



July 4, 2014

Dear Augusta County landowner,

On behalf of a group of Augusta County residents and friends who care about this special community that is our home, I am writing to you about the Dominion Power (also known as Dominion Transmission, Inc.) proposal to build a 42-inch natural gas transmission pipeline through Virginia, including 50 miles in Augusta County. We are trying to learn more about this project and better understand the potential impacts on our community.

Our research indicates that there is a good chance your property will be directly affected by the pipeline project and you may have received a certified letter from Dominion Power asking for permission to enter your property for a pipeline route survey. Just this week, we learned that Dominion will be starting survey work in Augusta County on July 11. You may have received a letter to that effect as well.

We are reaching out to help you understand what your property rights are at this point in the process. If you received a letter from Dominion, it correctly stated that under Virginia Code 56-49.-1 (passed in 2004) the company has the right to enter your property in order to survey and conduct tests and examinations for the proposed pipeline. The state code section is attached to this letter.

However, if you did not return the Dominion pipeline form granting written permission to allow survey work on your property, then state law limits the means by which surveyors can access your property. **If you do not grant written permission, pipeline surveyors CANNOT bring motor vehicles, self-propelled machinery or power equipment onto your property.** They must enter on foot and conduct all tests without mechanized equipment, including chain saws. They still have the right to clear vegetation enough to see and walk, but they must use hand tools to conduct any clearing. Dominion's letter itself recognizes this restriction.

Again, surveyors are restricted in how they access your property ONLY if you DID NOT sign Dominion's permission form.

Of course, all discussions between landowners and survey teams should be conducted in a civil manner. Remember that the surveyor teams are trained professionals who are simply doing their jobs, just as you are simply asserting your rights as a landowner. Should you be concerned with the nature of the surveying, feel free to document the event with a photograph or file a report with the Augusta County Sheriff's Office.

We strongly encourage all landowners who received certified letters from Dominion Power to get legal advice on their rights in negotiating or objecting to a major gas transmission pipeline across their property. Enclosed is a list of Shenandoah Valley attorneys whose work includes real property and land use matters and who are willing to be contacted by landowners in the pathway of the pipeline. For more information, please visit the special section on gas pipelines on our website: www.svnva.org/two-gas-pipelines-proposed-in-the-valley/

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy J. Sorrells".

Nancy Sorrells (lotswife@comcast.net) 540-292-4170
Community Outreach Advisor, Shenandoah Valley Network

Shenandoah Valley Network seeks to maintain healthy and productive rural landscapes and communities, to protect and restore natural resources, and to strengthen and sustain our region's agricultural economy.