

ORIGINAL



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

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February 19, 2008

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OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY
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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

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

COMMISSIONERS

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President

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John L. Thompson, Jr.

**Re: Docket No. PF07-12-000 - Dominion Transmission – Proposed
Natural Gas Compressor Station in Middletown Valley, MD**

Dear Secretary Bose:

The Board of County Commissioners of Frederick County is writing to share our position on Dominion's proposed natural gas compressor station near Middletown.

The Board has written to Dominion to encourage them to look for a different and more appropriate site for the compressor station, rather than the proposed location on Marker Road in the vicinity of Middletown. The Marker Road property is in an area of multiple-layered significance and is involved in Federal, State, and local programs.

The proposed property is located in the County's Rural Legacy area, a State program designed to preserve critical agricultural lands for future generations. In fact, the proposed site for the compressor station is bordered by a property that has a Rural Legacy easement. The area is within the boundary of the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (HCWHA), a State and local partnership based on economic development appropriate to the preservation of historic sites, cultural landscapes, recreational, and scenic qualities. In addition, the HCWHA in its entirety is part of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground, a multi-state partnership that the Frederick County Government supports, which is seeking a National Heritage Area designation at the Federal level.

The Marker Road property is in full view of, and is part of the area of interpretation of the South Mountain State Battlefield, located along the ridge and slopes of South Mountain to the west. This battlefield has been identified by the Federal Government's Civil War Sites Advisory Commission as a site threatened by inappropriate development and loss of integrity. In addition to the Battlefield, the Appalachian Trail, a multi-state National Scenic Trail, follows the ridgeline of South Mountain, with the Marker Road site visible from points on the trail.

The Marker Road site includes Fox's Tavern, an 18th century stone structure of architectural and historical significance, that is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and the Frederick County Register of Historic Places.

COUNTY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Ronald A. Hart
County Manager

Barry L. Stanton
Assistant County Manager

Joyce M. Grossnickle
Administrative Officer

Robin K. Santangelo
Public Information Officer



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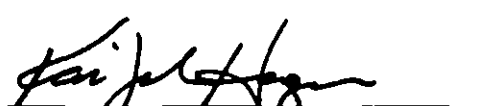
In addition to Fox's Tavern, the surrounding area has at least eight to ten other identified historic farmsteads and houses that may have eligibility for national, state, or local designation. There are potentially a large number of prehistoric and historic period archeological sites in the area, the prehistoric locations primarily along stream valleys and the historic locations associated with historic farmsteads, the Civil War, and the Historic National Road (US 40 Alternate), an All-American Road in the National Scenic Byways program.

The Board has invested significant amounts of money and time to participate and promote these various programs for the benefit of our citizens. The Board is aware that you have heard a large number of comments from residents and other concerned citizens regarding the proposed compressor station site that reflect their continuing support of the County's involvement in these efforts to preserve the cultural and historical quality of the Middletown Valley. Residents are legitimately concerned about the impacts of noise, light, and the industrial nature of this project in an area of agricultural and historic significance. Thus, we wish to register our opposition to the location of Dominion Transmission's proposed Natural Gas Compressor station in the Middletown Valley.


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JHG/JD/lf

- cc: The Frederick County Delegation
- The Honorable John D. Miller, Burgess of Middletown
- Carolyn Moss, Dominion Transmission Inc.
- Ronald A. Hart, County Manager
- Barry Stanton, Assistant County Manager
- John Mathias, County Attorney
- Richard McCain, Assistant County Attorney
- Eric Soter, Director, Planning Division
- Janet Davis, Historic Preservation Planner, Comprehensive Planning
- Rick Brace, Principal Planner, Zoning Administration