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Environmental Justice Screen for the Proposed Southeast Supply Enhancement Project: Virginia

MARCH 2025

PREPARED FOR

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Company, LLC**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On behalf of Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC, SWCA Environmental Consultants has prepared this Environmental Justice (EJ) screen for all components associated with the proposed Southeast Supply Enhancement Project (SSE Project) in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This document characterizes the communities surrounding proposed SSE Project facilities with regard to income, race and ethnicity, and English-speaking proficiency in order to identify environmental justice communities and facilitate meaningful engagement and public outreach.

Project Location and Description

The Project's components in Virginia will fall within Pittsylvania County and will include approximately 26.8 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline and increased compression capacity at Transco's existing Compressor Station 165. The pipeline component will be part of the Project's designated Eden Loop which will consist of approximately 26.8 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline in Pittsylvania County, Virginia along with approximately 4.4 miles of 42-inch diameter pipeline Rockingham County, North Carolina. The compression component will include the addition of two [33,000 horsepower each] electric motor-driven compressor units at Transco's existing Compressor Station 165 located in Pittsylvania County. Compressor Station 165 will be limited to a total incremental output of 45,000 horsepower, thereby increasing the total certificated station output to 96,930 horsepower.

The use of existing, improved, and new access roads and contractor yards/staging areas would also be required for the Project. Additional ancillary facilities and piping, such as mainline valves, cathodic protection, communication facilities, and internal inspection devices (e.g., pig launchers and receivers) will be necessary to support the Project.

Environmental Justice Communities

The analysis identifies potentially impacted areas as census block groups within one mile of Project components. A total of 14 block groups fall within one mile of Project components in Virginia. Four block groups fall within one mile of Compressor Station 165 and another 10 block groups fall within one mile of the Eden Loop pipeline component. Block groups that may be considered EJ communities were identified using both federal methodologies and guidance and those specific to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The federal analysis was conducted consistent with the Council on Environmental Quality's 1997 document, "Environmental Justice Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act," and the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice and NEPA Committee's (FIWG) 2016 publication, "Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews." The federal analysis found that one block group is identified as a minority area only, four block groups are identified as low-income areas only, and two block groups are identified as both a minority and low-income area, for a total of seven block groups identified as EJ communities.

The Virginia analysis was conducted consistent with the Virginia Environmental Justice Act of 2020, draft guidance from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and the Virginia EJScreen+ tool. The Virginia analysis found that five block groups are identified as low-income areas only and four block groups are identified as both low-income areas and communities of color for a total of nine block groups identified as EJ communities.

Three block groups were found to have limited English proficiency.

Table ES1 outlines the findings of the federal and Virginia environmental justice analyses.

Table ES1 Summary of Environmental Justice Determinations under Federal Guidance and The Virginia Environmental Justice Act of 2020				
Guidance	Number of Block Groups ^a			
	Total	Meet Minority or Communities of Color Criteria ^b	Meet Low-Income Criteria ^c	Total EJ Block Groups
Federal	14	3	6	7
Virginia Environmental Justice Act of 2020	14	4	9	9
Difference	0	1	3	2
^a Some block groups meet more than one EJ criteria and are counted in more than one of the Minority and/or Low-Income columns. The values shown in the Total and Total EJ Block Groups columns represent the true totals without double counting. ^b Federal guidance uses the term minority and the Virginia Environmental Justice Act of 2020 uses the term Communities of Color for a similar measure. Criteria differ under Federal guidance and the Virginia Environmental Justice Act of 2020. ^c The criteria for Low-income block groups differ under Federal guidance and the Virginia Environmental Justice Act of 2020.				

Summary of Impacts

During construction activities, communities in the study area may experience short term adverse impacts such as increased traffic from construction workers and equipment, emissions and dust from construction worker vehicles and construction equipment, noise, vibration, or altered viewsheds from the presence of equipment or the removal of trees and other vegetation.

Operational impacts may include altered viewsheds from the removal of trees and other vegetation. At compressor stations, operational impacts may also include noise or vibration although vibrations are expected to be imperceptible at the nearest noise sensitive areas and potential noise changes at the noise sensitive areas surrounding Compressor Station 165 are anticipated to be less than 1 decibel and remain under the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's applicable limit. Visual impacts during operation at Compressor Station 165 in Virginia would be minimized through the use of visual screening and the use of electric motor-driven compressor units would avoid emissions impacts.

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CONTENTS

Executive Summary	i
1 Introduction	1
2 Project Location and Description	1
3 Environmental Justice	3
3.1 Background.....	3
3.1.1 Environmental Justice at the Federal Level	3
3.1.2 Environmental Justice in Virginia	3
3.2 Identifying Environmental Justice Communities Under Federal Criteria	4
3.3 Virginia Environmental Justice Criteria	8
3.4 Limited English Proficiency	12
4 Potential Impacts	14
5 Public Outreach	14
6 References Cited.....	21

Figures

Figure 1. Minority and Low-Income EJ Communities around CS 165 and the Eden Loop (Federal Criteria).....	7
Figure 2. State and Federal EJ Designations around CS 165 and the Eden Loop	11

Tables

Table ES1 Summary of Environmental Justice Determinations under Federal Guidance and The Virginia Environmental Justice Act of 2020.....	ii
Table 1 Minority, Low-Income, and Language Proficiency Statistics within the EJ Analysis Area (2018-2022 Five-Year Estimates).....	5
Table 2 Environmental Justice Determinations under Virginia Criteria (Virginia EJScreen+).....	9
Table 3 Summary of Languages Spoken by LEP Populations within Identified EJ Block Groups.....	13
Table 4 Summary of Project-Specific Outreach in Virginia.....	16

Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACS	American Community Survey
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
EMD	Electric Motor Driven
EJ	Environmental Justice
EO	Executive Order
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FIWG	Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice and NEPA Committee
HP	Horsepower
ISO	International Standardization Organization
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
MP	milepost
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
SSE Project	Southeast Supply Enhancement Project
USCB	United States Census Bureau
VADEQ	Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

1 INTRODUCTION

On behalf of Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Company, LLC (Transco), SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) has prepared this Environmental Justice (EJ) screen for all components associated with the proposed Southeast Supply Enhancement Project (SSE Project) in the Commonwealth of Virginia. This document characterizes the communities surrounding proposed SSE Project facilities with regard to income, race and ethnicity, and English-speaking proficiency in order to identify environmental justice communities and facilitate meaningful engagement and public outreach. Potential impacts on those communities are briefly discussed here and further described and analyzed in subsequent documents.

2 PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The Project is an expansion of Transco's existing natural gas transmission system that will enable Transco to provide 1,596,900 dekatherms per day (Dth/d) of incremental firm transportation capacity to remove pipeline capacity constraints in Zones 4 and 5 and meet growing natural gas-fired power generation, commercial, residential, and industrial demand in the southeast United States. Transco is proposing to collocate the proposed Project within or adjacent to the existing Transco Mainline System to the extent practicable. This collocation design will help reduce the overall operational footprint of the Project, minimizing new disturbances to the extent practicable. The Project will consist of the following components:

Pipeline Facilities

- Approximately **26.8 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline in Pittsylvania County, Virginia (VA)** along with 4.4 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline in Rockingham County, North Carolina (NC), designated as the Eden Loop;
 - Regulator installation in Rockingham County, NC near milepost (MP) 1382.53, designated as the Eden Regulator Station;
 - Approximately 260 feet of 30-inch-diameter pipeline and ancillary valves in Rockingham County, NC, designated as the Dan River Inlet Piping; and
- Approximately 24.1 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline in Guilford, Forsyth, and Davidson Counties, NC, designated as the Salem Loop.

Compression Facilities

- **The addition of two [33,000 horsepower (HP) each] electric motor-driven (EMD) compressor units at Transco's existing Compressor Station 165 located in Pittsylvania County, VA. Compressor Station 165 will be limited to a total incremental output of 45,000 HP, thereby increasing the total certificated station output to 96,930 HP;**
- The addition of one [23,465 International Standardization Organization (ISO) HP] Solar Titan 130 Turbine and two (31,871 ISO HP each) Solar Titan 250 Turbine driven compressor units at Transco's existing Compressor Station 155 located in Davidson County, NC. Compressor Station 155 will have a total incremental output of 87,207 HP, thereby increasing the total certificated station output to 110,709 HP;

- The addition of one (15,900 ISO HP) Solar Mars 100 Turbine driven compressor unit at Transco's existing Compressor Station 150 in Iredell County, NC. Compressor Station 150 will have a total incremental output of 15,900 HP, thereby increasing the total certificated station output to 77,830 HP; and
- The addition of three (33,000 HP each) EMD compressor units at Transco's existing Compressor Station 145 in Cleveland County, NC, to provide the incremental HP required by the Project and accommodate the abandonment (in-place) of three (12,500 HP each) existing EMD Compressor Units. Compressor Station 145 will have a total incremental output of 61,500 HP, thereby increasing the total certificated station output to 99,000 HP.

Facility Modifications

- Modifications to valve controls at existing mainline valve setting MLV-145B21 in Lincoln County, NC;
- Modifications to valve controls at existing mainline valve setting MLV-145B20 in Gaston County, NC;
- Piping modifications at Transco's existing Compressor Station 135 in Anderson County, South Carolina (SC) to make the station bi-directional;
- Piping modifications at Transco's existing Compressor Station 125 in Walton County, Georgia (GA) to make the station bi-directional;
- Regulator installation and piping modifications at Transco's existing Compressor Station 120 in Henry County, GA to make the station bi-directional; and
- Piping modifications at Transco's existing Compressor Station 105 in Coosa County, Alabama (AL) to make the station bi-directional.

As described above, the Project's components in Virginia will fall within Pittsylvania County and will include approximately 26.8 miles of 42-inch-diameter pipeline and increased compression capacity at Transco's existing Compressor Station 165.

The use of existing, improved, and new access roads and contractor yards/staging areas would also be required for the Project. Additional ancillary facilities and piping, such as mainline valves (MLVs), cathodic protection, communication facilities, and internal inspection devices (e.g., pig launchers and receivers) will be necessary to support the Project.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

3.1 Background

This section describes the regulatory framework that guided the EJ screen at the time of its development. A full EJ assessment evaluates the potential for disproportionate and adverse impacts to EJ communities by considering whether members of the EJ communities would be more sensitive to SSE Project-related impacts than the public due to income status, historical exclusion based on race or ethnicity, inability to respond to the action, or increased exposure potential. However, the scope of this EJ screen is limited to identifying EJ communities and summarizing potential impacts that are further described in other documents.

3.1.1 *Environmental Justice at the Federal Level*

In 1994, President Bill Clinton signed Executive Order (EO) 12898, Federal Action to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, which directed federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of agency programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations, known collectively as EJ populations. In 2021, EO 13990, Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis, broadly reaffirmed the importance of EJ and EO 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, updated elements of the EJ assessment process. Issued in 2023, EO 14096, Revitalizing Our Nation’s Commitment to Environmental Justice for All, reiterated a “whole of government approach” to ensure proper attention is paid to EJ issues.

