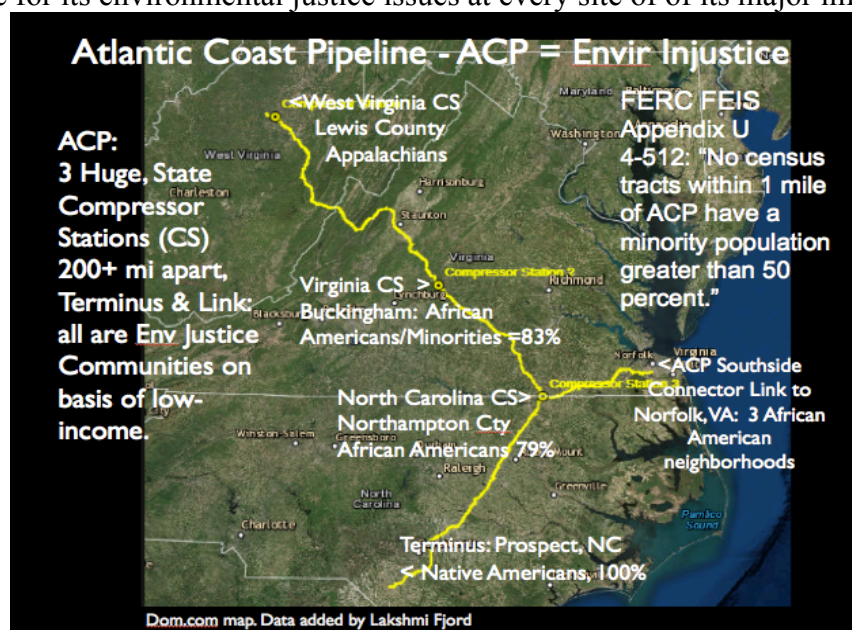


Buckingham Compressor Station Air Permit Comment:
Lakshmi Fjord, Ph.D.
Jan. 4, 2019

First, allow me to express my deep appreciation to the Air Board for your decision to allow a short public comment period on the “new information” on demographics and community engagement added by Dominion and DEQ to the air permit outside the public comment period. Rather than limits you set on comments to these submissions and Union Hill Community Research and Methods Report and SELC’s methods critiques, however, DEQ added historic cultural resource reports, emails between me and Marc Wagner of VDHR, one NAACP letter without the second one written to correct its assertions of Virginia Conference of the NAACP support for the Union Hill compressor station.

I was quite surprised at the Dec. 19 meeting when Mike Dowd responded to my Union Hill Community Study Report by replicating to a word the very misinformation given by Dominion on alternate site comparisons that were the bases of detailed critiques in this report. As if to foreclose any possible evidence of environmental injustice in Dominion’s site CS 2 choice based on my near four years of community research, Mr. Dowd then ventured into the historic cultural resources that were Part I of my community study. Misinterpreting the context and dialogic nature of emails between Marc Wagner and myself, he arrived at unfounded conclusions about the lack of historic significance of former slave and freedmen cultural resources in Union Hill. He does so without the expertise or understanding of distinctions in rural historic districts, cultural landscapes, and Traditional Cultural Places (TCP), as well as of historic register eligibility processes with which to draw such conclusions.

Thus, writing my public comment has posed a huge challenge in a context where DEQ seems focused not on evidence-based inquiry but on invalidating my demographic and cultural historic research that prove Union Hill to be an environmental justice community. I ask your forgiveness for providing more detailed information than to further critique this CS 2 site choice. For, the ACP is notable for its environmental justice issues at every site of of its major infrastructure.



It is worthy of note that in the interim between the close of public comments on Sept. 21, 2018 and today, the State Corporate Commission has given Dominion a deadline to prove their claims of market needs for ACP public utility provision. This reflects the growing body of evidence that the ACP is solely self-serving. The new gas-fired power plants with which Dominion applied to FERC for a certificate are no longer to be built, because renewables are far cheaper to build, in their words.¹ We learned that instead of providing support for economic development, the ACP would contribute billions of dollars of redundant utility infrastructure indebtedness to captive residential and business consumers. In Virginia, ratepayers are allowed to bear Dominion’s corporate ACP indebtedness through higher utility costs. ACP will thus slow economic development in our state.

And, Buckingham County would be forced to bear the largest per Virginia county ACP impacts to future economic development because of its disproportionate burden of risks and hazards at this largest-toxic pollution emitting compressor station of the three. In this A1 Agricultural District, with no existing industrial sources of pollution, the people of Union Hill have been such good stewards of their air that the present higher than average ambient air at the CS 2 site allows Dominion to pollute at the highest levels of every form of toxic pollution related to unconventional gas compressor station “activities.”

ACP FEIS: TABLE.4.11.1-7, P. 4-557 Potential Emissions by Compressor Station

TABLE 4.11.1-7							
Potential Emissions by Compressor Station for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline							
Compressor Station	NO _x	CO	VOC	SO ₂	PM/PM ₁₀ / PM _{2.5}	CO ₂ e	HAPs
	(tons per year)						
Compressor Station 1 ^a (Lewis County, West Virginia)	42.5	70.7	30.3	7.08	12.2	277,088	5.22
Compressor Station 2 ^b (Buckingham County, Virginia)	50.2	95.2	32.7	7.33	43.9	323,736	5.63
Compressor Station 3 (Northampton County, North Carolina)	19.7	31.1	21.8	3.10	18.4	129,243	3.42

^a ACP Kincheloe and SHP CNX M&R stations emissions are included in the emissions for Compressor Station 1, as the facilities would be collocated.

^b The Woods Run M&R station emissions are included in the emissions for Compressor Station 2, as the facilities would be collocated.

Buckingham’s negative economic development impacts must be considered not arithmetically but geometrically more harmful to present and future generations solely because of the CS 2. This site choice has already devastated planned, sustainable economic development in Union Hill: a greenhouse complex not built across the street; a vineyard and winery not undertaken; a dairy and a cattle farm long since in operation now threatened by health impacts and toxic contamination). False promises of “revitalization” to specific individual “entrepreneurs” to accept Dominion money in exchange for living with the CS 2, presume that tourists or new businesses would seek to visit or move to Buckingham. Where the schools are already imperiled by lack of funds, where large swaths of internet deserts make home-based businesses nearly

¹ Reuters, May 24, 2018: “Vista Energy and Dominion Energy ... are done building combined-cycle natural gas-

impossible, then further burdened by hazards to air and water by proximity to a huge toxic emitting industrial complex.

Our community study asked participants to respond confidentially to questions about pre-existing medical conditions in the close impact area. Buckingham is already drastically medically underserved. Union Hill's population is already skewed disproportionately towards the very elderly and very young -- because of out-migration by young African American adults to more equitable access to well-paying jobs. Thus, the known impacts to health from emissions from far smaller, even single turbine engine compressor stations would fall most heavily upon already vulnerable populations within an identified environmental justice population.

As I will describe more fully later in my discussion of the historic cultural resources of Union Hill, when we consider these economic, health, and cultural costs vs. the so-called "benefits of the activity" of a huge compressor station, in Union Hill we are talking about destroying a traditional cultural place that by rights ought to be out of the question for new, discriminatory burdens after centuries of living with enslavement and its legacy here. Perhaps it is as difficult for Dominion, FERC, and DEQ staff to imagine how unusual a place Union Hill is today -- as it was for us to grasp when we moved to Buckingham to establish Yogaville Virginia in 1979. Where else in the U.S. right now do the descendants of white plantation owners still live near the descendants of people their ancestors enslaved? And, these are majorities not minorities of residents in Union Hill.

Over the years of working on the Union Hill community study together, we have grown closer across our different race and upbringing backgrounds. As we do so, each has learned more about the history of Union Hill once part of the "hidden and forgotten" record of black life in Buckingham. Silence and erasure became a means to prevent past violence from coming to the surface in the present. At the same time, even forgotten kinship through long past intermarriage surprises Union Hill freedmen descendants. First told to me that they are "unrelated by kinship, the network of property bought by ancestors after freedom list neighbors then who are also neighbors now. The names on headstone in the three historic black cemeteries at Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church (est. 1910) and Union Hill Baptist Church (est. 1868) record the same last names as those now sitting in the pews in our Friends of Buckingham meetings.

