



ORIGINAL

### BURGESS AND COMMISSIONERS OF MIDDLETOWN

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February 12, 2008

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, NE, Room 1A  
Washington, DC 20426

**RE: DOCKET NO. PF07-12-000**

Dear Secretary Bose:

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OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY  
2008 FEB 19 P 4: 1  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

The Burgess and Commissioners of Middletown are opposed to the Dominion Gas proposal to build a gas compression station on Marker Road in Middletown, Maryland.

We acknowledge this site is outside the town limits of Middletown however being the local elected body of Middletown we consider ourselves stewards of the Middletown Valley. The Middletown Valley is steeped in history, rich agriculture resources and magnificent vistas. Many programs at the federal, state and local levels have been established to preserve these Middletown Valley attributes including:

- **Rural Legacy -The proposed site is in the middle of the Mid Maryland Rural Legacy Program.** 'This program provides the focus and funding necessary to protect large, contiguous tracts of land and other strategic areas from sprawl development and to enhance natural resource, agricultural, forestry and environmental protection through cooperative efforts among state and local governments and land trusts." <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/land/rurallegacy/index.asp>
- **Maryland Historical Trust/Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area – The proposed site is in the middle of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area and Middletown is a Targeted Investment Zone.** "Promote stewardship of Civil War heritage sites and resources by helping preservation organizations to become more effective; fostering stronger appreciation for sacred historic places, pristine landscapes, crisp town edges, and one-of-a-kind historic, recreational, and cultural resources in the heritage area; helping the region and its communities plan for the future of its historic resources, including managing development pressures on historic sites and their surrounding landscapes; and connecting those seeking conservation of sites, such as battlefields, with relevant organizations and programs." <http://www.marylandhistoricaltrust.net/ha-civil.html>

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- **Maryland Environmental Trust/Mid Maryland Land Trust Association – The proposed site is near several parcels in this program.** “The Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) is a statewide land trust governed by a citizen Board of Trustees. It was created by the General Assembly in 1967. Our goal is the preservation of open land, such as farmland, forest land, and significant natural resources.” <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/met/index.asp>
- **Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation Foundation – The proposed site is near several parcels in the program.** “The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) celebrated its thirtieth anniversary in 2007. Maryland's program is one of the nation's leaders in farmland preservation and a central element of Maryland's Smart Growth Initiative. Combining the Foundation's program with county programs and other State programs, Maryland has preserved more farmland for future production than any other state in the Union.” <http://www.malpf.info/index.html>
- **South Mountain Battlefield State Park – Viewshed would include the proposed site.** <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/publiclands/western/southmountain.html>
- **National Scenic Byways Program - All American Road - Historic National Road – Maryland – Viewshed would include the proposed site.** <http://www.byways.org/explore/byways/2273/>
- **Maryland Historic State Scenic Byway – Viewshed would include the proposed site.** “Our mission is to enhance the quality of life and pride in local communities as well as the visitor appeal by identifying and promoting as well as encouraging the responsible management and preservation of the state's most scenic, cultural and historic roads and surrounding resources Maryland has designated 19 byways that encompass 2,487 miles of beautiful roads, which offer a taste of Maryland's scenic beauty, history and culture.”

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To ignore these programs and the millions of dollars invested by state and local governments and permit Dominion Gas to construct this industrial site in the midst of state parks, preserved agricultural lands and in a location that will mar multiple viewsheds of the valley is not in the best interest of the residents of Middletown, Frederick County, and the state of Maryland.

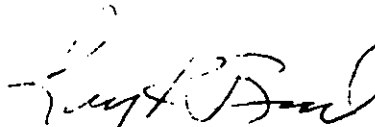
Another concern of the Burgess & Commissioners is possible contamination of groundwater. The entire Middletown Valley depends upon groundwater for its drinking supply. Contamination of the ground water would be devastating to our community.

The Burgess and Commissioners would encourage Dominion Gas to consider alternative sites that are zoned industrial and are not located in such a focused preservation area.

Sincerely,  
Burgess and Commissioners  
Middletown; Maryland



John D. Miller  
Burgess



Larry K. Bussard  
Commissioner



Richard L. Dietrick  
Commissioner



Jennifer J. Falcinelli  
Commissioner



Craig F. Rosendale  
Commissioner



Bill A. Williams  
Commissioner