This EJ assessment was conducted consistent with these EOs and related federal guidance. The primary guidance for implementing EJ assessments at the federal level was prepared in response to EO 12898 and outlines the principles for EJ analysis (Council on Environmental Quality [CEQ] 1997). This was supplemented with guidance and methodologies provided in the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice and NEPA Committee’s (FIWG) 2016 publication, “Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA Reviews.”

In January of 2025, President Donald Trump issued a series of EOs which rescind each of these EJ EOs (EO 12898, EO 13990, and EO 14008). Additionally, current guidance related to EJ at the federal level is under review.

3.1.2 *Environmental Justice in Virginia*

In Virginia, EJ requirements are outlined in The Virginia Environmental Justice Act of 2020. The Act states, “it is the policy of the Commonwealth to promote environmental justice and ensure that it is carried out throughout the Commonwealth, with a focus on environmental justice communities and fenceline communities.” This EJ assessment was conducted consistent with this act and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality’s (VADEQ’s) draft guidance for incorporating environmental justice in the permitting process (VADEQ 2023).

3.2 Identifying Environmental Justice Communities Under Federal Criteria

The EJ analysis area within Virginia includes all block groups¹ within one mile of the pipeline loop, valve sites, and their associated workspaces, including contractor yards and within one mile of Compressor Station 165. As such, 14 block groups are included in the analysis area; 4 block groups are within one mile of Compressor Station 165, and 10 block groups² are exclusively within one mile of the pipeline loop, valve sites, and their associated workspaces. The EJ analysis area is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

A one-mile buffer is appropriate for identifying potentially impacted block groups because most SSE Project-related changes (e.g., changes in air quality, noise levels, dust, and traffic) are likely to be observable near the existing facilities and dissipate quickly with distance from the facilities. The one-mile threshold around the pipeline loop, valve sites, workspaces, contractor yards, and Compressor Station 165 was selected for facilities that will not create a long-term increase in noise or emissions.

Table 1 identifies each block group in the EJ analysis area within Virginia and includes several measures relevant to the assessment of EJ. The EJ assessment area includes 14 block groups located in Pittsylvania County, Virginia.

EJ communities are identified based on race or ethnicity, and income. For this study, a low-income person is defined as a person associated with an income at or below the Federal poverty level as reported in Table B17017 of the 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates. A minority person is a person who self-identifies as any race other than “white-alone, not Hispanic” in Table B03002 of the 2023 ACS 5-year estimates.

Consistent with federal guidance reported in CEQ (1997) and recommendations set forth in FIWG (2016), the following criteria were used to characterize block groups with respect to income and race or ethnicity.

- Low-income block groups are identified using the **low-income threshold criteria** method and are defined as those in which the percent of low-income population in the identified block group is equal to or greater than that of the county within which the block group is located.
- Minority block groups are identified using the **50 percent** and the **meaningfully greater analysis** methods and are defined as those in which either: (a) the aggregate minority population of the block groups in the affected area exceeds 50 percent; or (b) the aggregate minority population in the block group affected is 10 percent higher than the aggregate minority population percentage in the county in which the block group is located.

As reported in Table 1 and illustrated in Figure 1, under federal criteria, out of the 14 block groups that make up the EJ analysis area, 1 block group is identified as an EJ community due to race or ethnicity only, 4 block groups are identified as EJ communities due to income only, and 2 block groups are identified as EJ communities due to both income and race or ethnicity.

¹ A Census Block Group is the smallest geographical unit for which the Census Bureau consistently publishes the demographic data needed to identify EJ communities. Block Groups typically have a population of 600 to 3,000 people.

² Block groups within one mile of Compressor Station 165 are also within one mile of the pipeline loop, however, to avoid double counting the block groups are only listed under the EJ analysis area of Compressor Station 165.

Table 1

**Minority, Low-Income, and Language Proficiency Statistics within the EJ Analysis Area
(2018-2022 Five-Year Estimates)**

Block Group Reference Number ^a	Location	Total Population	White Alone (not Hispanic or Latino)	Black or African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	Some other race	Two or more races	Hispanic or Latino	Total Racial Minority ^{b,c}	% Low-Income ^c	% LEP ^d
Compressor Station 165													
N/A	Virginia	8,657,499	59.0%	18.4%	0.1%	6.8%	0.1%	0.5%	4.3%	10.7%	41.0%	10.2%	6.1%
N/A	Pittsylvania County	60,148	73.4%	20.6%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	3.0%	26.6%	16.7%	1.5%
373	Block Group 1, Census Tract 105	587	91.5%	3.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.5%	8.5%	28.7%	2.7%
374	Block Group 1, Census Tract 107	909	16.0%	68.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	15.6%	84.0%	19.3%	5.1%
375	Block Group 2, Census Tract 107	677	71.3%	22.6%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.9%	28.7%	21.9%	0.0%
376	Block Group 1, Census Tract 109	1,079	79.2%	10.8%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.3%	1.7%	20.8%	6.1%	0.0%
Eden Loop													
N/A	Virginia	8,657,499	59.0%	18.4%	0.1%	6.8%	0.1%	0.5%	4.3%	10.7%	41.0%	10.2%	6.1%
N/A	Pittsylvania County	60,148	73.4%	20.6%	0.0%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%	3.0%	26.6%	16.7%	1.5%
405	Block Group 2, Census Tract 105	1,917	71.3%	17.1%	0.0%	0.4%	0.0%	1.3%	3.7%	6.3%	28.7%	21.6%	3.4%
406	Block Group 3, Census Tract 105	2,832	56.1%	40.1%	0.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%	3.2%	43.9%	28.6%	2.3%
407	Block Group 2, Census Tract 109	1,916	72.9%	11.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	13.5%	27.1%	10.9%	10.1%
408	Block Group 1, Census Tract 110.01	1,013	72.7%	21.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	0.0%	27.3%	3.7%	0.0%
409	Block Group 2, Census Tract 110.01	1,027	86.1%	1.5%	0.0%	11.3%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%	0.0%	13.9%	5.9%	6.4%
410	Block Group 1, Census Tract 110.02	1,656	82.4%	12.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.1%	1.8%	17.6%	22.2%	0.0%
411	Block Group 2, Census Tract 110.02	1,245	80.6%	16.5%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.0%	1.4%	19.4%	4.6%	0.7%
412	Block Group 3, Census Tract 110.02	1,192	81.5%	16.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.6%	0.0%	18.5%	9.9%	0.0%
413	Block Group 1, Census Tract 111	1,168	88.3%	1.4%	0.0%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	4.5%	3.6%	11.7%	13.0%	0.5%
414	Block Group 2, Census Tract 111	1,068	57.0%	40.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.1%	0.0%	43.0%	4.2%	0.0%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (2023a, 2023b, and 2023c)