This cultural knowledge matters for a host of reasons. For the purpose of this comment that leads to my imploring the Air Board to deny this air permit, it matters because whatever costs to community the activities of the CS 2 cause, it is to a whole, interconnected web of kinship relationships. As I wrote in the Community Study Report, these Xs that mark households on a map, are of a historic cultural landscape, a "traditional cultural place" (TCP). Where webs of kinship over hundreds of years mean costs to health of new toxic emissions, costs to medical care, care-giving, even transportation in a medically underserved county would be borne by a social network of intermarried, related families while slowly (or quickly?) creating tears in the fabric of traditional cultural activities and enjoyments. To have a man camp across the street instead of a greenhouse complex, to have a recreation center where to venture out of one's home risks exacerbating asthma, diabetes, heart conditions, migraines and more; to no longer be able to hold yearly huge black heritage family reunions of upwards of 250 people, un-knits the traditional cultural activities that have sustained Union Hill people through the hardships of enslavement and lives as freed people under segregation. Falsely named "community revitalization" represents perhaps the community's death knell.

In what follows, I will ask you to read specific public comments made by others that will give further evidence to points in my comment below. **Please read SELC's comment**, as they represent Friends of Buckingham, including in our request for further public comment time, sent on Dec. 1, 2018, to point out the serious flaws in the demographic methods used by DEQ, and misinformation about community engagement by both Dominion and DEQ. Further cited in our procedural complaint was the removal of two of the six Air Board members after the public hearings had taken place.

The ACP process has led to growing concerns about efforts by Dominion to interrupt by any means possible just and fair public participation in highly impactful permit decision-making processes – whether by last minute offer of an MOU for a “tap” into the ACP in Buckingham or a post-public comment “community engagement package” whose “revitalization” promises have proved as toxic to the community psychologically as the CS 2 may prove physiologically, if built. In Dominion’s “new submission” to the Air Board, they included an outdated Air Board policy -- as if current -- that restricted the Air Board’s capacity to consider site suitability, environmental justice, climate change impacts, and more. To this witness, their action gave the impression of a threat to the Air Board’s future independent air permit decision-making if you should deny ACP’s air permit against Dominion’s interests. Taken together, actions by our governor, by DEQ, and by Dominion represent direct interference in Virginia’s regulatory processes meant to ensure public engagement may provide independent expert and first person impact information as evidence needed in air permit decision-making.

Particularly troubling to a growing number of Virginians have been the efforts by VDEQ’s Air Division to use all means possible to serve Dominion’s need to “prove” there is neither a significant population of majority minority people at their chosen CS 2 site, nor that the minority in question is a community largely of former slave and freedmen ancestry whose cultural resources are “worth” preserving.

Yet, Mr. Dowd and his staff both know and acknowledge that Union Hill is an environmental justice community. On Sept. 20, 2018 – the day before the close of public comments on the air permit, DEQ invited FoB to a hotspot meeting, in which Mike Dowd informed us, “Union Hill will be our lessons learned about environmental justice going forward.” It was also at that meeting where Air Division staff reiterated how poorly written by Dominion was the Buckingham air permit, that it required 3-4 revisions over years, noting, “our experts at the agency ended up teaching them the regulations. We have people who try to leave out information so that the DEQ may miss it.”

To which we, and many Virginians, reply, DEQ has known about the environmental justice issues of this site choice since 2015-early 2016 when 71 residents wrote letters to DEQ about the community issues of the Union Hill site choice (**see new comment by Chad Oba, President, Friends of Buckingham**). That DEQ chose to never respond to our reaching out to inform DEQ and ask for dialogue immediately after this site choice -- is a total failure of their responsibilities toward community engagement, factual information gathering, and fair distributive uses of taxpayer funding. Now that the environmental injustices of this siting have become a politically charged issue, DEQ cannot now say they will use their failures and lapses to teach them the regulations for future reviews only.

For, now DEQ is using Dominion's tactics by "trying to leave out information so that the [Air Board]" may miss it." In the case of environmental justice review of this air permit and its site [un]suitability for the "activities proposed," we the professional social science and legal experts in this field and the most impacted people have been for 3 years DEQ's teachers on the regulations they must follow to ensure environmental injustices in site choices are not permitted (please see **Dr. Mary Finley-Brooks new comment**).

Site Suitability: more critiques

Mr. Dowd's restatements on alternate site analyses on Dec. 19th included the claim that it was FERC who "decided" on the far smaller, more densely populated, African American majority Union Hill CS 2 site located on a major N/S evacuation route. Yet, unlike in Dominion's "failed" draft air permit iterations with missing information caught by DEQ, FERC relied solely on Dominion's information to compare the Midlands Rd. vs. Union Hill site. Since missing information involved basically every characteristic that matters to the choice, FERC affirmed "the primary site" -- Dominion's preference.

For Mr. Dowd to cite the .02-acre greater construction footprint and 1-mile longer pipeline as the only reasons to choose a site less than ½ the size of Midlands Rd. does not even meet the standards of common sense. The ACP project made continuous changes before this air permit was completed and placed online by DEQ for public comments. Since the FEIS was issued on July 17, 2017, Dominion has changed its pipeline route into and out of the 68.5-acre parcel at least 3 times. More significantly to the Air Board for site alternative comparisons, Dominion is actively seeking enlargement of the 68.5-acre site in order to "conduct the activities for which they applied." Thus, this smaller site cannot encompass what their business plan requires for "the activity" of transmitting ACP gas along the Transco to Dominion's Cove Point, MD LNG facility for export.

These changes in site size for activities desired, have taken place since the air permit was filed as complete for public comment by DEQ on Aug. 8, 2018. And, they will not be resolved by Jan. 8, 2019, when the Air Board makes its CS 2 air permit decision. Thus, the "construction footprint" in the air permit under review is not accurate, rendering absurd Mr. Dowd's present reliance on site data given by Dominion to FERC for comparisons over 2.5 years ago.

I ask you to please read **Mr. Richard Walker's Harper Family public comment** for details of Dominion's injunction of eminent domain seizure of over .79 acres of their family heritage land at the Transco ROW. The surveyor who took the survey points explained to Mr. Walker that the points taken ensured ACP's purpose "to intersect the ACP with the Transco." And, the Harper family seizure is one of two new ones at the apex of the original 68.5-acre triangle-shaped site. Dominion also has seized part of the Haskins heritage land from Cora Perkins nearest to the ACP CS 2 boundary-line.

Missing but absolutely necessary information provided by Dominion has shaped the entire regulatory decision-making process from the first.

In fact, it was missing demographic and historic cultural data that led me to undertake the community study Parts I & II, to "call out" in the exact ways that DEQ called out Dominion's missing technological and construction information on the air permit. At the hotspot meeting

referred to above, Mr. Dowd admitted that leaving decisions about new toxic emissions source site choices to local Boards of Supervisors is problematic, “since local decisions come first in the process, DEQ needs to work more closely with Boards of Supervisors who are writing the future with very little information.”

In my research report, I described some of the consequences of missing information not given by Dominion to the Buckingham Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. To that missing yet vital information, I now add consistent omissions of two key pieces of information given to decision-makers at each step of the regulatory application process. First, is the omission of accurate total site descriptions of the facilities to be co-located on this 68.5-acre parcel, their construction footprints given in site drawings not available to the public, and all construction details for this far larger compressor station complex than ever built by Dominion. Yet, it is sited where more densely settled households would create higher impacts.

In the special use permit, Dominion neither gave information about chemicals other than ammonia to be stored in the 2 above ground and 1 underground storage tanks, nor divulges their location on the site. Consequentially at this intersection of 4 existing Transo pipelines with the ACP underground, we find missing the “M&R station” co-located with the 54,000+ hp turbines “compressor station” on a site less than ½ the size of the alternative. Since the M&R Metering and Regulatory stations require pressurizing pipeline contents at highest allowed psis of pressure in order to achieve transmission over 200 miles bi-directionally, this absence is highly problematic.

Whether by Dominion or FERC or both together, their co-location doesn’t exactly pop out at the reader. Nor was it ever presented to the Buckingham Board of Supervisors. FERC’s ACP FEIS addresses M&R stations and Compressor stations separately – as if it were possible to achieve the “activities” necessary without their infrastructural linkage.²

ACP FEIS: Table 2.1.2-1 Compressor Stations, P. 2-6

Compressor Station 2 Buckingham	mile-marker	Description
County, VA	191.5	Construct new 53,518 hp station that would move gas through the proposed AP-1 mainline and allow bidirectional flow with the existing Transco pipeline system. Install four gas-driven compressor units, filter/separators, gas coolers, inlet air filters, exhaust silencers, tanks, blowdown silencers, heaters, and auxiliary generators. Construct new compressor, office auxiliary, utility gas, drum storage, and storage buildings.”

