The TRUTH About Dominion Cove Point
Who Is Misleading Whom?

Why should you care? Southern Maryland residents will be forced to accept serious risks to their health, safety, property and environment.

DOMINION RESOURCES has proposed a $3.8 billion transformation of the Cove Point Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) import facility in Lusby, MD into a heavy-industrial LNG liquefaction/export complex. Through a web of pipelines, processing sites, and tankers, Dominion Cove Point (DCP) would send gas from the Marcellus shale in Appalachia to customers already on contract in India and Japan\(^1\) (not Europe or Ukraine). If built, the facility would be the first in the world to be sited in a densely populated community. Southern Maryland residents will be forced to accept serious risks to their health, safety, property, and environment. There are multiple reasons these facilities are located in remote or heavy-industrialized areas. Let’s cut to the chase.
TOP 10 REASONS TO READ THE FACTS

1. Dominion CP ‘forgets’ to include 39,732 people in its expansion application to the FERC—Solomons and Prince Frederick were described as the closest towns.

   THE RESIDENTS OF SOUTHERN CALVERT COUNTY

   In their application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Dominion grossly misrepresented the number of people who live in Lusby. They stated: “The Cove Point Liquefaction Facility will be constructed in southern Calvert County . . . Major population and commercial centers in the County include Solomons, eight miles to the south of Cove Point (population 2,368); the County seat at Prince Frederick, 16 miles north of Cove Point (population 2,538); Huntingtown, 21 miles north of Cove Point (population 3,311); and Dunkirk, 30 miles north of Cove Point (population 2,520).” 2 Their total for the population, Solomons to Prince Frederick: 4,906

   There is NO MENTION of the vast majority of the population in the actual vicinity of the proposed facility (Lusby) or between the nearest stated centers of Solomons and Prince Frederick.


2. The proposed facility’s proximity to a dense population (39,732) is unprecedented GLOBALLY. Never been done. Anywhere.

   CP NOT COMPLIANT WITH INDUSTRY STANDARDS

   Dominion Cove Point LNG is a member of SIGTTO (Society of International Gas Tanker and Terminal Operators). 4

   However, Dominion’s proposed export facility is not consistent with SIGTTO’s LNG standards, which state:

   There is no acceptable probability for a catastrophic LNG release. While risk of small LNG spills is acceptable, any risk of catastrophic LNG release is unacceptable.

   LNG ports must be located where LNG vapors from a spill or release cannot affect civilians;

   LNG ship berths must be far from the ship transit fairway:

   . . . to prevent collision or allision from other vessels;

   . . . to prevent surging and ranging along the LNG pier and jetty that may cause the berthed ship to break its moorings and/or LNG connection;

   . . . since all other vessels must be considered an ignition source (conflicting waterway uses include fishing and recreational boating).

   Human error potential always exists, so it must be taken into consideration when selecting/designing an LNG port. 5 Hazard Zones (also called Zones of Concern) surrounding LNG carriers have been defined for the U.S. Department of Energy (Sandia National Laboratories). The largest Zone is 2.2 miles/3,500 meters around the vessel, indicating that LNG ports must be located at least that distance from civilians. Experts call for a Hazard Zone distance of three miles or more.

3. Dominion’s industrial plant will be consuming industrial-sized quantities of our collective well water. Every day and every night.

   IMPACTS ON LOCAL FRESH WATER AND AQUIFERS

   Current DCP max water usage is 18.25 million gal/yr from the Aquia aquifer; proposed water usage will increase by more than 850%. The proposed facility and new processes will require 375,000 gallons of fresh water every day, drawn from the Lower Patapsco aquifer; 7 155 million gal/yr from already stressed local water supplies.

