

**PUBLIC HEARING**

Dominion Chesterfield Power Station – CCR Surface Impoundments Closure  
Solid Waste Permit SWP619  
7:00 P.M. – Tuesday, June 10, 2025, Chesterfield, Virginia

**TRANSCRIPT**

The following is the transcript of the public hearing held the 10th day of June 2025, convening at the hour of 7 p.m. at the Beulah Recreation Center – Classroom C, 6901 Hopkins Road, Chesterfield, Virginia, 23234.

Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording, transcript produced by Jenny Poland, Solid Waste Permit Coordinator, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

APPEARANCES:     Jeremy Kazio, Hearing Officer  
                          Land Protection Program  
  
                          Jerome Brooks, Piedmont Regional Director  
  
                          Jaime Robb, Piedmont Deputy Regional Director  
  
                          Trisha Beasley, Director of Operations  
  
                          Jenny Poland, Solid Waste Permit Coordinator  
  
                          Dean Starook, Groundwater Specialist  
  
                          Shawn McCaffrey, Solid Waste Permit Writer  
  
                          Department of Environmental Quality  
                          Piedmont Regional Office  
                          4949-A Cox Road  
                          Glen Allen, Virginia 23060  
                          (804) 527-5020

**INDEX**

CALL TO ORDER  
PUBLIC COMMENT  
PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED

**PUBLIC MEETING EXHIBITS**

DEQ: Draft Permit SWP619  
Design Drawings Lower Ash Pond Closure  
Design Drawings Upper Ash Pond Closure

**PROCEEDINGS**

Good evening, it's now 7:06 PM, Tuesday, June 10, 2025.

This hearing is now called order.

My name is Jeremy Kazio. I am the Land Protection Manager for the Piedmont Regional Office of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Today I will function as the hearing officer for this proceeding, and you will be presenting your comments directly to me and the recorder for entry into the administrator record.

With me tonight are the following staff members from the Department of Environment Quality:

Jerome Brooks, Regional Director of the Piedmont Regional Office  
Jaime Robb, Deputy Regional Director of Piedmont Regional Office  
Trisha Beasley, Director of Operations  
Jenny Poland, Solid Waste Permit Coordinator  
Dean Starook, Groundwater Specialist and  
Shawn McCaffrey, Solid Waste Permit Writer.

This public hearing is being held in the Beulah Recreation Center, Classroom C, 6901 Hopkins Rd., Chesterfield, VA 23234. The meeting is being held pursuant to Chapter 14, Article 2 of the code of Virginia, and the requirements of Part 3, Part 5, and Part 7 of the Solid Waste Management Regulations.

The purpose of this hearing is to allow the public the opportunity to provide verbal comments on the technical merits of the draft permit for the Dominion Energy Chesterfield Power Station, CCR surface impoundments, Permit Number SWP619, for the Virginia Electric and Power Company doing business as Dominion Energy Virginia. The facility is located at 500 Coxendale Rd. in North Chesterfield County, Virginia.

In accordance with Chapter 14, Article 1, Title 10.1–1402.01 of the Virginia Code, a notice of this hearing was published in the Richmond Times Dispatch newspaper on Friday, May 9, 2025. This notice was also published in the Virginia Regulatory Townhall on May 8, 2025, and posted on the Department's website on May 9, 2025. This proceeding is required to be advertised and vetted to public comment, which is the purpose of this hearing tonight.

1 The public comment period will extend until Wednesday, June 25, 2025. During this period,  
2 the Department of Environment Quality will be accepting comments on the proposed draft  
3 permit.

4  
5 At this hearing public comments are encouraged on the technical merits of the draft  
6 permit. In order to be recognized to speak on this project, you must sign in and check that  
7 you want to comment on the official hearing sign-in sheet located in the hallway.

8  
9 I invite anyone who wishes to speak at this hearing, but has not yet registered, to sign the  
10 official hearing sign-in sheet at this time.

11  
12 I would like to review the procedures for the hearing so we can work to allow as many  
13 persons as possible to have a chance to be heard within the allotted time for this hearing.  
14 This hearing will end when the last person has spoken or at 9:30 PM, whichever occurs first.  
15 If anyone that wanted to comment but was unable to do so at this hearing, you will still be  
16 able to submit a written comment for the administrative record before the end of the public  
17 comment period. Thank you for being here and participating in his hearing. Public  
18 participation is an important part of the Department's decision process, and I appreciate  
19 you taking the time to be part of it.

