



*Larry Hogan, Governor*  
*Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor*  
*Mark Belton, Secretary*  
*Joanne Throwe, Deputy Secretary*

Dear Secretary Belton,

The Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission is asking for your continued aid in supporting the Potomac River Fisheries Commission and its work on finding alternatives to the Virginia Dominion Power's Possum Point Power Station discharge permit. The issued permit allows the discharge of contaminated water from coal ash storage ponds into the Potomac River and Quantico Creek. The Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the Potomac Riverkeeper and others have publicly opposed the discharge permit, which allows in excess of 150 million gallons of contaminated water to flow into the Potomac River and Quantico Creek.

Given the Virginia Dominion Power recently received the permit to discharge, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, Potomac Riverkeeper and other groups are discussing options to possibly halt the discharge of waste water allowed under the current permit. The group is looking for the best possible outcome in order to protect the health of the Potomac River, its aquatic living resources, and the citizens who use those resources.

The Maryland Department of Natural Resource's Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission is asking you, the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, to support the Potomac River Fisheries Commission, the Potomac River Keeper and other entities in their disagreement to the discharge of the contaminated waste water under the specifications of the current permit. The Commission is also asking for your support of the group's request for a withdraw of the permit and subsequent revision, leading to the best possible outcome for the Potomac River ecosystem.

The portion of the Potomac River where the discharge will occur is within the managed spawning reach for striped bass, the harvest area for the commercial blue catfish fishery and is an area where multiple endangered Atlantic Sturgeon have been recaptured (Maryland Department of Natural Resources data). The American shad spawning area at Pohick Bay is in close proximity to the discharge location as well as the proposed National Marine Sanctuary at Mallows Bay. Another valuable resource in this stretch of river is largemouth bass and the associated positive economic impact of professional and non-professional fishing tournaments and guided fishing trips.

Lastly, the Commission is asking you to reach out to the Secretary of the Maryland Department of the Environment and ask him to join you in opposition to the conditions of the existing permit issued to Virginia Dominion Power by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. Alternate options to discharging of this waste and the associated negative impacts to the Potomac River's resources must be researched before allowing further risk to our resources and livelihood.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William L. Rice Sr".

Billy Rice  
Chairman  
Tidal Fisheries Advisory Commission