   Dominion’s Offsite Area A for laydown is now an “Instant City of 2,000 workers 24x7” and is deemed a safety and health concern according to the Calvert County Health Department. Volume of Aquia water for testing, water and sewerage for 2,000 workers 24x7 is unknown and will be greater than previously estimated, further stressing the Aquia Aquifer and the already tenuous condition of the Solomons Waste Water Treatment Plant.
4. **Equipment and storage tanks used in the export process will generate 20.4 tons of air pollutants each year. What you don’t see is what you get.**

**AIR POLLUTION AND TOXIC CHEMICALS**

Equipment and storage tanks used in the export process will generate 20.4 tons of air pollutants each year.\(^8\)

**Emitted carcinogens** are linked to increased respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, especially in children, the elderly, and other vulnerable populations.\(^9\)

**Calvert County** currently has the worst American Lung Association air rating of “F.”\(^6\)

**Maryland already** boasts the highest rate of premature deaths due to air pollution, more than any other state.\(^10\)

**DCP emissions** will degrade air quality and accelerate negative effects on the Bay, farmlands, and residences. Chemicals emitted have the potential to deteriorate roofs and siding of homes. The **130 Mega Watt** power plant at the Cove Point site will use natural gas for a significant portion of its fuel. The systems will consume 67,941 pounds of fuel per hour (almost 34 tons of fuel per hour). The plant will run 24/7x365 days a year; the total fuel consumption will be in excess of 297,581 tons of fuel per year.\(^11\)

**Toxic Air Pollutants** will be emitted: ammonia, butane, sulfuric acid mist, benzene, nitrous oxide, hydrogen sulfide, respirable PM1, toluene, zinc, xylenes. **Hazardous Air Pollutants** will be emitted: formaldehyde, hexane, toluene, xylene, acetaldehyde, ethylbenzene, benzene, propylene oxide, acrolein, fluoranthene.

**DCP has** “purchased” 625 tons of Nitrogen Oxides (NOx) and 166 tons of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) emission reduction credits (ERCs) in accordance with federal regulations. This means they are paying to pollute more at Cove Point than is otherwise allowed by law. NOx and VOCs are major contributors to ozone.

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5. **Ballast water drawn from India and Japan has toxigenic strains of cholera and other diseases, toxic algae, and radioactivity from the meltdown of Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant.**

**IMPACTS ON THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND WETLANDS**

**Cove Point** would trigger the need for 85 additional 1,000-foot-long tankers in the Chesapeake Bay each year, carrying volatile, potentially explosive liquid fuel, will worsen local air quality and dump billions of gallons of ballast wastewater into the nearby Atlantic waters and Bay.\(^15\)

**Ballast water** drawn from India and Japan has toxigenic strains of cholera and other diseases, toxic algae, and radioactivity since the meltdown of Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant.\(^16\)

**Increased water** pollutants will negatively affect marine life, significantly impacting the livelihood of local watermen.

**Construction at** the Terminal will mean a loss of 1,016 feet of streams/wetlands.\(^17\)

**96.9 acres** of forest will be cleared near Appeal Landfill (Area A) to support construction providing staging, temporary offices, and 1,700 parking spaces.\(^14\)

Clearing of forests threatens the network of rivers and wetlands that attract tourists; and constant industrial noise disrupts animals and migratory birds.

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6. **DCP will cram equipment and storage tanks into an unusually tight space, increasing the risk for catastrophic accidents.**

**HUMAN SAFETY HAZARDS**

Stockpiles of toxic, potentially explosive chemicals including propane, ethane, acid-gases, and cancer-causing benzene could trigger a “fireball” in the community and within 3 miles of Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant.

DCP is adjacent to a public park and within 4,500 feet of approximately 360 homes (who are at risk of flash fire).

The export facility would be located within two miles of approximately 2,365 homes, 2 schools, 19 daycare centers,\(^3\) churches, 2 shopping centers, and adjoining Calvert Cliffs State Park and Cove Point Park with 7 multi-purpose sports fields, swimming pool, tennis/basketball courts, picnicking, and playgrounds. **Due to the volatility,** LNG liquefaction facilities are potential targets for terrorists; add Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Plant, NAS Patuxent River, and a population over 30,000 people within 5 miles of DCP and the potential increases. **Recent explosions** at other LNG facilities caused a 2-mile radius evacuation of 1000 residents and workers in Plymouth, WA (3/31/14); 95 residents of Opal, WY were evacuated 5 miles away from a LNG explosion (4/23/14).

