

Chesterfield Fracked Gas Plant - Fact Sheet

The Chesterfield Gas Plant would be the largest peaker plant in Virginia

Dominion is proposing a **massive new methane gas plant** near the James River, consisting of four new generators totalling 1000 MW of installed capacity. This would be the largest “peaker plant” in Virginia – that is, a plant that generally runs only when there is high demand.¹

Misleading advertisement

Although Dominion is calling this a “peaker” plant, it would run 3240 hours per year – 37% of the time. “Peaker plant” usually only operates a couple hundred hours per year.

Dominion is intentionally misleading the public.

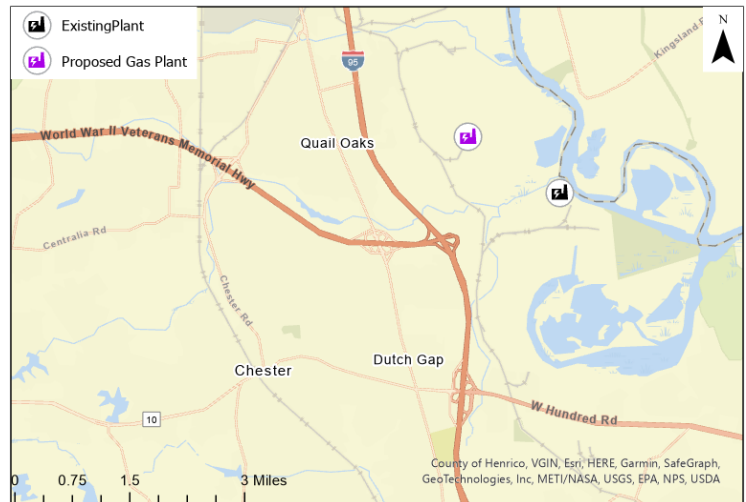
Bills would skyrocket

Electricity generated by the proposed **Chesterfield plant could cost up to 5 times more than solar**. In a best case scenario, gas peaker plants generate electricity at a cost of \$115 per MWh. Meanwhile, utility scale solar can generate electricity at a cost of only \$24 per MWh. Continuing to build new gas infrastructure will lead to higher bills. **Even when paired with battery storage, solar is still 2.5 times cheaper than gas peaking.**²

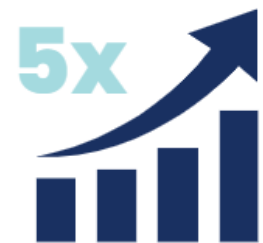
Not aligned with state law mandating 100% clean electricity

Per the 2020 Virginia Clean Economy Act, Dominion is bound to shift their generation mix towards zero-emission resources on a year-by-year basis. By 2045, their electricity mix must be 100% carbon free. New gas plants have an anticipated lifespan of 40 years, meaning **Dominion’s gas plant would continue emitting carbon 22 years after the company is required to achieve zero emissions.**³

Dominion cannot build new carbon-emitting generation sources unless the company has met its Energy Efficiency Resource Standard (EERS) target – a 5% reduction by 2025, compared to 2019.



Electricity Costs



Electricity generated by gas peaker plants costs almost 5x as much as solar

New gas plants accelerate climate change

Dominion's new plant would operate 37% of the time, emitting about 4,500,000,000 lbs of CO₂ per year. **That's the equivalent of adding over 470,000 cars to the road each year.**⁴ This would **cause more than 6.5 square meters of Arctic sea ice to melt each year.**⁵

Energy efficiency creates more jobs

According to Dominion, the plant would create 226 jobs during construction and 35 jobs during the plant's operation. At a low-end price tag of \$600 million for the plant, an **equivalent investment in energy efficiency would create 9000 jobs.**⁶ That's 25,700% more jobs.

Fossil fuels are NOT reliable during extreme weather

Dominion claims it needs the plant to ensure reliability of the grid. But **during the cold snap in December 2022, 90% of the plants that failed were oil and gas plants, and wind generators overperformed.**⁷

Peaker plants harm public health

Not only is gas unreliable, but it comes with a swathe of potential health impacts. The proposed peaker plant in Chesterfield would emit nitrous oxides (NO_x). **Exposure to NO_x has been linked to the development of asthma.**⁸ NO_x also contributes to the formation of particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). PM_{2.5} are tiny particles of pollution that are small enough to make their way into our blood streams. Once there, **scientific studies have linked PM_{2.5} to increased health risks, disease, and death.**⁹

Sign the petition: Tell Virginia regulators to say NO to this new gas plant catastrophe!



Works Cited:

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