NOTE: no mention of M & R station or underground storage and above ground storage “tanks” in CS 2 site facility description.

² FERC FEIS, July 17, 2017: Compressor Stations Table 2.1.2-1 Compressor Stations, P. 2-6;

ACP FEIS: Table 2.1.2-2 M&R Stations for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, P. 2-8;

ACP FEIS: TABLE.4.11.1-5 Estimated Construction Emissions for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, P. 4-557

“ACP FEIS: Table 2.1.2-2 M&R Stations for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, P. 2-8

Woods Corner M&R Station

Buckingham County, VA

191.6

Station would take natural gas from the proposed AP-1 mainline and the existing Transco pipelines and could discharge into these pipelines.”

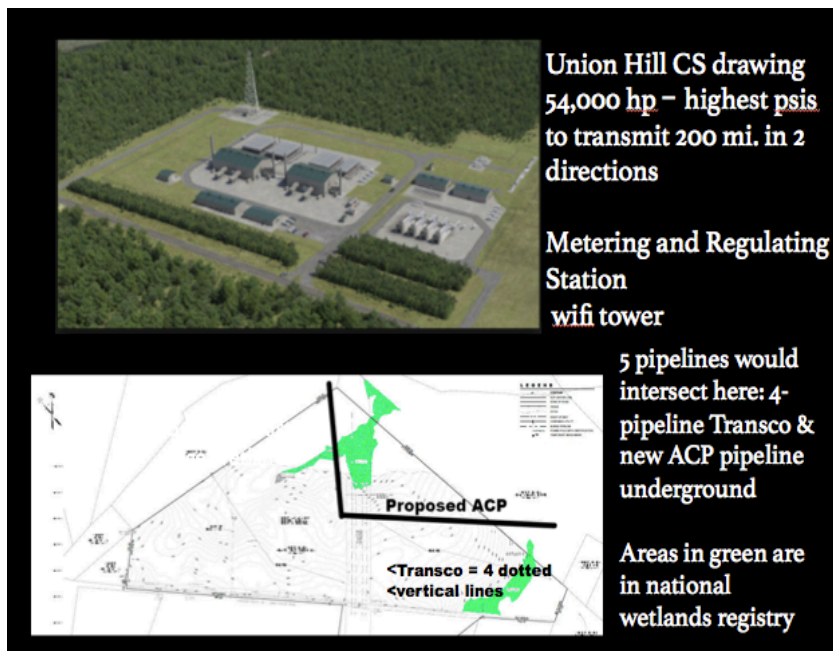
Readers must be on the alert for different location names used: it’s Buckingham compressor station but Woods Corner M & R station. Neither description of activities and facility details includes the other. When it comes to emissions, it becomes Woods Run M & R station

Are these minor grievances or do they point to deliberate patterns to confuse anyone not privy to the accurate site information? Why are these continuous “errors” and omissions always to Dominion’s benefit and taken together add up to extremely significant consequences? Don’t they actively disrupt laypersons’ understanding about what exactly the CS 2 will consist of? Making it hard to imagine the activities/operations taking place at this complex and their 365 24/7 effects?

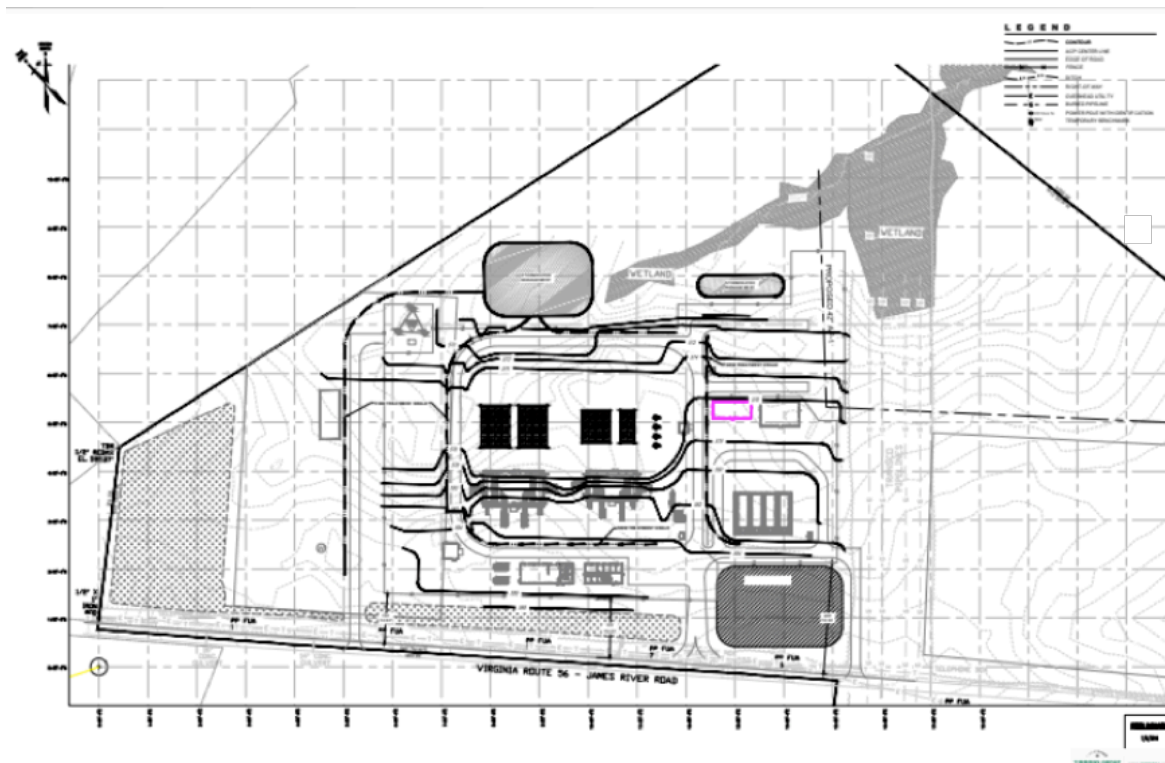
The types and sizes of the component parts of the CS 2 facility proposed for Union Hill must be considered in toto -- not fragmented to the advantage of Dominion. Thus, I continue to aggregate the cumulative impacts that have been fragmented by “leaving out information” in the thousands of pages of ACP application details one must read to perform this service.

Putting well water into the cumulative picture: Wetlands and single source aquifer at CS 2

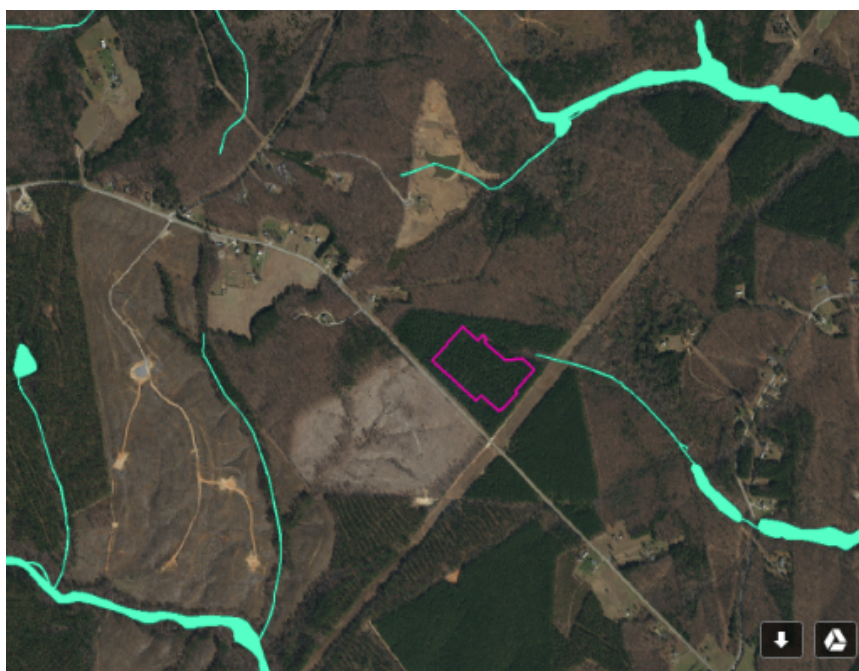
This site map of the proposed CS 2 68.5-acre site was given to those who attended Dominion’s “Buckingham Community Advisory Committee meeting” where I was an observer in 2016. On the white site rendering please note the large wetlands in the upper part of the triangle of this parcel or East, and a smaller one from Ripley Creek in the lower right or South.



