



Northern Virginia Regional Commission

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 16-10

PATRON: G. Mark Gibb
Executive Director
DATE: December 10, 2015

REQUESTING EXTENSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON DOMINION POWER PROPOSED DRAFT DISCHARGE PERMIT FOR POSSUM POINT POWER PLANT

WHEREAS, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) has a continuing interest in the management and protection of streams and rivers in the NVRC region; and

WHEREAS, Dominion Virginia Power owns and operates the Possum Point Power Plant, located just south of Alexandria on a peninsula between Quantico Creek and the Potomac River; and

WHEREAS, The plant burned coal from 1955 to 2003, and the waste produced from burning coal, coal ash, was disposed of at the site in five "ponds" that hold over a billion gallons of toxic coal ash and metal contaminated water, including lead, arsenic, chromium, selenium and vanadium; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VADEQ) has released a draft discharge permit revision that would enable Dominion Power to dump potentially tens of millions of gallons of coal ash waste pond water, contaminated with toxic metals, directly into Quantico Creek and the Potomac River; and

WHEREAS, the Potomac River flows to the Chesapeake Bay, a vital estuary for which all northern Virginia local governments continue to invest substantial sums to restore and protect from current and past pollution; and

WHEREAS, this single permitted discharge by Virginia Power potentially could negate all of the recent water quality restoration work performed by the local governments in northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the volume of technical information supporting the VADEQ draft permit and Fact Sheet is over 300 pages long, and the proposed dewatering action never has been undertaken in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, elected officials and the general public have expressed concern about the lack of specific information on the volume of metals-laced water to be discharged and the rate of discharge, as well as limited information on the baseline environmental conditions in Quantico Creek; and

WHEREAS, Delegates Surovell and Bulova with Senator Marsden, as well as Prince William County BOCS, have requested of VADEQ a sixty-day extension of the public day comment period, slated to end December 14, to allow additional time for review of the proposed action;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, NVRC requests that VADEQ extend the public comment period by sixty-days, authorizes the Executive Director to transmit this Resolution to the VADEQ prior to the current end-date of the public comment period, and directs NVRC staff to coordinate with Prince William County staff on this matter.



CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on December 10, 2015.


G. Mark Gibb, Certifying Officer