



## Shenandoah Valley Network

June 25, 2014

Dear Augusta County and Staunton Residents,

Landowners throughout our region have received notices from Dominion Power (or Dominion Transmission, Inc.) about a proposal for a new natural gas pipeline through Virginia. Dominion is distributing a map and a fact sheet in the mail. You may be among those landowners who received letters.

We are reaching out to you to make sure you are aware of the proposal and provide some background and suggested next steps. This is one of the larger infrastructure projects proposed through this region in many years. The map provided by Dominion is not very detailed; however, the route it shows would cross from West Virginia through Highland and Augusta counties in the Shenandoah Valley on the way south to North Carolina. It proposes 50 miles of line through the Pastures, Riverheads, and South River Districts.

### **What We Have Learned So Far**

Many citizens groups are monitoring the pipeline project through communications with Dominion, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and the VA State Corporation Commission to try to determine the many natural, historic and cultural resources it would impact.

We understand that this project is designed to move natural gas from the Marcellus shale fields in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio to North Carolina cities. No application has been filed yet with FERC, but Dominion may try to do on-site surveys on properties along the potential route soon.

Gas line projects are tricky, because there is a huge amount of natural gas being produced in Marcellus Shale areas and a high demand to gain access to that gas. Regulators are looking very favorably on any project that will enhance our access to that cheap natural gas.

We believe developers and regulators need to approach projects in a way that does not unduly impact private landowners, hurt agricultural practices, harm the environment or compromise community safety. Once a pipeline is built, it is there for many years into the future and expansion projects often follow.

Our experience also has taught us that when an infrastructure project is proposed, it is rarely the only thing under consideration – there often are other related structures (like pumping stations), alternative routes, the potential for co-located facilities (such as a new power plant) and other factors that need to be considered as well.

## Next Steps

Gas pipeline rights-of-way are complicated legal documents that very often give the gas company rights to place more than just underground pipelines on your land. **Talk to a qualified attorney about your rights.** Good legal advice is essential before making any major decisions about your property.

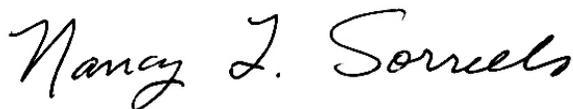
If you have been contacted by Dominion, or know somebody who has, get all the facts about the suggested need and proposed route of this pipeline before agreeing to allow any new right-of-way to cross your property.

Finally, if you live on property that is protected by a conservation easement or lies within an agricultural/forestal district, notify the easement holder or your local planning office.

We will be looking into this issue very closely and will follow up as we learn more. In the meantime, please contact us if you have more information to share or questions about this proposal.

We will also post new information to our website, <http://www.svnva.org/two-gas-pipelines-proposed-in-the-valley/>, as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy J. Sorrells". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Sorrells (lotswife@comcast.net)  
Shenandoah Valley Network

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