N/A: Not applicable.

^a A reference number is assigned to each block group within the environmental justice assessment area for reporting purposes. These numbers correspond to the Map #s in Figures 1 and 2. Reference numbers were generated for all areas of the Project including areas outside the Virginia EJ assessment area and therefore the number are not necessarily sequential.

^b “Minority” refers to people who self-identify as something other than “White Alone, not Hispanic or Latino”.

^c Low-income and minority populations exceeding the established thresholds are indicated by blue shading.

^d Populations with limited English proficiency (LEP) exceeding the established thresholds are indicated by yellow shading.

Due to rounding differences in the dataset, the totals may not reflect the sum of the addends.

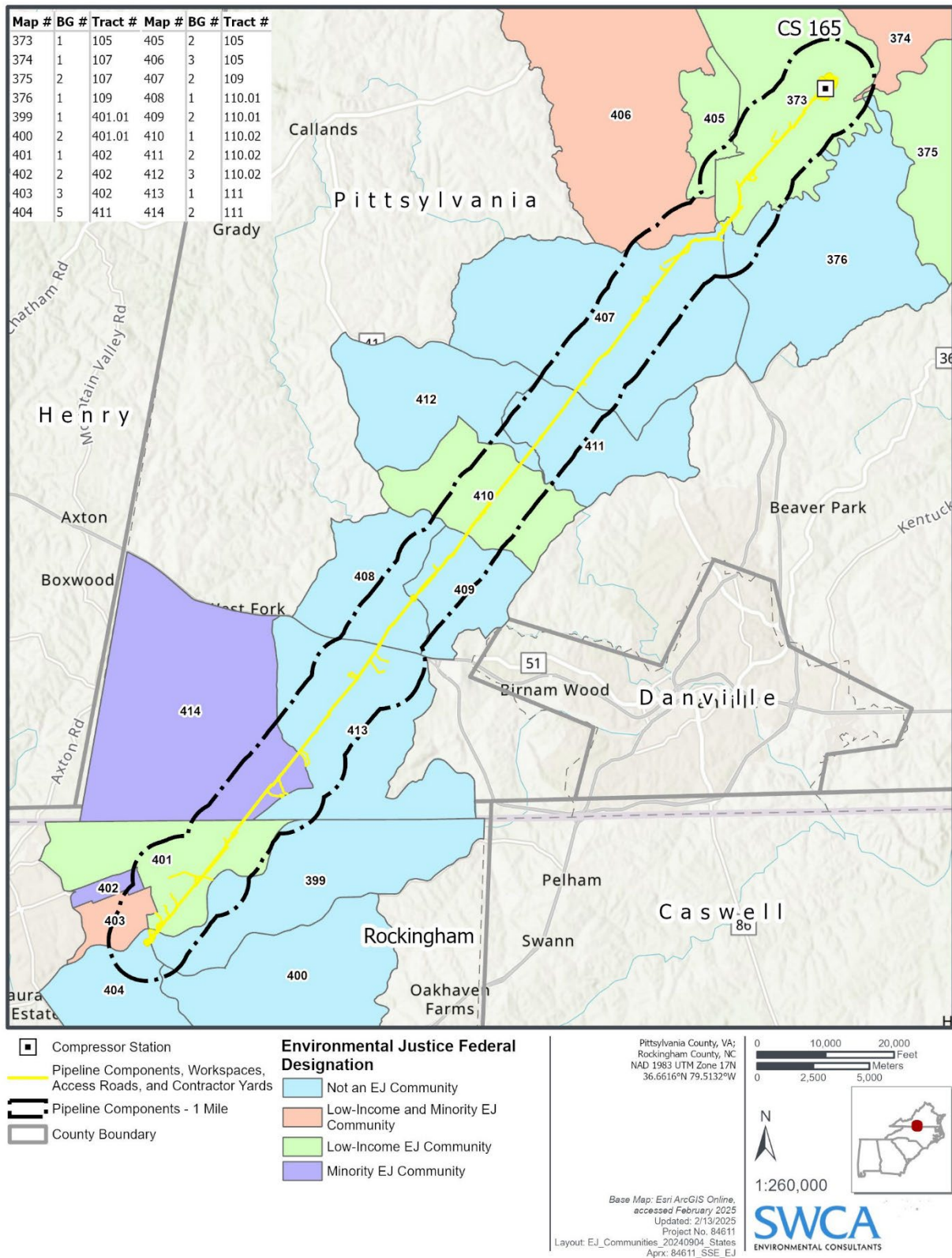


Figure 1. Minority and Low-Income EJ Communities around CS 165 and the Eden Loop (Federal Criteria)