20  
21 I will call on Dominion Energy to provide any comments if they wish.

22  
23 Next, I will call any elected officials or the representative to provide comments if they wish.

24  
25 Those on the sign-in, the official sign-in, will be called to come and speak one person at a  
26 time and in the order that's written on the Hearing Sign-In sheet for the public hearing. This  
27 meeting is being recorded for the administrative record. Please speak clearly, so your  
28 comments can be accurately and completely recorded into the official record of this  
29 hearing. All questions and comments are to be directed to me. You are requested to give  
30 your full name, who you represent, if applicable, and mailing address prior to providing your  
31 comments. This will enable the Department to provide you with a written response to your  
32 verbal comments. You are requested to limit your comment period to a maximum of 3  
33 minutes in order to ensure that all who are present and desire to speak, will be allowed an  
34 opportunity to do so. If your comment has been covered by previous commenter, it is  
35 appropriate to simply state that you agree with the previous comment. At 3 minutes or  
36 when done, whichever comes first, the next commenter will be called and we will move on  
37 even if you are not finished with your comments.

38  
39 You have an opportunity to submit written comments on the draft permit after the hearing  
40 today. Please send those to Daniel Scott, Department of Environmental Quality, Southwest  
41 Regional Office, at 355 – A Deadmore St., Abingdon, VA 24354. Email comments will also  
42 be accepted at, all one word, [ChesterfieldPowerStationWastePermit@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:ChesterfieldPowerStationWastePermit@deq.virginia.gov).  
43 Email comments must include full name and mailing address of the person commenting.  
44 Written comments must be received before 11:59 PM on June 25, 2025.

1 The technical questions presented at this hearing, which are specific to this project, will be  
2 responded to in writing by DEQ staff. These comments/questions typically require  
3 additional evaluation of the site plans, and the draft permit to ensure that no details are  
4 missed and consider all the relevant issues. Therefore, to ensure that only accurate  
5 responses to those technical questions are given, verbal responses to your technical  
6 questions will not be provided tonight.

7  
8 After the comment period, the Director of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
9 will consider all verbal and written comments received and will then determine if the  
10 permit is to be issued to Dominion Energy Chesterfield Power Station, as proposed.

11  
12 At this time, I will call representatives of the applicant Dominion Energy to provide  
13 comments.

14  
15 [No representatives came forward]

16  
17 If there are any elected officials here tonight who would like to speak; if so, I offer you the  
18 opportunity to speak first.

19  
20 [No representatives came forward]

21  
22 OK, I will begin by calling upon those persons, who have registered to come forward, one at  
23 a time and speak. Remember to please speak clearly and keep your comment specific to  
24 the technical aspects of the proposed draft permit. Questions and comments that are not  
25 specifically related to the technical issues of the project are not the object of this hearing,  
26 and cannot be entertained at this time. I reserve the right, as Hearing Officer for the  
27 Commonwealth of Virginia, to stop anyone from continuing to speak whose comments are  
28 vulgar, inappropriate and/or not related to the specific issues.

29  
30 **Glen Besa.** Good evening, please come forward to speak. Please state your full name,  
31 affiliation, and current mailing address for the record.

32  
33 The address is 48 Burnham Rd. North Chesterfield, 23234, speaking as a private citizen. It  
34 is my intention to submit more detailed written comments. At this time, first I want to  
35 thank you for having the information session prior to this hearing because they're very  
36 helpful to get an understanding of how this fits into the larger picture of a very complicated  
37 process associated with this remediation. Activities have been going on there for almost 80  
38 years, so it's very much appreciated to have a session. I would have observed, that it is  
39 helpful to actually have some kind of big picture perspective here. I would hope that  
40 Dominion, and the County would join with DEQ to have some kind of community meeting  
41 so that we can understand all the moving parts here. Cause there's a landfill permit,  
42 there's an MOU with the county and there's this permit. What else? And that it would be  
43 great to have a better understanding of how these pieces fit together. So, I would  
44 appreciate that even though it does not specifically pertain to this permit, I think we put this

