

# Virginia's Largest Coal-Burning Power Plant

Old Dominion Electric Cooperative has proposed plans to construct a 1,500-megawatt coal-burning power plant just 35 miles from the Chesapeake Bay. It would spew over 110,000 pounds of toxic emissions *daily*. Pollutants including lead, mercury and nitrogen would damage public health and sensitive oyster and crab spawning grounds, and undermine renewed efforts to restore the Bay.



**This would be the largest coal plant in the state – the equivalent of putting 2 million more cars on our roads.** It would require 26-48 million gallons of water *daily* from the James River, and would dispense mercury, lead and other harmful pollutants into our water and air.

## **Economic Impacts:**

The plant would cost customers \$6 billion. Other economic development in the region could be stifled as a result of poor air quality and nonattainment designations. In the past decade, over 150 coal plants have been cancelled, delayed or rejected in the United States, largely due to increased financial risks.

## **Health:**

This plant would become the largest coal-burning power plant in Virginia, resulting in 110,000 pounds of toxic emissions and nearly 60 tons of poisonous coal ash *every day*. Emissions would include:

### **LEAD**

A toxic metal that causes a range of health impacts, from behavioral problems and learning disabilities, to seizures and death. This plant would pollute 920 pounds per year.

### **CO<sub>2</sub>**

Carbon dioxide is the leading cause of global warming. The proposed plant would emit 11.6 million tons of carbon dioxide per year – the equivalent of adding 2 million new cars to the road annually.

### **AIR QUALITY**

Particulate matter, NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>x</sub>: Worsens asthma, decreases lung function, and contributes to heart problems, low birth weight and premature death. Particulate matter under 2.5 microns affects children and elderly disproportionately; contributes to heart disease, premature birth, airway obstruction and SIDS.

### **MERCURY**

Powerful nerve toxin, extremely persistent in nature. Causes brain damage, mental retardation and blindness. Distance to the Chesapeake Bay (about 35 miles) will cause more harm to the fragile region.

## **Environment:**



**CROP FAILURE:** Pollution from coal-burning power plants adversely affects soil and water quality. NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub> cause acid rain and smog, lowering the pH level of affected soil. Ozone created by the plant can drastically reduce crop yield, particularly in soybeans.

**SOLUTIONS:** Virginia has ZERO need for new power plants. A study released by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy reports that by implementing cost-effective energy efficiency programs available today, the Commonwealth would not need any new generation for the next 15 years. Investments in wind, solar, and other renewable technology show great promise in Virginia, and the state has an opportunity to become a national leader in clean energy technology.

To learn more about the harmful economic and environmental impacts of coal, visit [www.WiseEnergyForVirginia.org](http://www.WiseEnergyForVirginia.org)



# **Get the Facts: How Is Your Co-op Spending Your \$\$?**

Members of electric cooperatives throughout the nation are seeking ways to revitalize the principles of democracy, accountability to members, and support for rural economic development in their service territories, while advancing their co-op as a vital part of a sustainable energy future.

Electric cooperative members are owners as well as customers, and therefore can influence the generation decisions made by their utility company, unlike customers of private utility companies. **You have a voice in the decisions your co-op makes.**

**Do you want Virginia's largest coal plant built on your dime?  
TALK TO YOUR CO-OP TODAY!**



**Call your cooperative and voice your concerns about the Cypress Creek Coal Plant -**

**Call Kent Farmer at REC: (540) 891-5815**

**Call Greg White at NNEC: (804) 333-3621**

Other options: Energy efficiency and renewable energy are available alternatives that could provide for all of the cooperative's energy needs and save members money compared to the Cypress Creek proposal. Saddling members with a \$6 billion power plant is not the only option.

*Did you know?*

**Few banks will finance coal-burning power plants today, due to increasing financial risks including lower demand projections and increasing costs.**

A study conducted by Synapse Energy Economics, Inc. concluded that saddling REC, NNEC and other member co-ops with the costs of a new coal plant would be economically harmful to the Commonwealth.

*"Investing in a massive coal-burning power plant at this time would expose Old Dominion Electric Cooperative ratepayers to great financial risk. In addition to the uncertainty of these economic times, there are great uncertainties related to the high costs of operating and constructing a coal-burning power plant<sup>1</sup>."*

## **Get Involved!**

**A Better REC:** (540) 987-0548 or [ABetterREC@gmail.com](mailto:ABetterREC@gmail.com)

**A Better NNEC:** (804) 372-7187 or [ABetterNNEC@gmail.com](mailto:ABetterNNEC@gmail.com)

**For more information, visit:** [www.wiseenergyforvirginia.org/surrycoalinfo](http://www.wiseenergyforvirginia.org/surrycoalinfo)

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<sup>1</sup> Synapse Energy Economics, Inc., "The Financial Risks to Old Dominion Electric Cooperative Consumer-Members of Building and Operation the Proposed Cypress Creek Power Station," April 22, 2009 by David Schlissel and Lucy Johnston.