Dominion Virginia Power is increasing carbon pollution in the face of climate change. Dominion’s massive gas expansion would spell disaster for Hampton Roads. We have to stop burning fossil fuels to protect our coasts and our communities. Virginia has vast resources of clean, renewable energy like solar and wind. We could power 25% of households in Virginia just with the offshore wind! Are you ready to Turn not Burn?

**DIRTY POWER, DIRTY POLITICS**

Dominion is the largest electric utility in Virginia, the largest contributor to state politicians and an obstruction to renewable energy in Virginia. Dominion Virginia Power is part of Dominion Resources, which also owns one of the nation’s largest fracked gas processing, storage and transmission companies, Dominion Transmission. The company has a bias and a potential conflict of interest in promoting fracked gas as the primary way to meet Virginia’s electricity demands. Dominion is aggressively pushing to build the $5 billion Atlantic Coast fracked-gas Pipeline, and as many as six new gas-burning power plants. Meanwhile, Dominion’s lobbyists continue to stymie the development of clean, renewable energy. Their pollution is bad for the climate, the economy and coastal homes and businesses.

**COASTAL FLOODING**

Dominion’s dirty energy plan calls for 9,500 megawatts of new power plants fueled by fracked gas—this would increase the corporation’s overall carbon pollution by more than 60%. The ACP alone would contribute 40 to 68 million tons of carbon pollution per year. That’s equivalent to the annual emissions of at least 6 of the largest coal plants in Virginia. Sea level rise estimates continue to increase and Hampton Roads is the second most vulnerable region of the country in terms of economic impacts. Several studies have put the number as high as six feet over the next 100 years. Hampton Roads is seeing the impacts of climate change now; highlighting how irresponsible Dominion’s fracked-gas push is.

**DANGEROUS EMISSIONS**

195 nations recently agreed to reduce CO2 emissions to keep global temperatures from rising with the Paris Climate Agreement. In order to do so, we need to tighten carbon emissions. Despite this, Dominion is barreling forward with plans to increase carbon emissions with fracked gas projects. When these projects are underused or shut down early to limit climate damages, customers will get stuck with the bill. Dominion’s bias in favor of fracked gas also exposes business and residential customers to wide price swings historically associated with fracked gas’ pricing.

**NO ACP!**

Dominion’s proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline has been called “Virginia’s Keystone.” The massive pipeline would be larger in diameter than the Keystone XL, and would stretch over 550 miles of Virginia lands, from fracking fields to our west. Dominion’s pipeline will bring massive profits to the
company, but will cost localities an estimated $4 billion over its lifespan.\textsuperscript{6} Gas prices are also expected to rise again, which could leave electric customers holding the bill for expensive fuel when cleaner options would be cheaper.

**FRACK OFF!**

Hydraulic fracturing, known as “fracking,” threatens to pollute our water and lands. This energy-intensive extraction process involves releasing pockets of gas trapped deep below the ground in rock formations by drilling into them and pumping in a mix of chemicals and water until they explode- this cracks the rock and releases gas. Fracking operations have been linked to water contamination in multiple states,\textsuperscript{7} and increased instances of earthquakes,\textsuperscript{8} large and small.\textsuperscript{9}

**WHY WIND?**

Fully developed offshore wind leases could power 700,000 Virginia homes and create as many as 11,600 full-time jobs in the next two decades.\textsuperscript{10} Even more, Hampton Roads is perfectly situated to be a hub for the production and distribution of wind turbine components, providing a major boost to the regional and state-wide economy. Earlier this year, Rhode Island beat out Virginia to be the first state in the U.S. to install an offshore wind energy project. In May of 2016, Dominion lost a $40 million dollar grant from the federal government meant to kick start offshore wind in Virginia for its excessive delays.

**LOCAL JOBS**

For $1 million worth of output, renewable energy creates far more jobs than gas. Building retrofits for energy efficiency creates nearly 9 times more jobs than fracked-gas, solar over 6 times more, and wind more than 5 times as many!

Virginia’s poor standing among states in developing solar, wind and efficiency is a direct result of Dominion’s efforts to block clean-energy requirements and competition in the energy market place.\textsuperscript{11} In 2015, North Carolina installed 1,134 MW of solar electric capacity, and that’s not because there is more sunshine in North Carolina! In the same year, Virginia installed just 10MW.

Contact your local and state officials. Urge them to speak out against dominion’s dirty energy plan. Together we can build a clean energy economy now that will serve generations to come.

**ENDNOTES**

3  http://pilotonline.com/opinion/editorial/editorial-seas-rise-faster-but-politicians-still-in-denial/article_2a051ca6-0ba4-5ca0-b842-2d5ca6ec4576.html
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