

Background: Virginia Dominion Power has recently received a permit to discharge in excess of 150 million gallons of contaminated water from coal ash storage ponds at its VA Possum Point power plant into Quantico Creek and the Potomac River. The Potomac River Keeper, Potomac River Fisheries Commission and other groups are discussing options to prohibit the discharge of the waste water under the specifications of the current permit, and achieve the best possible outcome for the health of the Potomac River, its aquatic living resources, and the citizens that use those resources. To that objective,

I propose MD DNR's Tidal Fisheries Advisory Committee recommend to the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources to have MD DNR continue to support Potomac River Keeper, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and other entities in their opposition to the discharge of the contaminated waste water into Quantico Creek and the Potomac River under the specifications of the current permit, and insist that the permit be withdrawn and revised to achieve the best possible outcome for the Potomac River ecosystem. The portion of the Potomac the discharge is proposed to be released into is in the middle of the spawning reach for Striped Bass, is in the middle of the harvest area for the commercial Blue Catfish fishery, is located in an area where multiple endangered Atlantic Sturgeon have been recaptured (MD DNR data), is in close proximity to the American Shad spawning area at Pohick Bay, in close proximity to the proposed marine sanctuary at Mallows Bay, and a valuable area of the river for largemouth bass. Lastly the MD DNR TFAC recommends that the Secretary of MD DNR reach out to the Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment to join in opposition to the conditions of the existing permit issued to VA Dominion Power by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.