3.3 Virginia Environmental Justice Criteria

The Virginia Environmental Justice Act defines EJ Communities as, “any low-income community or community of color,” and a fenceline community as, “an area that contains all or part of a low-income community or community of color and that presents an increased health risk to its residents due to its proximity to a major source of pollution.” Further, community of color, population of color, low-income, and low-income community are defined as follows:

- **Community of Color:** any geographically distinct area where the population of color, expressed as a percentage of the total population of such area, is higher than the population of color in the Commonwealth expressed as a percentage of the total population of the Commonwealth. However, if a community of color is composed primarily of one of the groups listed in the definition of "population of color," the percentage population of such group in the Commonwealth shall be used instead of the percentage population of color in the Commonwealth.
- **Population of Color:** a population of individuals who identify as belonging to one or more of the following groups: Black, African American, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, other non-white race, mixed race, Hispanic, Latino, or linguistically isolated.
- **Low-Income:** having an annual household income equal to or less than the greater of (i) an amount equal to 80 percent of the median income of the area in which the household is located, as reported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and (ii) 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.
- **Low-Income Community:** any census block group in which 30 percent or more of the population is composed of people with low income.

The VADEQ maintains Virginia EJScreen+, an online mapping tool that presents environmental justice data in the Commonwealth. Virginia EJScreen+ summarizes data per the criteria definitions put forth by The Virginia Environmental Justice Act of 2020. These data are reported in Table 2 for the 14 block groups within the EJ analysis area in Virginia.

Compared to the application of federal criteria for identifying EJ communities, application of the Virginia criteria identified three EJ communities that were identified under federal guidance. One EJ community that was identified under federal guidance was not identified under the Virginia criteria. A comparison of EJ determinations made under Federal guidance and The Virginia Environmental Justice Act of 2020 is illustrated in Figure 2.

Table 2							
Environmental Justice Determinations under Virginia Criteria (Virginia EJScreen+)							
Block Group Reference Number ^a	Location ^b	Total Population	% Population of Color ^{c,d}	% Below HUD 80% AMI ^{d,e}	% Below Twice the Federal Poverty Level ^d	EJ Community under Virginia Environmental Justice Act of 2020?	EJ Community under Federal Criteria?
Compressor Station 165							
N/A	Virginia	8,624,511	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/A	N/A
N/A	Pittsylvania County, Virginia	60,541	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/A	N/A
373	Block Group 1, Census Tract 105	800	N/R	N/R	N/R	No	Yes
374	Block Group 1, Census Tract 107	848	62.1%	47.2%	41.6%	Yes	Yes
375	Block Group 2, Census Tract 107	748	38.3%	41.4%	33.6%	Yes	Yes
376	Block Group 1, Census Tract 109	1,028	N/R	N/R	N/R	No	No
Eden Loop							
N/A	Virginia	8,624,511	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/A	N/A
N/A	Pittsylvania County, Virginia	60,541	N/R	N/R	N/R	N/A	N/A
405	Block Group 2, Census Tract 105	2,110	N/R	40.8%	34.0%	Yes	Yes
406	Block Group 3, Census Tract 105	2,542	49.0%	43.7%	53.1%	Yes	Yes
407	Block Group 2, Census Tract 109	1,907	N/R	40.1%	38.4%	Yes	No
408	Block Group 1, Census Tract 110.01	837	N/R	36.8%	33.8%	Yes	No
409	Block Group 2, Census Tract 110.01	951	N/R	N/R	N/R	No	No
410	Block Group 1, Census Tract 110.02	1,480	N/R	50.6%	40.7%	Yes	Yes

Block Group Reference Number ^a	Location ^b	Total Population	% Population of Color ^{c,d}	% Below HUD 80% AMI ^{d,e}	% Below Twice the Federal Poverty Level ^d	EJ Community under Virginia Environmental Justice Act of 2020?	EJ Community under Federal Criteria?
411	Block Group 2, Census Tract 110.02	1,430	N/R	N/R	N/R	No	No
412	Block Group 3, Census Tract 110.02	1,372	N/R	N/R	N/R	No	No
413	Block Group 1, Census Tract 111	1,368	N/R	48.5%	52.3%	Yes	No
414	Block Group 2, Census Tract 111	926	66.5%	38.3%	43.2%	Yes	Yes

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (2023a), VADEQ (2025)
N/A: Not applicable.
N/R: Not reported.

^a A reference number is assigned to each block group within the environmental justice assessment area for reporting purposes. These numbers correspond to the Map #s in Figures 1 through 18.

^b The U.S. Census Bureau updates geographic boundaries of census tracts and block groups occasionally. Some block groups in the study area were adjusted at the time of the 2020 decennial census, however, as of the time this report was produced the Virginia EJScreen+ tool was using geographic boundaries and data from prior to this change. For consistency block groups correspond to the most recent geographic boundaries, but the block group numbers may not correspond to the block group numbers reported in the Virginia EJScreen+ tool.

^c "Population of Color" is defined by the Virginia Environmental Justice Act of 2020 as "a population of individuals who identify as belonging to one or more of the following groups: Black, African American, Asian, Pacific Islander, Native American, other non-white race, mixed race, Hispanic, Latino, or linguistically isolated."

^d Low-income Communities and Communities of Color exceeding the established thresholds are indicated by blue shading.