Now, when zeroing in below to drawing of built facilities, we find Dominion intends to fill the entire north or left side of their 68.5-acre parcel from frontage on Rt. 56, a major N/S route to close to their boundary line. The grey lines are the existing Transco within a large wetlands.



FERC's FEIS omits use of the national wetlands inventory database to locate wetlands. When comparing the Midlands Rd. alternative with "the primary" site (Union Hill), FERC reports 0.0 wetlands for both: "While neither site contains wetlands, there is a small intermittent water body on the periphery of the primary site."³ This is the small one to the south of ROW, below.



Yet here is the national inventory inconveniently registering the wetlands on the Transco ROW in this image created by Stephen Metts with an overlay of the CS 2 development footprint imagery, and a LIDAR surface.

If we were not so fortunate to have a geospatial expert helping us, left to Dominion or FERC information, the risks posed to 100% of Union Hill's drinking water, in a single source aquifer, would effectively disappear. Perhaps one imagines a municipal water supply that does not exist in Buckingham, except in Dillwyn? In their FEIS, FERC explains, "The EPA defines a sole source aquifer or principal source aquifer area as one that supplies at least 50 percent of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer, where contamination of the aquifer could create a significant hazard to public health, and where there are no alternative water sources that could reasonably be expected to replace the water supplied by the aquifer (EPA, 2016a). ...There are only two EPA-designated sole source aquifers in Virginia, but neither is in proximity to ACP facilities."⁴ As if by magic wand, the hazards posed by CS 2 to Union Hill's water supply miraculously disappear.

In rebuttal, I copy below the summary provided by Pam Dodds, Ph.D., Licensed Professional Geologist, in her Buckingham County Aquifer Report submitted in my Atlantic Coast Pipeline: Technical Information Response, Nationwide 12 permit Specific Wetland and/or Stream Crossings public comment to DEQ Water Control Board on July 15, 2018.

"The aquifer underlying the ACP construction corridor in Buckingham County is referenced by the U.S. Geological Survey (https://pubs.usgs.gov/ha/ha730/ch_g/G-text8.html#piedblurdge) as a crystalline rock aquifer underlying the Piedmont Physiographic Province. The Candler Formation bedrock, consisting predominantly of phyllite, schist, and marble, underlies the James River at the proposed ACP HDD crossing. To the east, the Candler Formation also underlies the proposed ACP gas pipeline construction corridor to the area including the proposed location of Compressor Station #2; however, metagraywacke is also predominant, along with phyllite, schist, and marble.

There will be deforestation, soil compaction, and dewatering during construction of the proposed ACP gas pipeline installation. When rainwater is intercepted by trees on forested ridges, the rainfall gently penetrates the ground surface and migrates downward through the soil to bedrock. The water then flows through bedrock fractures and along bedding planes to continue migrating downward or to form seeps and springs where the fractures or bedding planes intercept the ground surface. Deforestation results in increased stormwater runoff and decreased groundwater recharge. Deforestation facilitates greater rainfall impact, causing erosion. The increased stormwater discharge transports sediment to receiving streams. Where sediment is released to receiving streams during construction activities, the sediment accumulates in the stream beds, increasing embeddedness, which remains in the stream bed after construction has been completed. The increased stormwater discharge in the streams also results in downstream stream bank erosion, releasing additional sediment to the streams. Increased embeddedness, resulting from sediment accumulation in streams, fills in the spaces between cobbles and boulders on the streambed.

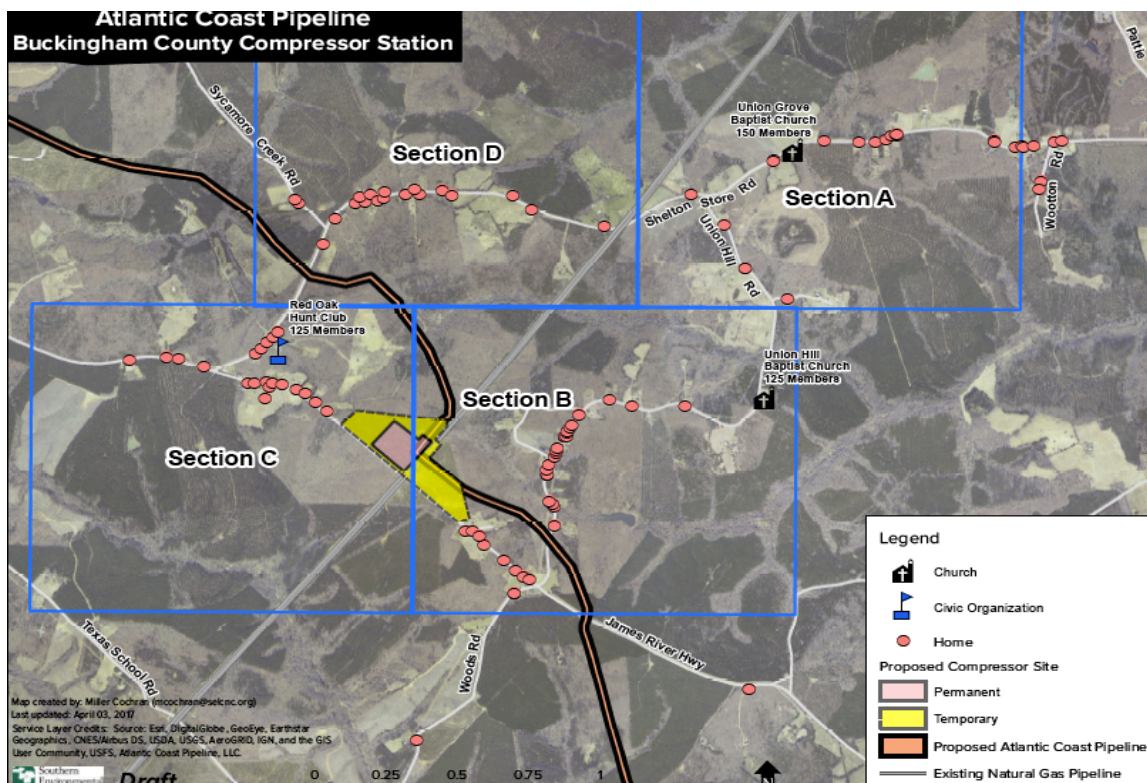
Soil compaction from heavy equipment in the construction corridor, and also from stockpiled soil in the sediment underlying the stockpiled soil, results in increased stormwater runoff and decreased groundwater recharge. Dewatering of the pipeline trench intercepts groundwater and directs the groundwater through pipes and/or French drains onto the ground surface. Trench dewatering thereby increases surface runoff while decreasing groundwater. The pipes and/or

⁴ FEIS 4.3.1.2 Sole Source Aquifers 4-78

French drains remain in place after completion of construction, causing continual interception of groundwater and directing of the groundwater onto the ground surface. Again, the increased surface runoff transports sediment to receiving streams and increases stormwater discharge, causing downstream stream bank erosion.

Construction of the proposed ACP gas pipeline in Buckingham County will result in degradation of the water resources, both groundwater and surface water resources” (Dodds, 2018). Nothing could be plainer than that.

As a point of reference to the household impacts on water wells at this site, I copy our household map of the people living on all sides of the 68.5-acre CS 2 site, each of which has only well water for all water uses, including drinking water. These wetlands represent above ground and below ground networks of water that would be devastated if one of the many possible leaks at this site occurs.



Why the methods used in Union Hill Community Study are necessary to environmental justice review

I will not reiterate my critiques of the flawed methods used by Dominion, FERC, and finally DEQ Air Division when using census tract data only to refute the findings of the Union Hill Community Study whose statistical significance is far higher because the methods are replicable on the ground. Stephen Metts, of the New School, is a professional geospatial analyst whose expertise lies in demographic analyses for unconventional gas infrastructure projects. For the Air Board’s benefit, Stephen agreed to replicate DEQ’s methods to discover why theirs led to such faulty data on environmental justice. **Therefore, please read Stephen Mett’s public comment**

on why the Air Board must not accept DEQ's demographic methods to refute the findings from my Union Hill Community Study Research and Methods Report.

The comparisons I made in that report on why our door-to-door method is highly statistically significant when census tract data is cited by NEPA as highly "unreliable," now gain further credence for Virginia projects. On Dec. 18, 2018, Governor Northam issued Executive Order 27 (2018) establishing the Virginia Complete Count Commission for the 2020 Census.