1 permit in a better perspective if we had an understanding of the big picture. Another  
2 question I have, to just state the obvious, there's about almost 15,000,000 cy of CCR and  
3 landfill capacity is only 9,36 million cy. Obviously, the remainder must be going to  
4 beneficial use. It would be helpful to understand what beneficial uses and how it's being  
5 handled effectively; because obviously, we don't want to be shipping our problems  
6 somewhere else. So, I would like to have more information on the beneficial use aspects of  
7 this, and also in terms of the landfill operation, which I presume comes over this division as  
8 well. I suspect there's some evaluation of landfill performance and waste treated so those  
9 are some questions I have. The other point I guess I'll make is with respect to  
10 contamination, groundwater monitoring apparently started in 2016. I know from looking at  
11 past data there's significant heavy metals going into the ground water and probably into the  
12 river since that time. Chemicals, including chromium, lead, arsenic, zinc, etc., so I am  
13 concerned that contamination continues, and it appears from the public conversation that  
14 they'll be an attempt to remediate that. I think the remediation should be active and not  
15 based upon natural attenuation. [3 minute time up]

16  
17 Thank you for coming. Good evening, **Tom Dunlap**, please come forward to speak.

18  
19 Thank you all. Good evening, I'm Tom Dunlap. I'm the James River keeper with the James  
20 River Association. Thank you for having the information session prior to this public hearing  
21 and for this opportunity to provide public comment. The association is a member  
22 supported nonprofit organization that was founded in 1976 with a mission to protect the  
23 James River and connect people to it. Throughout the James rivers 10,000 mi.<sup>2</sup> watershed  
24 JRA works towards a vision of a fully healthy James River, valued by all communities. The  
25 water has seen remediation of heavy metal contamination related to coal ash storage at  
26 this site and others throughout the watershed for many years now. And our surface water,  
27 groundwater and sediment samples in 2016 highlighted contamination. Then in the 2023  
28 groundwater monitor report submitted by Dominion as a part of this permit, alongside a  
29 2024 study published earlier this year by Dr. Tyler Franklin at the university of Mary  
30 Washington; further evidence that continued and pervasive contamination in the  
31 groundwater, sediment, surface water, and even in animal tissues in the surrounding areas  
32 around these coal ash ponds. As a result of our work in 2016 and earlier, we and other  
33 conservation groups pushed for legislation that required investigation and closure of coal  
34 ash ponds in Virginia and this was signed into law in 2019. Now in 2025, this permit action  
35 is to approve the closure plans drafted for these existing coal ash ponds identified in the  
36 report as the lower and upper ash ponds at the Chesterfield power station. This is in  
37 compliance with Virginia's 2019 legislation and the 2015 EPA coal combustion residual  
38 rules to begin. It cannot be overstated that this excavation and removal of the coal ash from  
39 these unlined ponds and the permanent storage of this material in a geotechnically lined  
40 landfill as required by Virginia code is an improvement for the community and the  
41 environment and ultimately, it's the right thing to do. However, other concerns remain that  
42 2023 annual upper and lower ash pond ground monitoring report results highlights

1 significant contamination of the groundwater in the area. Both the federal and Virginia CCR  
2 rule groundwater protection standard exceedances in 2022 and 2023 are documented for  
3 arsenic, cobalt, aluminum and radium. Ultimately, it's not clear what is going to be done to  
4 address these contamination issues at the site. And the only indication we have for, as a  
5 path to address these are Dominion's CCR filings where they identify a version of  
6 monitored natural attenuation known as natural recovery. The strategy to remedy this  
7 contamination, we don't think that's sufficient. Any tactic to address groundwater  
8 contamination should be identified in any approved final remedy. And with the  
9 groundwater protection standards currently being exceeded, the public should know what  
10 the plan for the groundwater remediation is right now and have a chance to make their  
11 voice heard on it.

12  
13 Thank you. State your mailing address.

14  
15 The business address S. 17th St., Richmond, VA.

16  
17 Thank you, is there anyone else wishes their comments entered into the official record?  
18 Please come forward at this time.

19  
20 [No additional speakers]

21  
22 I declare this hearing is adjourned at this time 7:19 pm on Tuesday, June 10, 2025. Thank  
23 you very much for all who came and have a safe trip home.