



Potomac Riverkeeper Concerns

- Dominion has applied to the Department of Environmental Quality (“DEQ”) for a permit to drain millions of gallons of contaminated water from coal ash ponds at the Possum Point Power Station directly into Quantico Creek and the Potomac River. On October 30, DEQ released a draft permit that would allow this draining.
- DEQ will hold a public hearing about the draft permit on **December 8 at 7:00 p.m.** in its Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193. The agency will accept written comments until **December 14.**
- The draft permit would authorize the release of tens of millions of gallons of polluted water into Quantico Creek. This wastewater contains high levels of toxic metals, including arsenic at levels as high as 960 µg/l, 6 times greater than Virginia’s chronic toxicity standard to protect aquatic life. Other metals in the wastewater include aluminum, antimony, barium, boron, cobalt, iron, magnesium, molybdenum, manganese, nickel, selenium, and zinc.
- Despite the fact that treatment technology exists to remove much of these metals from the wastewater, DEQ’s draft permit fails to set limits to protect Quantico Creek. For example, the draft permit sets the monthly average limit for arsenic at 300 µg/l, 30 times higher than the limit of 10 µg/l proposed for the another coal ash facility, L.V. Sutton, in North Carolina. DEQ should require the technologically achievable limits that are being used at other coal ash facilities.
- Remarkably, the draft permits contains no limits at all for a stream of contaminated water flowing out of a toe drain at the bottom of pond D. This discharge also needs technology-based limits to protect Quantico Creek.
- The proposed draining permit is one part of Dominion’s plan to leave tons of waste coal ash stored at Possum Point in a pond that has a long track record of leaking cadmium, zinc, and other coal ash constituents into groundwater.
- Quantico Creek and the Potomac River in this area are critical habitat that support commercial and recreational fishing for catfish and spawning grounds for striped bass. But the coal ash ponds at Possum Point have polluted it for decades. Instead of more industrial pollution, this creek deserves an opportunity to recover from years of neglect. DEQ should not give Dominion another free pass to put its coal ash waste into our treasured waterways.