

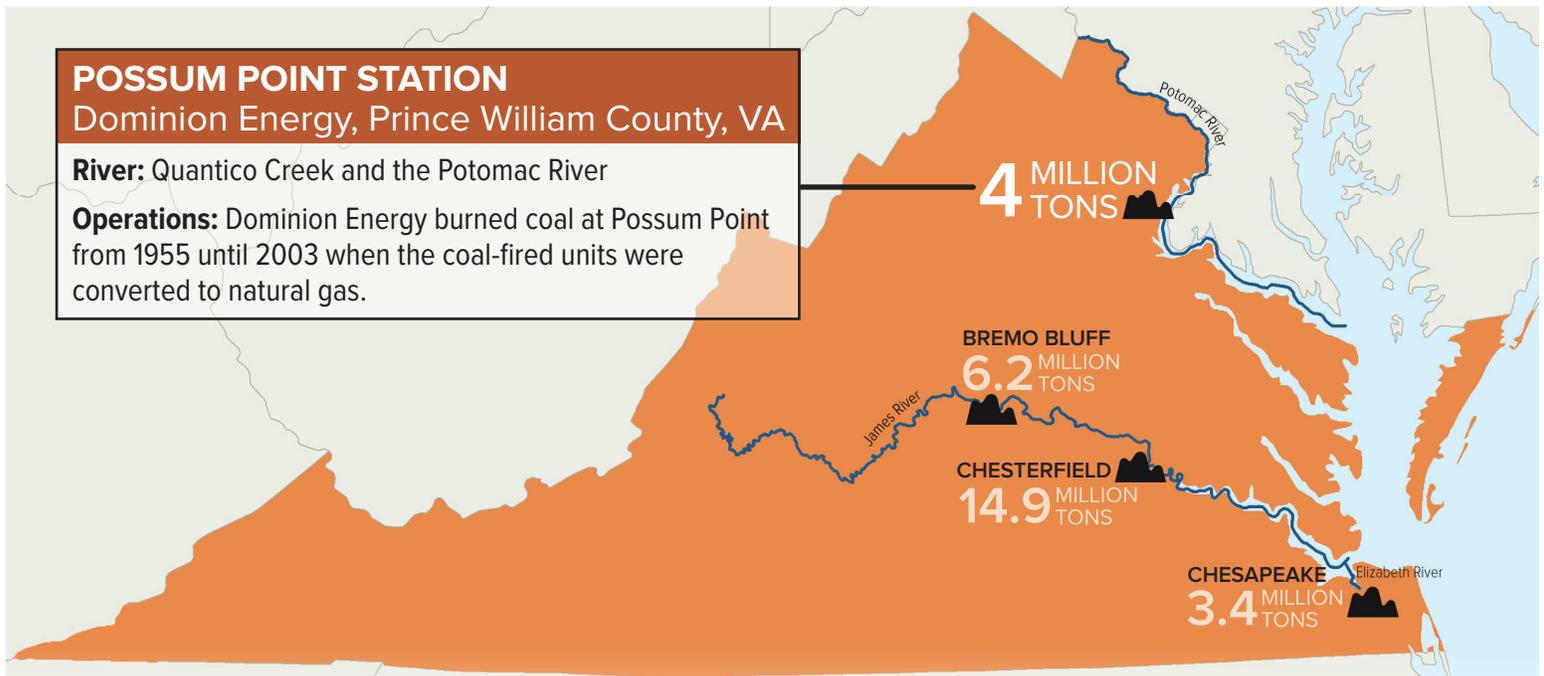
DOMINION PUTTING VIRGINIA AT RISK

POSSUM POINT STATION

Dominion Energy, Prince William County, VA

River: Quantico Creek and the Potomac River

Operations: Dominion Energy burned coal at Possum Point from 1955 until 2003 when the coal-fired units were converted to natural gas.



Ash storage: Dominion Energy dumped about 4 million tons of toxic coal ash into five unlined pits on site, three of which are in the floodplain and all of which are located within a mile of private homes. Dominion Energy is moving all of the ash from the older ponds into Pond D, which was constructed by creating an earthen dam across a natural creek valley and which lacks a modern liner system. A modern lined landfill has an impermeable liner, a leachate collection and treatment system and groundwater monitoring, all of which ensure that no toxic coal ash metals leak into the ground or our waterways. After consolidation is complete, Dominion Energy plans to leave the ash sitting in Pond D, perched above Quantico Creek with a thin cover installed on top.

- **Coal ash is full of heavy metals and carcinogens.** At the Possum Point site, Dominion Energy's own monitoring confirms that the coal ash has contaminated the groundwater with pollutants, including arsenic and radium. Dominion has disclosed a formal exceedance of the groundwater protection standard for cobalt and lithium.
- **The pollution isn't contained.** According to expert hydrogeologists, and through Dominion's regulatory filings, groundwater is flowing through Pond D. The contaminated groundwater is leaching toxic coal ash metals into Quantico Creek and the Potomac River.
- **Communities, drinking water supplies, and the Potomac River at risk.** Burying the ash in place with a thin cover on top will not protect human health or the environment; groundwater will continue to flow through Pond D. Nearby residents are already concerned about spreading contamination, with private well testing showing elevated levels of lead and other metals. Additionally, in 2015, Dominion drained 27.5 million gallons of untreated coal ash pond water directly into Quantico Creek.
- **Vulnerable to hurricanes and strong rains.** Earthen dams, like the one at Possum Point, can fail. These risks are multiplied during heavy rainfall events like Hurricane Florence. Intense rains increase pressure on dams and can lead to structural failure.

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/