

Memorandum

Herndon Reston Indivisible Science and Environment Group

To: Melanie Davenport, Water Permitting Division Director DEQ,
Jutta Schneider, Water Planning Division Director DEQ
James Davis-Martin, Chesapeake Bay Coordinator DEQ

CC: Delegate Ken Plum, Delegate Jennifer Boysko, Delegate Kathleen Murphy Senator Janet Howell, , Senator Barbara Favola, Senator Jennifer Wexton

Subject: Coal Ash Disposal by Dominion Energy

The Herndon-Reston Indivisible Science and Environment issue group (HRISE) is concerned about coal ash management in Virginia and the potential risks to water quality. As required by State Law 1398, Dominion presented the State with a plan for disposing of coal ash on December 1st. We read their published plan and understand they propose to cap-in-place the coal ash as a permanent solution. We also read the Southern Environment Law Center report¹. That study suggests that recycling coal ash is the best option.

We determined the following: 1) there are conflicting conclusions between the two reports; 2) the economic research boundaries were limited in each study; and 3) coal ash is being imported into the United States using Virginia Ports. Based on these findings, we believe that the Dominion Plan needs more study and more community input concerning decisions.

We are seeking information on the process that will be followed by DEQ in response to the Dominion plan:

- Is a review period part of the permit approval process?
- Who is empowered to approve of Dominion's Plan?
- What is the schedule for approving?
- Will DEQ undertake a full environmental and cost benefit impact study been done for the Dominion Plan?

Thank you for your responses.

¹ https://www.southernenvironment.org/uploads/words_docs/Coal_Ash_Recycling_Feasibility_Assessment.pdf