Telling the TRUTH about Cove Point:
Correcting the Myths of Dominion and the Gas Industry

Fact #1: Gas Exports Would Harm Most Sectors of the U.S. Economy:

A recent report commissioned by the U.S. Department of Energy showed that a major push to export U.S. natural gas could cause domestic gas prices to increase by 27 percent by 2020. This would decrease economic output from most sectors of the economy, like manufacturing and farming, while “depress[ing] both real wages and the return on capital in all other industries" outside the natural gas supply chain. Rather than strengthening the economy, liquefied natural gas exports benefit one wealthy industry while threatening the livelihoods of millions of working Americans and hundreds of other industries.

Fact #2: Wind and solar provide more jobs. Cove Point would do almost nothing to sustain Maryland’s workforce:

Dominion says that the facility would create only 75 permanent jobs. Most of those jobs would go to highly-specialized non-local workers. Any short-term job boost would end after the three-year construction period. By contrast, investments in carbon-free wind and solar energy would sustain thousands of construction jobs over a much longer period of time. Wind and solar would also create hundreds of good-paying permanent jobs that would help promote long-term U.S. competitiveness by lowering local electricity prices, advancing energy independence, and providing opportunities for innovation in a growing industry.

Fact #3: Cove Point is a climate disaster:

Dominion’s plan to liquefy and export fracked gas to Asia through Cove Point in Calvert County would emit anywhere from 2 million to 3.3 million tons of greenhouse gases per year. That would make the facility the 4th largest climate polluter in Maryland, ahead of several coal-fired power plants. And if you calculate the greenhouse gas pollution emitted at every stage of the production process— drilling, piping, compression, liquefying, tanking – the exported gas from Cove Point would be worse for the climate than Maryland's entire fleet of seven coal-fired power plants combined. As domestic gas prices go up, exports would also drive up domestic coal use.

Fact #4: Cove Point: An “Environmental Impact Statement” is essential:

Historically, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) provides the public with the most comprehensive analysis of the environmental, economic and safety impacts of a proposed energy facility. Dominion’s Cove Point facility is so huge and complex that it obviously warrants the most protective and detailed review. An Environmental Assessment (EA), on the other hand, is historically a cursory review document which provides far less meaningful opportunity for the public to participate and does not require the federal agency to respond to public comments. Almost all of the major environmental organizations in Maryland fully support an EIS for the Dominion Cove Point liquefied natural gas export proposal. Dominion is opposed to conducting an EIS.

Fact #5: Cove Point poses major safety concerns, and Dominion refuses to answer questions:

The process of liquefying natural gas is extremely hazardous, and the Cove Point facility would be next to hundreds of pre-existing Maryland homes. Media stories have raised questions about Dominion’s proposed use of storage tanks that do not have maximum strength “double hulls,” and about the increased hazard associated with propane use as part of the liquefaction process. In September, a $1.5 billion Dominion facility for processing fracked gas in West Virginia suffered a major explosion. Yet when two dozen Maryland health, faith and environmental groups asked Dominion three weeks ago for a detailed explanation of the explosion, Dominion did not respond in any way.

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