The timing of this EO in the midst of the Air Board decision-making on the site chosen by Dominion for their CS 2 could not be better. EO 27 notes, "Historically, the U.S. Census Bureau has experienced low survey response rates from many communities across the Commonwealth" ... with particular concerns for counting minority children. Since federal money is allocated based on census, Gov. Northam has found there is economic benefit in statistically more accurate household data.⁵

This Executive Order has particular significance for Buckingham County. You may know that counties are responsible for raising the funds needed to digitize and publish online in accessible formats their county data. This includes courthouse records both historic and current. With the burning of the courthouse in 1869 by vigilantes and, previously, when British soldiers burned the Scottsville, VA courthouse during the Revolutionary War, Buckingham's historic documents are sparse. And, what is available has not been digitized. From working with both Stephan Metts and SELC to review the methods used by DEQ to arrive at such low population density at the CS 2 site using census tract data only, I learn that Buckingham lacks customary accurate address data. This includes 911 records online. Nor, apparently, does Buckingham's census data disaggregate, which allows researchers to find "pockets of minorities" in its census tracts. I'm certain Stephen Metts analysis will better explain this fundamental problem.

To better understand why the methods we used in the community are far more effective no matter if census tract data were digitized, I ask you to read the public comments made by Union Hill Community Study team leaders, **Ruby and John Laury, Marie Gillespie, Chad Oba, and Heidi Dhivya Berthoud**. Team leaders describe why our community designed, culturally appropriate participatory methods led to far more accurate demographic findings than by census takers in this same neighborhood -- for reasons outlined in my Research and Methods Report. Further, I ask you to **read the expert comment on the participatory community methods used in the study as reviewed by Professor James Igoe**, an internationally respected anthropologist who specializes in community-based action research in diverse global contexts.

During this comment period, in tandem with working with Stephen Metts on the mapping to geolocate our study household address points, I revised the Community Study Statistics in-a-nutshell below, adding study data on family heritage and unmarked graves located in Union Hill.

Union Hill Household Study (01-02-2019)
Lakshmi Fjord, Ph.D.

⁵ <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2018/december/headline-837267-en.html>

100 households were identified by US postal service markers in the ¼-mile to 2-mile radius of Union Hill, Buckingham, Virginia -- site chosen for Atlantic Coast Pipeline Virginia compressor station. ACP used Buckingham County’s 2010 average person per square mile census data - 29.6 people - as the site population.

Our study teams reached **77 households of 100 households for a 77% response rate.**

Weekday residents of 77 households: 200

Weekend, bi-monthly, and annual family reunion numbers add hundreds more frequent visitors.

Of the 67 households for which we have a full set of data, **42 or 62.6%**, are known descendants of formerly enslaved people at nearby plantations.

8 households report unmarked slave and freedmen graves on their property or nearby.

Race by self-identification: Taken together minorities make up 83.5% of residents:

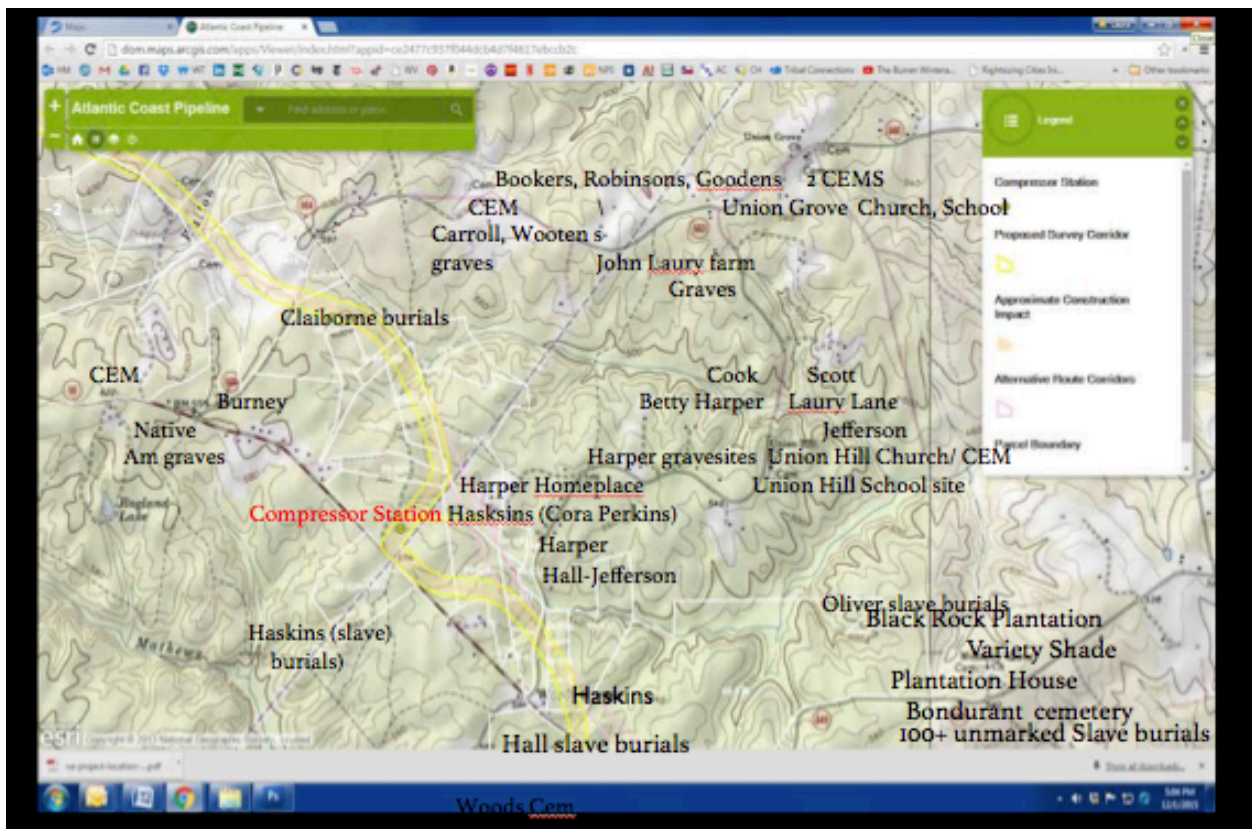
	African American	Native American and African American	White	Native American and White	Native American	Hispanic	Asian
Count	124	27	33	9	3	3	1
%	62	13.5	16.5	4.5	1.5	1.5	.5

Weekday residents’ ages: 32% are Children; 25% Elderly. Both age ranges mask actual ages that are disproportionately the very young and very old (age range used to protect confidentiality):

Age Range	0-6	7-18	18-21	22-40	41-65	65+	Unknown	Total
Count	28	36	5	36	43	50	2	200
%	14	18	2.5	18	21.5	25	1	100

Health Data: For the 67 households where we were able to have extensive questionnaire time, **35 responded with pre-existing medical diagnoses or 59.32% of reached households.**

Highest levels of existing diagnosed health conditions are for autoimmune conditions (asthma, allergies, multiple sclerosis, lupus) and lung/respiratory conditions (COPD, asthma, chronic bronchitis & pneumonia, congestive heart failure), circulatory conditions (heart disease and heart conditions, stroke) and diabetes -- all known to be caused by environmental toxins and exacerbated by them. Other conditions include arthritis, bipolar disorder, cancers (brain and breast cancer), epilepsy, kidney condition. migraines, light sensitivity, noise sensitivity, and skin disease.



Map created to site historic resources, freedmen heritage land, and slave gravesites for “Union Hill/Woods Corner Rural Historic District” listing by Preservation Virginia as a “Most Endangered Historic Place in Virginia” on May 3, 2016.

The Place of Union Hill in Historic Preservation and the Legacy of Virginia Slavery

It was the omission by Dominion in their 2015 historic cultural resource reports for Union Hill and Buckingham County -- in contrast to the hundreds of pages, photographs, and archaeological surveys reported for all other counties and states on the ACP route -- that led to my undertaking a site-specific historic research project of Union Hill. My plan was to get as far as I could to find historic records in time to apply to Preservation Virginia for a “Most Endangered Historic Place in Virginia” listing in February of 2016. I soon learned that Dominion’s complete erasure of Union Hill’s very existence as well as its historic cultural resources – some of which are places where the activities associated with this traditional cultural place most often take place – Union Hill Baptist Church and Union Grove Missionary Baptist Church -- have historic correlations.