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There is uncertainty about the true purpose for the 60’ tall, 3/4 mile long wall . . .

Is it also hoped that the wall will keep flammable vapor clouds onsite?

Or help flames rise “up and over nearby homes” in the event of a fire?

NOISE POLLUTION

During the 3-year construction higher noise levels (more than double the existing) will be allowed, 7am-10pm.9

Once construction is completed, there will be a significant increase in noise from the massive, industrial-sized gas turbines and LNG “train.” These will operate 24 hours/day, 7 days/week, 365 days/year, for at least 20 years.

Noise will be generated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

The proposed 60’ high “sound” wall has never been tested or proven to effectively lessen noise. No designs have been released; it is unknown if the design considers hurricane-force winds.

There is no wall to the north into Calvert Cliffs State Park or to the east into Cove Point Beach

Heavy noise will escape around the ends of the wall into Cove Point Park and residences to the southeast, as well as over the wall to residences that rise above DCP; Dominion did not consider this noise in their design.

The significant noise increases from the previous Dominion expansion in 2006-2008 were never addressed despite residents’ complaints and Dominion’s promises to fix the problem.

SOUND WALL (VAPOR BARRIER?) (FIRE WALL?) (BLAST WALL?) (PRIVACY WALL?)

There is uncertainty about the true purpose for the 60’ tall, 3/4 mile long wall . . . Is it also hoped that the wall will keep flammable vapor clouds onsite? Or help flames rise “up and over nearby homes” in the event of a fire?19

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Cove Point would require construction of a new gas plant on-site that would be Maryland’s fourth-largest climate polluter. From start to finish of the LNG export process, Cove Point would trigger more planet-heating pollution than all seven of Maryland’s coal-fired power plants combined.18

INCREASED DEMAND FOR FRACKING

If approved, the Cove Point export facility would provide a strong economic incentive for companies to expand fracking across our region, including in Maryland, where no drilling has yet occurred. In other states, the expansion of fracking has caused drinking water contamination, air pollution, illnesses and earthquakes.18

Emergency response plans from any potential disaster at Cove Point, natural or human-caused, have yet to be presented to the community in a public forum.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE, CHOOSE POINT

More than 265 homes southeast/adjacent to DCP (Cove Lake, Cove of Calvert, Cove Point Beach Assoc) are at risk of not being able to evacuate in the event of a catastrophic event, as Cove Point Road is the only exit route. In an explosion, these residents would need to drive toward and pass within 300 feet of DCP to escape.

DCP vehicles and equipment on Cove Point Road could delay an emergency response.

Emergency response plans from any potential disaster at Cove Point, natural or human-caused, have yet to be presented to the community in a public forum.

Recent explosions and fires at other LNG facilities include:

PLYMOUTH, WA (3/31/14) required a 2-mile radius evacuation of 1000 residents and workers.

OPAL, WY (4/23/14) required a 5-mile radius evacuation of 95 residents.6

Local fire departments are all volunteer and not prepared or trained to handle LNG industrial accidents.

First responders are not properly outfitted for mandatory communications with Homeland Security.

Local Sheriff is tasked with security outside DCP fence line and to respond to possible DCP attacks.

TRAFFIC CONGESTION AND ROADWAY SAFETY

Traffic on Solomons Island Road will increase 60% in morning peak hours and 51% in evening peak hours.

Traffic on Cove Point Road will increase 53% in morning peak hours and 89% in evening peak hours. This will include 86 bus trips for workers, delivery trucks, and moving construction equipment.

There will be 50 trips to move massive industrial equipment from Solomons (temporary pier, Area B) to DCP.12 The equipment will move slowly and require two lanes, virtually blocking off Cove Point Road. Se trips will be massive, heavy industrial sized trucks that move slowly and take up two lanes; virtually blocking off Cove Point Road.

Two truck deliveries per day will bring hazardous materials to and from the LNG plant during its operation.13
While risk of small LNG spills is acceptable, any risk of catastrophic LNG release is unacceptable.