

The Case Against Cove Point:

Presented to the Maryland Public Service Commission

As we rallied outside on February 20th, the Chesapeake Climate Action Network, the Sierra Club and AMP Creeks Council presented expert evidence to the Maryland Public Service Commission that Dominion's fracked gas export proposal is not in the public interest and therefore, the MD PSC should deny Dominion's application to construct the 130 MW power plant and liquefaction facility in Lusby, MD. Our attorneys and expert witnesses will present evidence on the following three major areas of concern with this project:

- 1) **Economics:** Dominion's export proposal could negatively impact Maryland natural gas customers and utility ratepayers. As the only viable natural gas export facility for the upper East Coast that would export 770 million cubic feet of gas per day from the Marcellus and Utica shale regions of the U.S. (equivalent of four Marylands worth of residential natural gas use per day), this facility will drive gas out of OUR marketplace and send it to Asia while demand for natural gas increases in our region. This equation could lead to increased costs for Maryland electricity ratepayers and natural gas customers. Bottom line: the purported financial benefits of this project flow directly to Dominion's profits and away from Maryland residents.
- 2) **Environment:** Dominion has not presented adequate evidence to prove that the design of the natural gas-fired 130 MW onsite power plant and liquefaction facility, along with additional vessels needed for LNG export, would adequately reduce air emissions at the facility as required by federal law. Additionally, Dominion is requesting increased groundwater withdrawal at the facility that could lead to additional stress and other concerning impacts on groundwater resources in Southern, MD.
- 3) **Aesthetics and Visual Impacts:** Dominion has not presented adequate evidence to show that the new onsite power plant and liquefaction facility (which will require construction of 10-story-tall smoke stacks, 6-story-tall flares, a 6-story-tall permanent sound wall, plus all the necessary industrial construction staging activity in Lusby and Solomons for three plus years) will not negatively impact the look and charm of the quiet, residential, Chesapeake Bay town of Lusby and nearby historic Solomons.

For more information, contact CCAN general counsel Diana Dascalu-Joffe at Diana@chesapeakeclimate.org or 703-772-2472.