Mr. Charles White, originally of Clifton Forge, VA married into the freedmen family of Robinson/Bookers in Union Hill when he moved to Buckingham to become a high school teacher at the segregated Ellis Technical School. He has written two books about African American and slave history in Buckingham, *The Hidden and The Forgotten: Contributions of Buckingham Blacks to American History*, 1985; and, less pertinent to this historic preservation effort, a book co-authored with E. Renee Ingram, *Buckingham County (VA) (Black America Series)*, 2005. Mr. White’s 25-year Buckingham Blacks research project was also undertaken to counter the near-erasure of black history because vigilantes burned the courthouse on the night the 15th amendment was passed (Feb. 26, 1869), giving former slaves the right to vote where

they out-numbered whites 2:1. This arson was to burn the wills of inheritance, purchases of freedom, which could be evidence used in lawsuits for restitution for enslavement. Mr. White's thorough research work is taken from social history or alternative texts to courthouse records -- including Confederate Army pension records for slaves who worked for officers or sent by owners as part of slave draft allocations required by the Confederate government in Richmond. Yet, Mr. White's books could not help me with site-specific historic information on Union Hill because they are name-based not site specific.

In consultation with Justin Sarafin of Preservation Virginia about how best to categorize the historic area that I would research and document in Union Hill to apply for Most Endangered Historic Place listing, we realized it is truly a historic landscape. The rural historic cultural landscape or district is defined as "a geographic area that has historically been used by people, or shaped and modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features."⁶ At this time, when proceeding with eligibility work, it will perhaps be better aligned with what I know now about Union Hill to term it a "traditional cultural place – TCP."⁷

The shared cultural historic character of this district is of former plantations, some of which still stand, and numerous slave cemeteries recorded and also known only by family knowledge on both black and white family lands, some of the former purchased by freedmen pre- and post-Emancipation. Along what is now Rt. 56 / S. James River Highway are a series of plantations once owned by the Bondurant and Moseley (derived from Mosier) families, both Huguenots, the former arrived in Virginia in 1700⁸.

As with other parts of Buckingham County, the Union Hill part of this district on the Northeast side of Rt. 56, which has been historically and remains African American, is characterized by clustered housing of relatives, either on separate small parcels divided by inheritance or on one larger one and large tracts of woodlands, with fields interspersed. This follows a long-held rural pattern of multiple dwellings on one parcel, with a larger frame or brick home and now mobile and modular homes or smaller frame dwellings close by. The Union Hill part of the district is rather densely populated for a low-population, low-income rural county with a past two-decade history of out-migration for lack of living wage jobs.

Because this district of Buckingham involves all of the most interesting chapters in Virginia's prehistory, colonial and post-colonial histories – from Monacan copper and gold mining nearby and extensive trade routes through it to Huguenot immigrant landowners granted parcels by the

⁶ Natural Historic Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting a Rural Historic Landscape, by Linda Flint McClelland, *National Park Service* and J. Timothy Keller, ASLA, Genevieve P. Keller, Robert Z. Melnick, ASLA *Land and Community Associates*. 1989; Revised 1999

https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb30/nrb30_3.htm

⁷ **Traditional Cultural Place (TCP)** is a property that is eligible for the NRHP because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that are rooted in that community's history and that are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community. This type of resource will likely require specific expertise provided by Tribes or community members to assist in identification and evaluation" (Ibid: 29).

<https://www.achp.gov/digital-library-section-106-landing/traditional-cultural-landscapes-section-106-review-process>

special status given by the Commonwealth of Virginia to Huguenot religious refugees fleeing persecution in France; from these slave economy-fueled plantations that early successfully grew tobacco for export to the Virginia “gold rush” with accompanying Welsh migration that brought Joseph Jones to build Wilderness in 1780; from the plantation family and slave soldiers in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War to the freed slaves who became first elected delegates to the Virginia House of Delegates starting in 1869; the effects of Jim Crow loss of civil liberties, and more – all were experienced by inhabitants of this district.

The outsider wonders how Dominion’s historic cultural resource contractors could have erased this district’s history? Buckingham was part of the original shire formed in colonial Virginia in the early-mid 1600s. Captain John Smith wrote of a Monacan village, Monahassanough, here. In what later became Buckingham, records of land grants and histories of residence are of some of colonial Virginia’s most well-known names: Cabell, Pocahontas, Bolling, Jefferson, Eppes, and Hemmings. Govs. Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe each signed land grants in what became Buckingham in the late 1700s to French Huguenot refugees fleeing persecution in Europe. They founded the historic plantation complex of which the proposed compressor station site is one. The historic register eligible districts of Wingina and Warminster do not include the fact that historically these encompassed both sides of the James River -- where families built residences on both sides and daily used their ferries back and forth.

Unlike counties in Virginia where their slavery past has been buried deep under later development, Buckingham’s poor economy of mainly resource extraction jobs in forestry and mining, a prison, and farming has left unchanged the fact of white and black families with the same last names living nearby with a shared history on opposite sides of the violent history of enslavement. The spouses of descendants of slaves living in Union Hill speak of how shocked they were to move there from California or North Carolina and to witness those natives’ “almost total lack of feeling that they can change anything in this county.” Mr. Charles Harper (great grandson of Betsey Hemmings, niece of Sally Hemings) said, “I can tell you what I’ve never even told my children – the history of Betsey Hemmings told me in secret by Walter (Patteson).” To historians of the South, none of this is news. However, the particular character of Buckingham is its isolation because of its economy, and the effects of that isolation on generations of inequitable social dynamics. Our hope is that by better knowing the history of this district from all perspectives and forms of evidence and not just that of “big houses” and “big men” that more inclusive history will address some of the deep wounds of slavery history.

Buckingham is generally known for the long residence of key families since colonial times up to the present. There are large tracts of woods that are regularly clear-cut or culled depending upon the landowner. Tobacco was once a main crop, with hay and wheat for animal husbandry. There is one remaining market cattle farm and orchard owned by a descendant of slaves, on land that has been used for that purpose for at least 150 years. Several landowners have small home-based businesses on site: a Medicare/Medicaid van service, carpentry, plumbing, a goat farm, stock feed hay farming. Most landowners have family gardens and cull their firewood from their woodlands.

The majority of African Americans in Union Hill are closely affiliated with the historic black church they attended from birth no matter where in Buckingham they now live. Two such churches are located in CS triangle: Union Hill Baptist Church that began as a Brush Arbor in 1868 after Freedmen were first allowed to break away from the White Baptist church, Mulberry

Grove on now Rt. 649 / Mulberry Grove Rd., they attended during slavery days. In 1887, Union Hill Baptist church was built on a 2-acre parcel on Rt. 663/ E.Union Hill Rd. The original burned and was rebuilt. It has an extensive black cemetery with graves bearing the names shared with white plantation families: Perkins, Moseley, Claiborne, Ellis, Eldridge, Laurys, and many others.

The other historic black church is Union Grove Baptist Church located on Rt. 660 / Shelton Store Rd. that broke away from Union Hill Baptist sometime in the early 20th century. Here is found the Pride, Gooden, and other local families' graves. Two separate slave and post-emancipation cemeteries lie on either side of Union Grove Church. At both churches on the opposite side of their roads were built one-room black schoolhouses. Many current landowners are former pupils of these schools. Union Hill School burned to the ground. Union Grove School was moved to the Robert E. Lee Wayside on Rt. 60 east of Buckingham Courthouse. Closed in the 1970s, time-dilapidated Shelton Store for which Rt. 660 is named stands on the north side of 660.

Of the Union Hill district, I include other anecdotes. Dismiss Haskin's great grandfather left with his master to serve him during the Civil War for the Confederacy, and when his master was killed, Dismiss returned his body to his family as requested. Haskins family land is right next to the CS site, which I mentioned when discussing Dominion's recent seizure of additional black heritage land to expand the CS 2 site. Dicey Shelton, whose son opened Shelton Store on Rt. 660, was a slave and her son, Fleming Shelton, told Charles Harper (my principal source) some "awful stories" of what happened to her. She was a member of Union Hill Church.

The Dominion CS 2 and pipeline route application have evoked long-held concerns by African American residents of Buckingham that Black history in the county, aside from the work first done during a WPA cemetery surveying project in the 1930s, and decades later by Lynn and Carl Henshaw of the Buckingham Historical Society to survey slave cemeteries, has been largely "made invisible" in public history. In 1985, Historic Buckingham, Inc, the county's historical society undertook a decades-long project, in their words "to systematically identify all the people buried in the county." Now 4 volumes, *Buckingham Burials*, is the result. The Union Hill District is primarily found in Volume 1, although incomplete. Listed by name, date of birth and death and any inscriptions, only route numbers are given to locate these, which makes them extremely difficult to locate in place.

