zoned parcels.

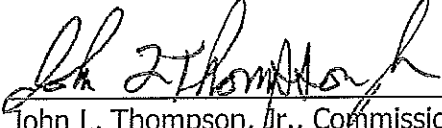
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cc: The Frederick County Delegation
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Richard McCain, Assistant County Attorney
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Ms. Carolyn Moss, Government Affairs
Dominion Transmission Inc.
120 Tredegar Street
Riverside Building
Richmond, VA 23219

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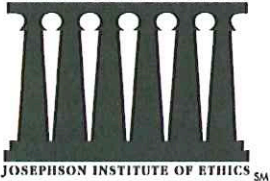
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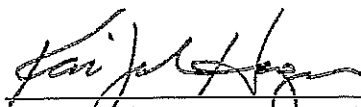
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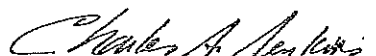
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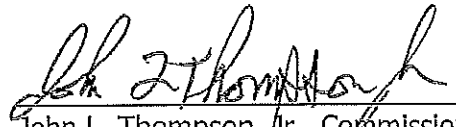
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