

SAY NO TO NEW COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT IN SW VIRGINIA!

During the 2004 Virginia General Assembly Session, the electric deregulation bill was amended to include the possibility for a new coal-fired power plant to be located in SW Virginia. A timetable was not included. On Feb. 24, 2005, five electric utilities announced they had formed a consortium to explore the development of this power plant. This consortium is led by Dominion Power and includes Appalachian Electric Power, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, Virginia Municipal Electric Association and the



Blue Ridge Power Agency. The new plant would cost around \$1 billion. This 500 – 600 MW power plant would utilize circulating fluidized bed (CFB) combustion. While coal would be the primary fuel source, the plant could be adapted to use biomass, waste wood and waste coal. Construction is estimated to begin in 2008 with operation expected to begin in 2012. **The Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality received the air permit application on July 7, 2006. The Virginia State Corporation Commission has scheduled a “pre-issues” hearing for Oct. 17, 2006 at the SCC office. Public comments will be accepted by SCC until Sept. 18, 2006. Send to Clerk of the Commission, Document Control Center, POB 2118, Richmond, VA 23218.**

- **Wise County site selected** – In May 2006, officials selected a site just off ALT 58 near St. Paul in SE Wise County.
- **Higher Electric bills** - There is no financial risk to the utility company because citizens and businesses will have to pick up the tab. The consortium that constructs this new plant will be able to recover the construction and infrastructure costs from ratepayers while reaping all the profits.
- **May use very little Virginia coal** - There is no percentage requirement for the amount of Virginia coal to be used.
- **Power may be used outside of Virginia** - There is no guarantee that the power will be used in Virginia.
- **Pollution will increase** - Regardless whether this is a regular coal-fired power plant or a so-called “clean coal” facility, air and water pollution will increase.
- **Coal extraction problems** - Massive coal extraction techniques destroy forests, surface and ground waters, and intensifies flooding.
- **Will not reduce pollution sources** - This new power plant will not replace any of the old coal-fired power plants in Virginia.
- **Does not have to be built** - There is no requirement that this plant has to be built.
- **Already suffering from pollution impacts** - Virginia does not need to burden our air and the health of our citizens and environment with yet another source of fossil fuel pollution. Our Virginia mountains, from the Shenandoah to Mt Rogers, are already feeling the effects of acid deposition in tree death and stream acidification. Federal efforts to ease restrictions on mercury and other contaminants and weaken the Clean Air Act will only make the situation worse.
- **The energy is not needed** – Projections show Virginia does not need the energy from more power plants, and we definitely do not need more coal or fossil fuel plants.

What you can do

- Express your views with others
- Submit comments to VA DEQ and VA SCC
- Write letters-to-the-editor of your local newspaper
- Keep informed on the issue

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BLUE RIDGE ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE LEAGUE

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