

Get the Facts About Tenaska's Proposal

Don't be fooled by false and misleading claims about Tenaska's proposed natural gas generation plant from opposition groups mostly outside Fluvanna County. Tenaska respects all points of view – but there is no place for factually inaccurate statements. What follows is a series of inaccurate statements from project opponents and the truth.

False Claim – Opponents claim tax benefits from the current and proposed plants are "overstated" because property taxes are going up and residents have not seen tax relief. (*Source: Fluvanna Horizons Alliance website*)

The Truth – The existing Tenaska plant is the second-largest taxpayer in the Fluvanna County. If the existing plant wasn't located in the county, local taxes *would be even higher*. The Expedition Generating Station is estimated to generate \$247 million in local taxes over the initial 30 years of operation, including \$14.3 million in each of the first five years of operation. The proposed plant will give the county the best opportunity to provide tax relief while supporting schools, first responders and other community priorities. The way to improve the county's finances is through *new investments like Expedition*.



False Claim – Opponents claim there is no safe level of PM_{2.5}, a microscopic particulate matter released from a number of sources including power plants. (*Source: Fluvanna Horizons Alliance website*)

The Truth – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted an exhaustive review of the PM_{2.5} ambient standards just last year and lowered the annual standard. The new standard, which lowered the exposure limit by 25%, includes a margin of safety to protect vulnerable populations including the elderly, young and people with health conditions such as asthma and coronary disease. This new standard was widely praised by environmental and health organizations at the time. Additionally, [power plants accounted for 18% of PM_{2.5} in 2000, but only 4% by 2018](#). One of the largest sources of PM_{2.5} is actually cars and trucks.



False Claim – Opponents claim Fluvanna County residents currently have an "increased risk of asthma and chronic pulmonary disease" based on a 2019 MPAA2Health Community Health Assessment. (*Source: Fluvanna Horizons Alliance website*)

The Truth – The [final 2019 MAPP2Health Assessment](#) found that Fluvanna County had the lowest rate of asthma hospitalization for the six localities in the report, for both Black and white patients. Information from the report also shows that preventable hospitalizations for several ailments, including asthma, are lower across the entire region when compared to the statewide average.



False Claim – Opponents claim the proposed plant will not supply power to Fluvanna County and that Tenaska "sells electricity to the regional grid operator (PJM Interconnection) and not directly to local consumers served by Dominion Power." (*Source: Fluvanna Horizons Alliance website*)

The Truth – The opponents' claim shows a lack of understanding about how residents get their electricity. PJM manages the reliability of the electric grid that serves all of Virginia, regardless of the utility. Without PJM, no power would reach Fluvanna County homes or businesses. PJM has stated that the proposed Expedition Generating Station is a priority project to ensure reliability of service in the future.



False Claim – Opponents claim “community engagement has been minimal.” (*Source: Fluvanna Horizons Alliance website*)

The Truth – Tenaska held two separate events for people living near the proposed plant and other stakeholders in July of this year. In August, Tenaska held an open house at Fluvanna County High School, where subject matter experts answered questions in a large-group format from the stage and in conversations with residents at stations for two hours. The plant’s website includes answers to the questions submitted during the open house that couldn’t be answered due to time constraints. Tenaska has a broad amount of information on a project website, and direct mail has been sent to neighbors. Residents can also contact the project team directly by email or phone. The bottom line is that the company has been committed to transparency throughout this process.



False Claim – Opponents claim the existing plant discharges 1.5 million gallons of water into Cunningham Creek. (*Source: Fluvanna Horizons Alliance website*)

The Truth – The Tenaska Virginia plant discharges into the Rivanna River, not Cunningham Creek.



False Claim – Opponents claim mixing water from different rivers (intake from the James River and discharge into the Rivanna River) “can pose significant dangers to the ecosystems and human health.” (*Source: Fluvanna Horizons Alliance website*)

The Truth – The James River is the largest river in Virginia, spanning the entire state. The Rivanna River is one of the largest tributaries to the James River, draining into the James River near Columbia, VA. Therefore, while different rivers, they are part of the larger James River watershed that flows into the Chesapeake Bay.

The Expedition Generating Station will be required to obtain a Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) permit from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ). The VPDES permit will include limits that are protective of human health and the environment. These limits are specific to the waters where the discharge occurs, accounting for existing water quality, and are independent of the source water.



False Claim – Opponents claim methane leaks from plant operations are unavoidable. (Source: Fluvanna Horizons Alliance website)

The Truth – While eliminating all emissions (including minute piping leaks) is impossible, the vast majority of methane emissions take place “upstream” of power plants. Virtually all of the methane contained in the natural gas fuel is converted to carbon dioxide in the highly efficient combustion process.



False Claim – Opponents claim that proximity to power plants often results in a decline of at least 11% in property values. (Source: Fluvanna Horizons Alliance website)

The Truth – This 11% figure is from a [study](#) conducted on houses within half a mile of toxic industrial facilities emitting hazardous materials (heavy metals, noxious odors). It is not a study on homes in proximity to a well-regulated natural gas power plant.

There are a number of factors that influence property values and the housing market. It has been our experience with other Tenaska projects of similar size and design that property values have not been negatively affected by plant operations. In fact, the jobs and increased tax revenue for the community typically have a positive impact on local schools and other amenities that factor into property values.

The presence of the Tenaska Virginia plant does not appear to have deterred housing growth. By our rough calculations, the number of homes within one mile of the plant has grown 35% between 2002 and 2024. Looking at the county as a whole, residential housing increased by 26% during the same time period. An analysis of homes near the existing Tenaska power plant shows largely increases in home values since the plant became operational more than 20 years ago.