



COUNTY of ISLE OF WIGHT

THE COURTHOUSE

January 26, 2010

M. Sherlock Holmes, Chairman
Surry County Board of Supervisors
PO Box 65
Surry, VA 23883

Dear Chairman Holmes,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to submit comments to you on behalf of the Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors in regard to the proposed Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC) coal-fired electric generation facility within the Town of Dendron and Surry County. We understand that the Surry Board of Supervisors will be conducting a public hearing on the proposed facility at its February 4, 2010, regular meeting.

The Board would like to express its concern to both the Surry County Board of Supervisors as well as the Dendron Town Council with the lack of information provided by the applicant on the pollution control techniques to be used at the new facility. According to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, coal-fired electric generating plants are the largest producers of mercury as well as other emissions that can be hazardous to human and environmental health. Mercury especially is a pollutant of concern, because it can cause brain development defects in fetuses as well as impede the intellectual development in children.

In addition to the potential harmful effects on the human population, additional mercury emissions in the environment could potentially prove harmful to the Blackwater River which Isle of Wight County has nominated for a State Scenic River designation. The Blackwater River is also a State-designated impaired waterway due to existing high levels of naturally-occurring mercury levels. Due to its slow-moving and acidic character, the River is susceptible to the formation of methyl mercury, a toxin that biomagnifies in the food chain.

Because air emissions from the new facility will have a regional impact, the Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors urges both the Surry County Board and the Dendron Town Council to postpone their consideration of the ODEC proposal and require that an independent assessment be performed on behalf of the Town Council and Board of Supervisors on the potential impacts of the facility. The Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors suggests that the applicant provide funding to Surry County and the Town of Dendron to perform this assessment in order to more fully inform their decision. This assessment should provide an

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objective analysis of the proposed facility's potential effects on the local and regional economy, traffic, air quality and the region's current non-attainment status for certain air quality pollutants. This assessment should also provide an analysis on the potential health impacts of plant emissions as well as the potential impacts to local and regional water quality and the on-going Chesapeake Bay Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) development process.

The Town of Dendron and Surry County can utilize this assessment as a basis for developing the necessary conditions for this application to ensure the maximum levels of health and environmental protection as well as ensure the maximum economic and quality of life benefits to Town and County residents.

Thank you again for the opportunity to participate in your review of this project. If you have any additional questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Phillip A. Bradshaw
Chairman, Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors

cc: Honorable Members of the Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors
W. Douglas Caskey, County Administrator

PAB/amr