The herculean mapping work done by Carl and Lynn Henshaw concentrates on siting slave cemeteries. Mrs. Lynn Henshaw's admits this work still requires mapping between 30-50 more entries just to complete her already-identified list. In addition, in oral narratives from residents of Union Hill, there are many family cemeteries and even single slave graves that are known and passed down through generations that have not been recorded or noted for the public record that need to be. In our door-to-door study, we learned of 8 unmarked gravesites of African American ancestors located on their heritage properties or nearby. The Burnley family reports their family's Native American ancestors are buried on the west side of Rt. 56, S. James River Highway.

Based on its shared family plantation history of Bondurants, Moseley's, and Perkins, this district also extends south along Rt. 56 on both northeast and southwest sides. On the northeast side, after Rt. 649, is the site of Variety Shade plantation, which burned in the 1970s, with its two existing cemeteries: one white and one a slave cemetery with 100+ burials. 2 handmade concrete stone markers for "Wm Pride" and "Tom Pride" dated 1906 and 1912 stand amongst rows and

rows of slave burials. There is a standing tobacco barn of large size and once height, now seriously deteriorating, having lost downward at least one story in height.



Charles (Jefferson) Harper, now of Baltimore, whose oral narrative of boyhood in Union Hill led me to the Variety Shade unmarked slave burial site (above) on land still owned by white descendants, Mr. Harper adds understanding to the difficulty of learning through passed-down family stories about slave history. He spoke of these as “passed down by men only” from older to younger male family or by male mentor, as was the case for him. This secrecy he ascribed to their “shaming” elements of slavery carried into later generations, as they often concerned births out of wedlock, some illegal inter-racial births, births from adulterous unions before DNA testing, and so on, with dire consequences for the parents and children involved. Mr. Harper told me that he had not yet spoken of the particulars of his family and slave history to his own children.

His related that his great great grandmother was Betsey Hemmings, daughter of Mary Hemings and Thomas Jefferson, born 1783. Mary was Sally Hemings’ sister. At 14, Betsey Hemmings was among those slaves given to Thomas Jefferson’s younger daughter, Mary known as Maria, at her marriage to John Wayles Eppes. After Maria’s death at 25, Eppes moved to Buckingham County to his plantation, Millbrook. That Betsey was Eppe’s concubine and bore him children is given evidence by her tombstone and grave next to that of Eppe’s own grave, and of equal height and fineness. Mr. Harper says that children borne of that union were given the last name of Jefferson, not Hemings or Hemmings. When Mr. Harper’s mother remarried, he took the surname of his stepfather, Harper, also a freedmen descendent.

Of the white plantation families, we have more written documentation. Dr. John Pierre Bondurant family is first mentioned as arriving from France to Manakin, Virginia (a town entirely formed of Huguenots, formerly a Monacan settlement) onboard a vessel arriving on 1700 (Bondurant Family blog). By Act of the Governor, Huguenot refugees were not only given en toto a huge tract of 19,000 acres in Henrico, but also made exempt from taxes for seven years. The first mention of now John Peter Bondurant (the son) in Buckingham was a land grant signed

by Gov. Thomas Jefferson for 1,125 acres in 1755. In 1997, Gov. James Monroe granted Richard Bondurant 2,113 acres and another parcel 135 acres in now Buckingham. By this time, Bondurants and Moseleys were intermarrying and their inheritors built the various plantation homes, Algoma, Variety Shade, Black Rock, Wheatlands, and Oaklawn.

What we know about Variety Shade plantation whose lands were sold to Dominion for the CS 2: Col. William Moseley (War of 1812) built it in 1798 for his daughter Maria Moseley Bondurant, who lived there until 1825; George Perkins Bondurant inherited it and left it to his son Alexander Joseph Bondurant in 1880. In 1890, when he died, it was left to his heirs and came down to his granddaughter, Emily Wilson; then to her heirs, date unknown, which subsequently formed Variety Shades Landowners, Inc. The plantation house became a boys' camp. It became uninhabited and burnt sometime in the 1960s. When it was a working plantation, Col. Moseley had between 350-400 slaves, who worked many tobacco fields and acres of apple orchards. Slaves worked a sawmill and blacksmith shop, and plantation outbuildings ruins remain including a well-house, smokehouse, salt house, and part of the extensive brick slave quarters. About the latter, Charles Harper (born Jefferson) reported to this author. Mr. Harper grew up on Union Hill Road and hunted regularly in the woodlands of this district.

On the southwest side of Rt. 56 lies the turn onto Rt. 66 W /Wood's Road, where there are wide-open cultivated fields. In the woodlands beyond is the Haskins family cemetery (black). Next on the left/south side of Wood's Road is the Wood's family cemetery (white) followed by the Oba property on the right. On Oba's former Wood's family site, the Texas Schoolhouse has been re-located, for which Rt. 661/Texas Schoolhouse Road is believed named, now used as a sculpture studio. Wood's Corner is characterized by Virginia style two-over-two frame or brick farmhouses with back additions, with large tracts of woodlands. Next historic house on the right of 663 is another Wood's family farmhouse. On the left, Wilderness, built in 1780 by the Welsh immigrant Jones family during the Buckingham Gold Rush. Wilderness still stands, with also historic outbuildings: the Cabell law office, corncrib, and a large white family cemetery, with a Cabell grave the oldest.

Wilderness was built by Joseph Jones, an immigrant from Wales who came during an early phase of the long Virginia "Gold Rush," where gold and copper have been mined since Monacan times, according to John Smith's journal as informed by Powhattan informants. Joseph Jones built Wilderness in 1780. In 1855, William Cabell bought Wilderness and built an adjacent law office. It is said by the current owner, Stephen Ramsey that Cabell brought slaves here from other family plantations nearer the James River, to hide them from the invading Northern Army during the Civil War. The Woods family bought it from Cabell, followed by Mary Carroll Roberts, a Rev. Mathews, from whom Mr. Ramsey purchased it.

This district has always been used for deer hunting, and also bear hunting. In fact, when tromping woods to find the Haskins' family cemetery, we found fresh bear tracks. Now, hunt clubs have taken hunting leases on the open fields and woodlands, and deer season in Buckingham is longer than other counties, which makes it a destination for hunting tourists who come from as far as New York. Buckingham is still largely an agricultural area, but the main crop is no longer tobacco, but timber. There are still market orchards and farms, and home gardens continue to be a key source of fresh vegetables.

Union Hill's role in Buckingham has changed along with most of the county's districts. Once a thriving plantation economy based on slave labor, a site of gold and copper mining, and small businesses including country stores, blacksmiths, home law offices, even midwifery, now such small county enterprise cannot sustain itself. There remain a slate quarry and kyanite mine in Buckingham but not in this district. Woodland forest clear-cutting is probably more important to supplemental income now than the widespread leasing of other landowners' mineral rights to mine for gold, in particular. Captain John Smith mentions the Monacan people as sources of copper to the Pohattan mention that they were "foresters" of these lands, also.

Marc Wagner comments on the Preservation Virginia's PIF

Mr. Dowd's fundamental misunderstanding of both of my emails with Marc Wagner about Union Hill history concern their context. I had worked with Mr. Wagner on a successful application for Yogaville Historic District eligibility. The site tour for that application was one we undertook together, where we could get out of the car – past the windshield screen – to walk around and behind visual obstructions. When Preservation Virginia filed a PIF (Preliminary Inventory Form" on my behalf in February 2017, using the "Union Hill/Woods Corner Historic District" as its name, I had not read it, unfortunately. First, this district is not a "historic district," but either a "rural historic district" or a traditional cultural place –TCP. Buckingham is a "Burnt County" so named for its historic record destruction and also its wood-framed structures torched by fires over time. What is significant about Union Hill is not its structures but its hundreds of years of continuous habitation by the same families and kinship networks. Further, cultural traditions tied to historic black churches here, and family burials both on heritage property and now in specific churches have contributed to these ties that bind.

