DRAFT SAMPLE LETTER

John Grace, Chief

Source Protection and Appropriation Division of the Water Supply Program

Water Management Administration

Maryland Department of the Environment

1800 Washington Blvd.

Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Date

Dear Mr. Grace:

I am writing concerning Dominion Energy Cove Point LNG, LP’s application for a Permit to Appropriate and Use Waters of the State (CH2017G006/01) because I live in the vicinity of the proposed Charles Compressor Station in Bryans Road, Maryland. Dominion’s permit requests permission to withdraw from this site between 176,000 and 230,000 gallons of groundwater per day, for a period of ten months. Dominion indicates that this dewatering will lower the water table by 2 to 4 feet.

My community is served by both shallow and deep private wells, and the wetlands surrounding the proposed construction site are a recharge area for the Upper Patapsco aquifer. I fear that approval of this permit would result in our residential water supply being depleted due to drawdowns and the sustainability of clean water being threatened due to resulting pollution.

This project is adjacent to The Piscataway National Park, which is managed by The National Park Service (NPS). Recent studies by NPS demonstrated that the “proposed dewatering will drain sensitive wetlandsin the national park under all modeling scenarios”. The NPS has identified twenty-one species of amphibians within the Park. Damaging the wetlands by the proposed dewatering process would have a much much larger impact across the ecosystem more generally because the amphibians are food for many fish, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

Dominion claimed at the June 11 MDE informational hearing that it does not need a state water quality certification under the Clean Water Act on the basis that the Federal Energy Resource Commission (FERC) found no impacts to wetlands. However, this assumption is based on incomplete data from an Environmental Assessment: a full Environmental Impact Study is needed for this permit process and inclusion in the National Park Service assessment. Discharge of the large quantity of water as proposed could poison water supplies and kill aquatic animals.

 As guardians of Maryland’s environment it is MDE’s responsibility to protect our water supply and these important wetlands. I formally request that an Independent Health, Safety, and Environmental assessments be completed before any permits are approved.

Respectfully

 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_