^e HUD 80% AMI refers to an annual household income equal to or less 80 percent of the median income of the area in which the household is located, as reported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Due to rounding differences in the dataset, the totals may not reflect the sum of the addends.

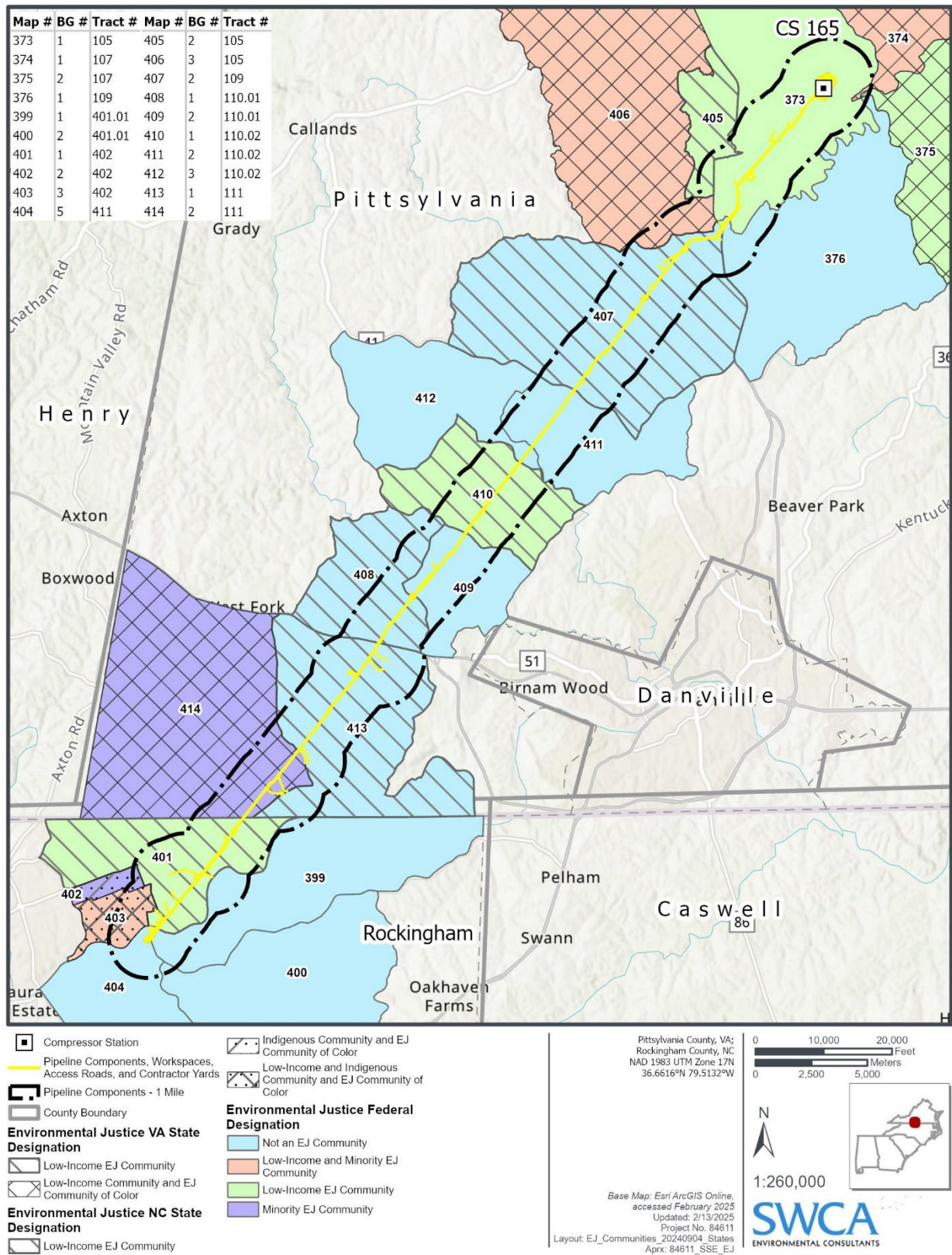


Figure 2. State and Federal EJ Designations around CS 165 and the Eden Loop

3.4 Limited English Proficiency

Table 1 also presents the proportion of persons in each block group who have limited English proficiency (LEP), which can be used to inform public outreach efforts and engagement opportunities. For this analysis, a person with LEP is defined as a person aged 5 or older who is reported in Table B16004 of the 2023 ACS 5-year estimates as speaking English “less than very well.” LEP block groups are defined as those in which the percentage of the block group’s population (aged 5 or older) that self-identify as speaking English “less than very well” exceeds 5 percent, or the number of persons (aged 5 or older) that self-identify as speaking English “less than very well” exceeds 1,000³. A total of 3 block groups in the EJ analysis area are identified as containing populations with LEP. Of these 3 block groups, 1 block group is identified as both a Virginia and federally defined EJ community and containing LEP populations and 1 block group is identified as a Virginia defined EJ community but not a federally defined EJ community and containing LEP populations. It is likely that the primary language among individuals in this area who report LEP is Spanish (USCB 2023d)⁴. Table 3 summarizes the languages spoken by LEP communities within census tracts that have been identified as containing EJ block groups using state and federal criteria. Fact sheets that were translated into non-English languages for use in public outreach efforts are included as an attachment to this report.

³ Thresholds for identifying limited English proficiency block groups are not well defined. This analysis uses the Safe Harbor methods described by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s (2005), “Policy Guidance Concerning Recipients’ Responsibilities to Limited English Proficient (LEP) Persons,” as a conservative estimate of identifying LEP communities.