When I asked Mr. Wagner to send me his comments on Preservation Virginia's draft PIF, he did so but not as declarative statements of fact. Each comment was in the form of a question he had that needed more information from me. When he drove the PIF area, he did so alone. I was not present as with the Yogaville District perambulation to point out what he couldn't see in forested areas. Therefore, remarks about how forests may cover gravesites or other features interpreted by Mr. Dowd as conclusions about lack of historic cultural resource are not new cultural conditions. As noted, the Monacan who lived here were described as "foresters" as well.

Notification of Union Hill's listing as one of Virginia's "Most Endangered Historic Places" on May 3, 2016, and its complex of historic resources, marked and unmarked slave burials, churches, cemeteries, former plantation sites, farm structures, homes, photographs, and slave plantation neighborhood history have been part of the public record of comments made to the Buckingham Planning Commission, the Buckingham Board of Supervisors, to FERC, by Lakshmi Fjord, Justin Sarafin and Sonja Ingram of Preservation Virginia since August 2016.

It is hard to understand why Mr. Dowd thinks to invalidate Union Hill's history and its significance.

Conclusion

There is a growing fear expressed by Virginia historians that the last remaining vestige of slave plantation history are becoming fewer to study because of development, such as the proposed ACP pipeline and compressor station. Better inclusion of Buckingham's African American

history in the record of Virginia's slave and post-emancipation history would bring recognition to Union Hill as a nearly unique place where descendants of former slaves still live in close proximity to the descendants of those who enslaved them. Loss of this site would be a profound loss to U.S. history indeed. Finely grained identification processes of the cultural resources dating from Native American, colonial settlement, plantation and post-emancipation histories, would fill an almost total gap in public knowledge about this district's place in each of these.

African American landowners in Union Hill describe a pattern of marginalization of Buckingham's slave and post-emancipation Black history within both Buckingham's and Virginia's "public history" to explain why Dominion Power was able to locate the CS in their midst without strong political pushback or other residents' outcry, as occurred in other ACP-impacted Virginia counties. As such, this district's history is very much at the heart of larger concerns among preservation historians and African Americans about "missing" or "invisible" slave history "on the ground" where it was lived.

For an example, African American residents cite the case of Carter G. Woodson, born of freed slaves in 1875 in New Canton, Buckingham County, who became known as the "father of Black History." Yet, in the county of his birth, African American residents decided to create a separate Buckingham Afro-American Historical Society because the predominantly White Buckingham Historical Society was not interested in erecting a memorial to him and his work in the county. This group is reformulating around the threat to Black history in Union Hill posed by the CS site in its midst.

"Such discussions of the history of race in America have never been more relevant or their potential erasure from the landscape more egregious and troubling," notes Justin Sarafin, Preservation Virginia's Director of Preservation Initiatives and Engagement, in his testimony at the Cville People's Tribunal on the Human Rights and Environmental Justice Impacts of the ACP and MPV, (Oct. 28, 2017, All Testimonies, 75)

Understanding the gravity to Virginia and U.S. history of imminent loss of unmarked slave burials because of development, Virginia's legislature passed Del. Delores L. McQuinn's bills to give equal state recognition of historic African-American cemeteries and better preserve and tell the history of African-Americans in Virginia. The bills, approved in uncontested 97-0 votes are accompanied by \$150,000, which the House Appropriations Committee proposed to identify and preserve historic African-American sites and artifacts.⁹

Mr. Harper called me recently to say that he had returned to Union Hill for a family burial and learned about the excitement around the Variety Shade slave burials. He was very concerned because this was not the location of hundreds of slave burials he had tried to describe to me. He referred to them as near the old Hall Plantation, which is on the west side of the proposed compressor station site. With the aid of a team of volunteers, we hope to use LiDAR to locate this site.

Now, John and Ruby Laury and Richard Walker of the Harper family are completely engaged in

⁹ Del. McQuinn unanimously passed bills to preserve African American cemeteries and slave burial sites in Virginia https://www.richmond.com/news/virginia/government-politics/house-approves-mcquinn-bills-on-slave-history-african-american-cemeteries/article_78b477f0-3e58-5d6c-a732-e0748af8f05a.html

uncovering their family histories on the ground and UVa Special Collections where slave plantation family boxes already have offered first glimpses of slave names and where they lived. Here on ACP's Phase 1, Architectural Survey (for Buckingham County Compressor station APE): May 2017, P.4; we find 014-5091 – which is the Harper family homeplace noted in purple here:

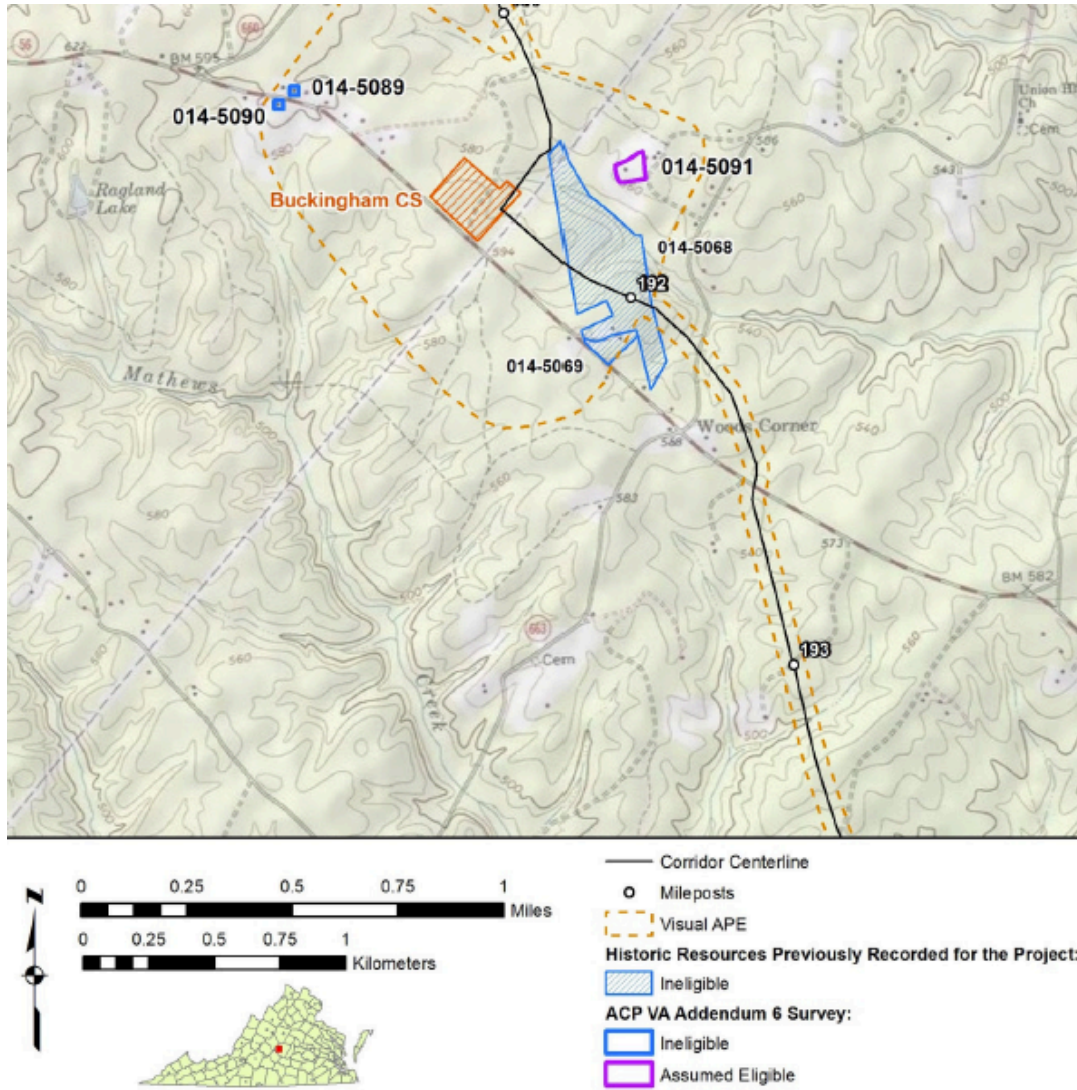


Figure 2. Historic resources identified within the visual APE of the proposed Project component.

At this Harper homeplace are reported unmarked graves of Betty Harper, Josephine Hurt, and Mary Haley. In our Community Study, we learn of 8 more grave-sites on Union Hill property or nearby. I have been contacted by Betsy Merritt of the National Trust for Historic Preservation who will be working with me to create a collaborative community study to explore the best designation to fit Union Hill's black history, where built structures do not exist, yet history abounds.

Respectfully submitted,
Lakshmi Fjord