Secretary Benjamin H. Grumbles

Department of the Environment

Montgomery Park Business Center

1800 Washington Blvd.

Baltimore, MD 21230

Date

Dear Secretary Grumbles:

 I’m concerned that the State of Maryland will approve air quality and water permits that would allow Dominion Energy to construct its proposed gas fired pipeline compressor plant in Bryans Road. The State must consider fully the impact of this large industrial structure to our health, water, air and the environment. The potential risks to my family, neighbors, and our environment are simply too great.

The majority of those living in my community are served by private wells. I fear that our residential water supply could be depleted and poisoned as a result of dewatering. Also that lowering the water table 2 to 4 feet will harm the surrounding wetlands.

Studies have shown that gas-fired pipeline compressor stations emit hazardous toxins into the air causing short and long-term health issues for residents. The location of this structure in a geologic depression would intensify that effect. Adverse health issues include: skin rash, eye irritation, respiratory disease, neurological issues, cancer, cognitive deficits, birth defects and psychological issues.

The Charles County Board of Appeals denied zoning to Dominion because of the threat of a major gas fire and explosion. Our local area is served by a volunteer fire department. They would not be able to contain a large fire because there is no water.

I hope that my concerns are addressed and that you take seriously your role as a protector of the health and safety of citizens and the environment. I’m requesting that MDE conduct an independent health, safety and environmental assessment for the proposed Charles Station Natural Gas Compressor Station.

An independent impact assessment must be completed before any approvals are granted.

 Respectfully,

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