

My name is Donny Williams. I'm the full-time organizer for We Are Cove Point, and I live in Lusby, Maryland.

My entire adult life, I've fought the worst of what industry was doing to ecosystems around this continent. I've fought old-growth timber sales, genetically modified organisms, mountaintop removal coal mining, desecration of sacred indigenous lands, copper mines, you name it.

In the spring of 2012, some friends and I learned that Dominion planned to build a massive liquefied natural gas export terminal in Southern Maryland, where I was from. For the first time, my home, where my family lived, where I grew up, was under attack. I decided to do everything I could to stop this terminal.

Dominion Cove Point is, in many ways, the centerpiece of the gas infrastructure build-out the mid-Atlantic is experiencing. When this was being permitted, exports were seen as the way to fund entire industries in the US, be they coal or natural gas. The biggest profits could be made through international sales, and export terminals are what get these goods on tankers. A dense web of pipelines and compressor stations was proposed to feed the gas to export terminals on the coast. Since then, the economics have changed, but Dominion is stubbornly continuing to build this terminal to show the world that it can — and FERC has blurred and hidden the facts to help Dominion at every step along the way.

I want to focus on two major grievances.

FERC accepted Dominion's wildly misleading population synopsis of southern Calvert County, where the export terminal would be located. Only 2,368 people in Solomons and 2,538 people in Prince Frederick were mentioned, leaving out the remaining 39,732 people living between the two. The biggest omission was the 20,483 people in Lusby. *The town the export terminal would be built in is by far the most crowded part of Calvert County, and it was completely left out of Dominion's description of the area!*

LNG terminals are supposed to be remotely sited. There is no other place in the world where an LNG terminal exists in such a densely populated area. However, this terminal is literally across the street from houses; nestled into a neighborhood; surrounded by 2,365 homes, 19 daycare centers, three churches, two schools and two shopping centers all within two miles.

FERC was made incredibly aware of Dominion's inaccuracies, and it didn't care. The permits were issued anyway.

The other grievance I want to address is FERC's implementation of the National Fire Protection Association's guideline 59A. This guideline was created to establish federally recognized safety standards for LNG terminals. Every few years, a new

version of NFPA 59A is approved that incorporates lessons learned by the industry in order to make these facilities safer.

FERC has allowed Dominion to use the 2001 NFPA 59A, which was written at a time when LNG export terminals didn't exist in the US. Among the things the 2001 version does not require is a mandatory quantitative risk assessment. A QRA takes a thorough look at what could go wrong with the project's infrastructure and determines appropriate emergency responses. Every version of NFPA 59A since 2013 requires a QRA for these volatile facilities. Additionally, 2013 and later versions "include the calculation of risks to persons outside the boundary of an LNG plant, arising from potential releases of LNG and other hazardous substances stored, transferred, or handled in the plant," and are also "applicable to ... existing facilities where significant modifications and improvements are proposed." Obviously, all of this is critically important for an export terminal sitting in a town of more than 20,000, but FERC refuses to make Dominion use a modern and appropriate version of NFPA 59A.

In 2006, the nuclear plant three miles away got the state to conduct a QRA on Dominion's then-import terminal. It concluded that more than 1,000 people living nearest to the facility faced a constant risk of being consumed by a flash fire at any moment. How many people risk being consumed by a flash fire now that a full-scale power plant and liquefaction train — with its 410,000 gallons of stored propane — are being added to billions of cubic feet of LNG on site? We don't know, because FERC won't make Dominion do a QRA. An explosion already occurred at this exact terminal in 1979 that killed a worker, critically injured a second, destroyed buildings and led to changes in the nation's electric code. Fatal explosions have also occurred at other LNG export terminals and Dominion facilities. This isn't hypothetical. FERC is putting thousands of lives on the line to move this project forward.

We're doing all we can to shut this dangerous project down before it gets started. Dominion says it has nearly a year of construction left, and we're hearing rumors of major delays past that. There are numerous paths that could lead to construction being stopped and people's lives being protected — in Calvert County and everywhere infrastructure would be built to feed this monster. However, FERC has consistently shown no interest in taking public safety seriously. FERC has made it clear that its top priority is the unfettered churn of business, peoples' health and safety be damned. For these reasons and many more, I firmly condemn FERC's handling of this project, and I'm honored to give this testimony today.

Thank you.