⁴ Table B16004 of the 2023 ACS 5-year estimates (USCB 2023c) reports language data at the block group level; however, the language categories are very broad (i.e., one category is “Asian and Pacific Island languages”). Table C16001 of the 2023 ACS 5-year estimates (USCB 2023d) reports language data with more specific language categories at the census tract and county levels. The likely predominant non-English languages for block groups with LEP populations were determined by cross referencing Table B16004 with Table C16001.

Table 3

Summary of Languages Spoken by LEP Populations within Identified EJ Block Groups

Block Group Reference Number ^a	Block Group	Virginia EJ	Federal EJ	LEP (%)	Predominant Language(s) for LEP Population ^b
Compressor Station 165					
N/A	Virginia	N/A	N/A	6.1%	N/R
N/A	Pittsylvania County	N/A	N/A	1.5%	N/R
374	Block Group 1, Census Tract 107	Yes	Yes	5.1%	Spanish
Eden Loop					
N/A	Virginia	N/A	N/A	6.1%	N/A
N/A	Pittsylvania County	N/A	N/A	1.5%	N/A
407	Block Group 2, Census Tract 109	Yes	No	10.1%	Spanish
<p>Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (2023c and 2023d)</p> <p>N/A: Not applicable.</p> <p>N/R: Not reported.</p> <p>^a A reference number is assigned to each block group within the environmental justice assessment area for reporting purposes. These numbers correspond to the Map #s in Figures 1 through 11.</p> <p>^b Predominant language is determined at the census tract level. Languages are listed in order of the percent of the LEP population that speaks them, from largest to smallest. All languages for which the LEP population is greater than 2.0% of the census tract's population were included. Where no language's LEP population exceeded 2.0% of the census tract's population, the predominant LEP language was selected as the language spoken by the highest proportion of the LEP population.</p>					

4 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

A full review of the adverse impacts identified throughout the resource reports in the Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience along with an assessment of the potential for disproportionate impacts on EJ communities is included in the application submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and is available on their eLibrary at <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search> (FERC Docket CP25-10, Accession No 20241029-5076, PUB_025_Vol1_Transco_SSE_RR05). Conclusions from the review are discussed here.

During construction activities, communities in the study area may experience adverse impacts such as increased traffic from construction workers and equipment, emissions and dust from construction worker vehicles and construction equipment, noise, vibration, or altered viewsheds from the presence of equipment or the removal of trees and other vegetation. Additional traffic impacts may occur in locations where pipelines cross roads. Additional noise impacts may occur at entry and exit points for horizontal directional drilling locations. Horizontal directional drilling locations in Virginia include the crossings of the Sandy River and the Bannister River. The crossing of the Sandy River would not occur in an EJ community and sound mitigation measures ensure the modeled noise levels are below the applicable federal sound limits. The Banister River horizontal directional drilling site is located within an EJ community. The nearest noise sensitive area is a residence 1,500 feet northeast of the entry site and is located adjacent to Highway 29. Existing ambient sound levels at the residence are characterized by heavy traffic on the highway and modeled noise from the horizontal directional drilling operations would be minor and fall below applicable federal sound limits. Short term positive economic effects including potential employment opportunities, increased spending in local economies, and increased tax revenues would also be expected during construction.

During operation of Compressor Station 165 in Virginia, visual impacts will be mitigated through the implementation of visual screening, changes to noise during operation are not expected to be perceptible and would be below 55 dBA following construction, and the use of EMD compressor units would not lead to significant air quality impacts from baseline. At the remaining Project facilities, changes related to visual resources, socioeconomics, transportation, air quality, noise quality, and public health would not represent disproportionately high and adverse impacts to EJ communities.

5 PUBLIC OUTREACH

Public outreach is a key component of EJ. Public outreach is used to further identify potentially impacted communities and to seek input from communities that have already been identified. Transco has initiated an extensive public outreach effort throughout the entire Project area including specific efforts in Virginia. The identification of EJ communities potentially impacted by the Project has aided in the identification of EJ stakeholders. The comprehensive stakeholder outreach plan is included in the application submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and is available on their eLibrary at <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search> (FERC Docket CP25-10, Accession No 20241029-5076, PUB_004_Vol1_Transco_SSE_RR01).

Transco's Outreach team has engaged stakeholders, and will continue to do so, to provide information that enhances their understanding of the Project scope and the opportunities for public engagement. Outreach will continue to provide updates throughout the permitting process and will attempt to alleviate concerns that may exist among stakeholder groups. During Transco's engagement of external stakeholders, Outreach

is mindful of non-English speakers and Project information has been translated to relevant languages to ensure there are no barriers to information as we engage community members.

An in-person open house meeting was held on March 6, 2024 in Chatham, Virginia in Pittsylvania County. At the open house there was Project-specific information such as maps, fact sheets, and other resources available for distribution and discussion. Additionally, a Project virtual open house was held online on March 18, 2024.

Transco has held several other Project-specific meetings in Virginia to share information and answer questions about the Project. A list of Project-specific meetings held in Virginia and concerns discussed during the meetings are presented in Table 4. As noted in Section 4, fact sheets that were translated into non-English languages for use in public outreach efforts are included as an attachment to this report.

