

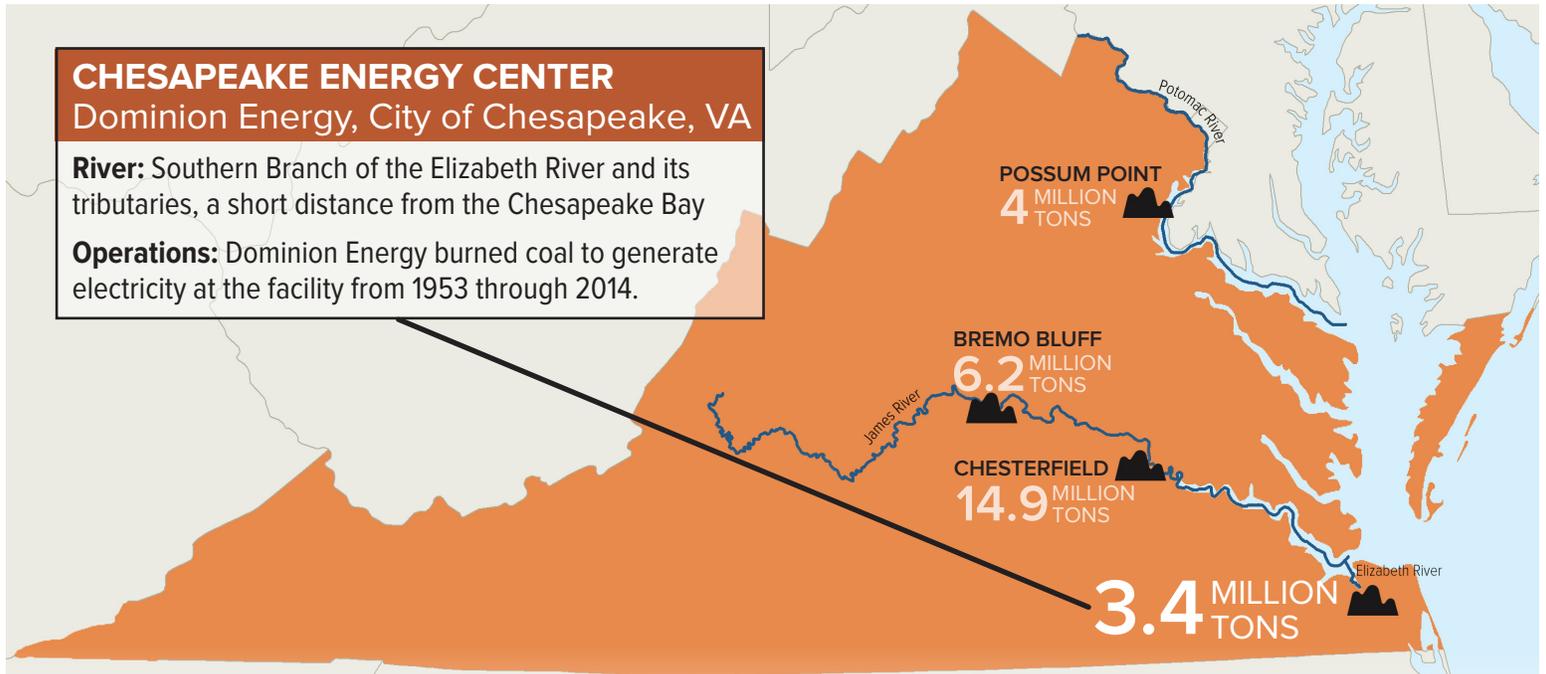
DOMINION PUTTING VIRGINIA AT RISK

CHESAPEAKE ENERGY CENTER

Dominion Energy, City of Chesapeake, VA

River: Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River and its tributaries, a short distance from the Chesapeake Bay

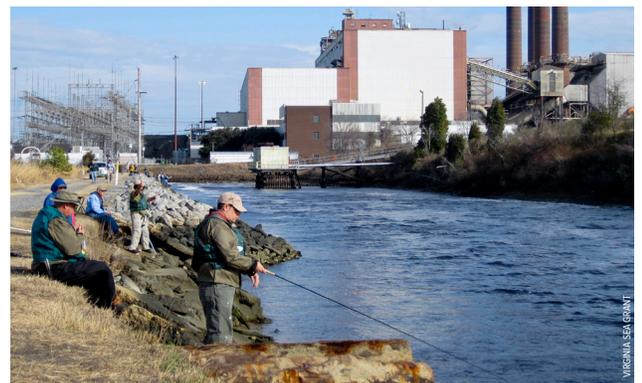
Operations: Dominion Energy burned coal to generate electricity at the facility from 1953 through 2014.



Ash storage: More than 3.3 million tons of coal ash is stored on a peninsula—a former marsh—surrounded by the Southern Branch of the Elizabeth River, Deep Creek, and a man-made channel. About 2.1 million tons of the ash is stored in unlined lagoons extending the length of the peninsula. Most of the remaining ash is stored in an ash landfill constructed directly on top of a portion of the unlined lagoons.

- **Coal ash is full of heavy metals and carcinogens.** At the Chesapeake site in particular, the coal ash contains approximately 150 tons of arsenic.
- **The pollution isn't contained.** A federal judge has already determined that Dominion Energy's coal ash storage at the Chesapeake site is polluting the surrounding waterways with arsenic. Arsenic from the ash is contaminating the groundwater, which then flows directly into the surrounding waterways. Much of the ash in the unlined lagoons sits up to six feet below sea level and is continually saturated with groundwater.
- **Communities and waterways at risk.** Monitoring data over more than 30 years shows persistent, high levels of arsenic in the groundwater—in some instances, these levels are as much as 100 times the groundwater protection standard. Leaving this ash in place with only a liner on top will not stop the pollution. In fact, the federal judge described this plan as “not an acceptable solution here.”
- **Vulnerable to hurricanes, storm surges, and sea-level rise.** The millions of tons of coal ash at the site is a serious concern for the City of Chesapeake. Dominion Energy's site is particularly vulnerable to hurricanes, storm surge, and daily tidal erosion, posing a potential risk of catastrophic failure. The site sits on a former marsh surrounded by water on three sides. By 2100, sea levels in this area are projected to rise 5 to 7 feet above 2000 levels under a moderate scenario.

Leaving coal ash in unlined lagoons is not acceptable. To deal effectively with this toxic legacy, the ash must be dug up. It then must be placed in a modern, lined landfill away from waterways or sold for use in concrete and cement. This approach has already proven to be environmentally beneficial and cost-effective in other Southeastern states and can work in Virginia with additional benefits such as creating local jobs, generating tax revenue, and improving property values.



For more information, visit: vcnva.org/coalash/