I am Georgianne Stinnett and 8 generations of my family have called Buckingham, where Dominion plans to site a 54,000 horsepower compressor station, home. I own a home and land that I inherited through this legacy.

Dominion is notorious for bending the rules, breaking the rules, or, when neither of those is sufficient to support their agenda of greed, paying the right people to have the rules changed all together.

For example, the ACP is not eligible for the special use permit that it was issued by the Buckingham Board of Supervisors. The permit is a possibility for utility companies but the ACP is a for profit limited liability corporation. Yet they had the audacity to apply and the BOS had the lack of fortitude to overlook this critical detail and grant their wishes.

Past behavior foretells future actions and Dominion has given us no reason to believe any of their promises that the compressor station will be not only safe but an asset to our community.

In September of 2016, Dominion vented their compressor station in Loudon County without adequate warning to local officials. While the resulting gaseous plume stretched to a radius of 10 miles, emergency responders received over 100 calls from terrified citizens. This is the same compressor that Dominion had assured the Loudoun Board of Supervisors that they would not expand, if anything they said they would reduce capacity. Yet in October they announced the addition of 7,000 horsepower of compression. In response to protests from the Board of Supervisors, they apologized for their lie and then just said they are going to proceed despite the Board’s objections. This is the type of behavior the citizens of Buckingham dread if the ACP is built.

http://www.dcmediagroup.us/2016/10/27/loudoun-officials-caught-off-guard-dominions-new-compressor-expansion-plans/

Dominion has already mocked the rules they agreed to follow for the surveying of potential routes. Yes, by law they can survey land without the owner’s consent. However, in a recent court challenge to this law, Dominion agreed to the stipulation that they must and will notify the landowners and wear visible identification. Yet there is a video on line of surveyors invading the land of a Buckingham citizen, with no identification and total disregard for his pleas for them to identify themselves. <http://friendsofnelson.com/category/surveying/>

Showing ID would have cost Dominion nothing and would have showed that they honor what they have agreed to do. How will they behave when complying with the rules costs them money? Also, they make grand claims that the ACP will bring jobs to our community. In this example they could have employed local surveyors. Yet none of them were local, not a single one.

The ACP is slated to intersect with the Williams Transco line at the compressor station in Buckingham. In 2008 one of Transco’s lines in neighboring Appomattox county exploded, damaging about 100 houses, obliterating two homes, and hurting 5 people. This was caused by negligence - breaking safety guidelines concerning maintenance. How can they claim that safety is paramount when they are working with a company that the US Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has identified as having a history of neglecting cathodic protection guidelines. Transco’s old, poorly maintained lines are going to be subjected to tremendous increases in flow volume and pressure further increasing the possibility of catastrophic explosion. <http://spectrabusters.org/2014/05/18/williams-transco-explosion-in-appomattox-virginia-2008-11-14/>

Dominion has promised that the taxes generated by the compressor station will exceed 8 million dollars over 8 years. That is only about 69 dollars per county resident per year. And at the end of those 8 years, the 69 dollars will have run out and we will be left with a shattered tax base.

That is, if they even pay the 69 dollars. In 2015 Dominion was found in an audit to owe the City of Richmond 1.75 million in taxes. Not only did they not pay, as the largest contributor to our state legislators, they had the General Assembly vote to exempt them from this tax in the future. They simply had a rule that they did not like changed for the sake of their profits. There is nothing to stop them from reneging on the revenue they have promised.

<http://www.styleweekly.com/ScrumBlog/archives/2015/02/16/legislators-hand-centerstage-a-win> <http://www.roanoke.com/news/politics/general_assembly/dominion-donations-show-it-s-a-power-company-in-virginia/article_f1d230ea-6664-5912-80ad-980a5808a570.html>

Past behavior foretells future actions and Dominion has given us no reason to believe any of their promises. In Virginia, corporate arrogance outweighs citizens’ concerns. Our weak local government failed in their responsibility to resist the lure of Dominion’s hollow claims of economic benefit and protect Buckingham from this Trojan horse. Our former Governor and our new Governor, who could stop the pipeline under the Clean Water Act both accepted huge campaign contributions from Dominion and put the corporation’s profits over our environment, safety, health and lives.

Comments from

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