Table 4

Summary of Project-Specific Outreach in Virginia

Date	Component	Stakeholder	Project-Related Concerns Identified
1/30/24	Eden Loop	The Wendell Scott Foundation	Project Concerns: None Identified at this time
1/31/24	Eden Loop	Pittsylvania County NAACP	Project Concerns: None Identified at this time
1/31/24	Eden Loop	Mt. Hermon Fire & Rescue	Project Concerns: None Identified at this time
4/16/24	Compressor Station 165	Landowner near Compressor Station 165	<p>Project Concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compressor Station Noise • Environmental Concerns • Property Values <p>Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project will meet FERC required 55 dBA Ldn sound levels at the nearest NSA's. • At Station 165, Transco was evaluating both turbines and Electric Motor Driven (EMD) compressor units at the time of this meeting. • Transco will adhere to the applicable state and federal permit conditions. • Transco acknowledges that it is reasonable to expect that property values may be impacted differently based on the setting and inherent characteristics of each property. However, based on the research Transco has reviewed, Transco finds no conclusive evidence indicating that natural gas pipeline easements or compressor stations would have a significant negative impact on property values.
4/19/24	Eden Loop	Virginia Humanities	<p>Project Concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Community Outreach in EJ communities <p>Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transco will follow Project-specific plans and procedures to construct in a manner that minimizes impacts to resources

Table 4 Summary of Project-Specific Outreach in Virginia			
Date	Component	Stakeholder	Project-Related Concerns Identified
			<p>and communities. These plans are submitted to the FERC and other agencies to evaluate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At Station 165, Transco was evaluating both turbines and EMD compressor units at the time of this meeting. Transco will adhere to the applicable state and federal permit conditions. Transco has hosted open houses and will continue to engage in the community and seek feedback from local stakeholders, including EJ communities.
4/19/24	Compressor Station 165	Friendship Missionary Baptist Church	<p>Project Concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health Environmental Concerns Economic impact on the community <p>Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transco will follow Project-specific plans and procedures to construct in a manner that minimizes impacts to resources and communities. These plans are submitted to the FERC and other agencies to evaluate. Transco will adhere to the applicable state and federal permit conditions. The Project will bring an influx of economic activities with the presence of construction crews. Our estimates anticipate a one-time tax windfall of over \$1.5 million to Pittsylvania County and over \$15 million for the State, in addition to \$900,000 of annual tax revenue for Pittsylvania County.
6/5/24	Compressor Station 165	Landowner near Compressor Station 165	<p>Follow-up Meeting (to 4/16/24 meeting):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transco's communicated the intent to use EMD compression at Compressor Station 165.

Table 4

Summary of Project-Specific Outreach in Virginia

Date	Component	Stakeholder	Project-Related Concerns Identified
6/10/24	Eden Loop/Compressor Station 165	Pittsylvania/Danville Chamber of Commerce	Project Concerns: None Identified at this time
6/11/24	Eden Loop/ Compressor Station 165	Pittsylvania County Farm Bureau	Project Concerns: None Identified at this time
7/3/24	Eden Loop	The Stayhood Foundation – Bryant Hood	Project Concerns: None Identified at this time
7/22/24	Compressor Station 165/Eden Loop	River District Association	Project Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local economic impact Response: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transco communicated an anticipated positive economic impact due to increased hotel and housing accommodations, and enhanced patronage of local restaurants.
8/2/24	Compressor Station 165/Eden Loop	Virginia State NAACP	Project Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic impact Response: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transco communicated an anticipated positive economic impact due to increased hotel and housing accommodations, and enhanced patronage of local restaurants.
8/7/24	Compressor Station 165/Eden Loop	Pastor Antonio Logan, Greater Triumph Missionary Baptist Church	Project Concerns: None Identified at this time
9/24/24	Compressor Station 165/Eden Loop	Landowner near Compressor Station 165	Follow-up Meeting (to 6/5/24 meeting): Project Concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise at compressor station Response:

Table 4

Summary of Project-Specific Outreach in Virginia

Date	Component	Stakeholder	Project-Related Concerns Identified
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project will meet FERC required 55 dBA Ldn sound levels at the nearest NSA's.
10/28/24	Compressor Station 165	Member of the Pittsylvania County School Board	<p>Project Concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholders inquired about diversity and inclusion initiatives at our compressor station in the county, as well as the potential tax benefits associated with the project efforts. <p>Response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provided stakeholders with SSE project information, economic impact, and William's sustainability report.
1/17/25	Compressor Station 165/Eden Loop	The Wendell Scott Foundation	Project Concerns: None Identified at this time Follow-up to provide SSE project update
1/17/25	Compressor Station 165/Eden Loop	Pittsylvania/Danville Chamber of Commerce	Project Concerns: None Identified at this time Follow-up to provide SSE project update
1/17/25	Compressor Station 165/Eden Loop	The Stay Hood Foundation	Project Concerns: None Identified at this time Follow-up to provide SSE project update
1/17/25	Compressor Station 165/Eden Loop	School Board of Pittsylvania County	Project Concerns: None Identified at this time Follow-up to provide SSE project update
1/17/25	Compressor Station 165/Eden Loop	Greater Triumph Missionary Baptist Church	Project Concerns: None Identified at this time Follow-up to provide SSE project update
1/21/25	Compressor Station 165/Eden Loop	Stay Hood Foundation	Follow-up Meeting (to 7/3/24 meeting): Project Concerns: None Identified at this time
1/21/25	Compressor Station 165/Eden Loop	Danville Church and Community Tutorial Program	Project Concerns: None Identified at this time
1/21/25	Compressor Station 165/Eden Loop	1 Dream One Team	Project Concerns: None Identified at this time
2/05/25	Compressor Station 165/Eden Loop	Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, INC. Rho Iota Chapter	Project Concerns: None Identified at this time

Table 4 Summary of Project-Specific Outreach in Virginia			
Date	Component	Stakeholder	Project-Related Concerns Identified
2/05/25	Compressor Station 165/Eden Loop	The River District Association	Project Concerns: None Identified at this time Follow-up to provide SSE project update

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