

Hold Dominion Accountable

No More Coal Ash Dumping in Our Rivers!

Dominion Virginia Power is fighting for a license to keep polluting our most beloved rivers – the James, the Potomac, and the Elizabeth – with **toxic waste left behind from decades of burning dirty coal at power plants** across the commonwealth.

Join the movement to hold Dominion accountable!

Text **COALASH** to 38470 to get involved.

Coal Ash: The Toxic Truth

Coal ash contains the toxic remnants of burning coal, including **arsenic, mercury, lead, and over a dozen other heavy metals, many of them toxic.**ⁱ Coal ash is mixed with water and stored in open, often unlined and leaking, ponds. This toxic coal ash wastewater can leach out of the ponds and **pollute nearby groundwater and waterways.** The EPA recently found that people who live near coal ash disposal sites have a 1 in 50 chance of getting cancer from arsenic in their drinking water.ⁱⁱ

Dominion and Virginia's Coal Ash

Dominion owns eleven coal ash ponds at four power plants across the state: **in Dumfries, Fluvanna, Chesterfield, and Chesapeake.** As part of a federally mandated closing process, the utility is required to close them. Unsurprisingly, Dominion is seeking permission from Virginia regulators to do so in a way that **protects their profits at the expense of our health** – draining the coal ash wastewater from these ponds into Virginia's rivers, and "capping" the remaining pits in place – instead of moving the toxic waste to modern landfills.

To start dumping and "capping", Dominion needs to receive two permits for each power plant:

- The first, a **wastewater discharge permit** from the State Water Control Board and Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), covers the removal of treated water from the ponds.
- The second, a **solid waste permit** from DEQ, dictates the terms of the permanent closure of these ponds under Virginia's solid waste management regulations.



Dominion coal ash ponds at Possum Point. By Roger Snyder/For InsideNoVa.com

In January, the State Water Control Board – an advisory board appointed by the Governor – approved **lax permits** allowing Dominion to dump 350 million gallonsⁱⁱⁱ of coal ash wastewater from the Bremo Power Station in Fluvanna County into the James River, and more than 150 million gallons^{iv} from the Possum Point Power Plant in Prince William County into Quantico Creek, a tributary of the Potomac – a combined total of **half a billion total gallons of toxic coal ash wastewater poised to flow into Virginia's rivers.**

A public firestorm erupted in response.

Dominion and Virginia's DEQ

Since receiving its first two permits, **Dominion has admitted to draining nearly 30 million gallons of untreated coal ash wastewater** into Quantico Creek, a tributary of the Potomac River, last spring. At the time, **DEQ denied any knowledge** of the dumping.^v Once the news broke, DEQ claimed the dumping was done legally, under existing storm water runoff permits, but experts in Virginia don't agree. And **we've since learned that DEQ Director David Paylor accepted lavish gifts from Dominion** – including a trip to the 2013 Master's Golf Tournament in Georgia, valued at \$2,300 – the very utility he is tasked with regulating.^{vi}

Growing Resistance in Virginia

Over the past few months, **we've seen fierce resistance to Dominion's dangerous coal ash disposal plans** – thousands of Virginians have called for DEQ to revoke the lax permits they issued in January, and **hundreds marched through the streets of Richmond to demand that DEQ be held responsible for its weak oversight**. Activists have staged sit-ins at the agency's headquarters, and creative tongue-in-cheek actions to draw attention to the cozy relationship between DEQ and Dominion. And **affected counties and local riverkeepers have filed suit**, alleging violations of the Clean Water Act.



A young girl marches through downtown Richmond during February's "March for Our Rivers." Photos courtesy of Doe Out of Darkness.

NO MORE DUMPING!

Chesapeake Climate Action Network and our partners are committed to fighting Dominion's plans to pollute our clean water with the toxic legacy of their addiction to coal.

Join the movement to hold Dominion accountable!

Text **COALASH** to **38470** to get involved.



TAKE ACTION! To learn more visit www.domtruth.org.

To get involved, text COALASH to 38470 or email CCAN's Field Organizer, Drew Gallagher, at drew@chesapeakeclimate.org.

ⁱ Physicians for Social Responsibility, “Coal Ash: Toxic – and Leaking”, <http://www.psr.org/environment-and-health/code-black/coal-ash-toxic-and-leaking.html>.

ⁱⁱ Potomac Riverkeeper Network, “Coal Ash”, <http://www.potomacriverkeepernetwork.org/coal-ash>

ⁱⁱⁱ Press Release from the Southern Environmental Law Center, <https://www.southernenvironment.org/news-and-press/press-releases/conservation-groups-plan-court-challenge-to-protect-the-james-river-from-co>.

^{iv} Press Release from the Southern Environmental Law Center, <https://www.southernenvironment.org/news-and-press/press-releases/dominions-license-to-pollute-potomac-river-with-contaminated-coal-ash-waste>.

^v Press Release from the Southern Environmental Law Center, <https://www.southernenvironment.org/news-and-press/news-feed/emptied-coal-ash-pond-at-dominion-site-raises-questions>.

^{vi} WAMU, http://wamu.org/news/16/03/14/has_dominions_political_power_clouded_the_fight_over_coal_ash.