



Our Commitment to Environmental Responsibility

Tenaska prioritizes the health and safety of our employees, the community and the environment. Our facilities are designed, built and operated with this in mind.

This is the responsible approach, but in addition, a power plant like Expedition Generating Station is heavily regulated. We must adhere to stringent state and federal regulations that are designed to preserve Central Virginia's air and water quality and to protect human health and the environment.

Efficient Water Use

Expedition will be a combined-cycle power plant: electricity is generated using clean-burning natural gas, with the exhaust heat used to create additional electricity without the need for additional fuel. The process makes efficient use of fuel and water.

In addition, Expedition is being designed with dry cooling, which reduces water needs by 85%.

On average, the plant will require approximately 1 million gallons of water per day, sourced from the James River. This use is equivalent to approximately 0.03% of the river's average flow. Water withdrawals will be curtailed during times of drought.

Water will be reused multiple times during the power generation process, minimizing consumptive use and discharge. Treated wastewater will be discharged into the Rivanna River. Average daily discharge is anticipated to be 0.8 million gallons, which is approximately 0.5% of the river's average flow.

Expedition will need to obtain a water discharge (Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, or VPDES) permit to discharge this wastewater. The permit will establish discharge limits and monitoring requirements.

Tenaska's existing Fluvanna County power plant has discharged into the Rivanna River for years. The Rivanna Conservation Alliance's 2025 Rivanna River Watershed System Health Report shows the Rivanna is among the healthiest waterways in the region.

At the request of Fluvanna County, Expedition will make its treated wastewater available for county use. This will further reduce the amount of water that is released.

More information

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Preserving Air Quality

Expedition cannot move forward without an Air Permit from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The agency will thoroughly review whether the plant can meet stringent air quality standards under the U.S. Clean Air Act. These standards are designed to protect the most vulnerable members of society, including the elderly, children and people with asthma.

Preliminary air modeling of both Expedition and the existing Tenaska power plant show the combined emissions of these facilities are well below the federal limits.

Once the plant is operational, Expedition will be required to submit quarterly air emissions monitoring reports, semi-annual monitoring and deviation reports, annual compliance certification and annual emissions inventory to DEQ. We must also submit quarterly CEMS (Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems) data to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Non-compliance would result in penalties, fines and even possible shutdowns.

The federal Clean Air Act establishes the process for protecting public health from air emissions. This is done through National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) that are based on criteria allowing for an adequate margin of safety to protect public health.

Given concerns about potential loosening of these federal standards, Expedition is committed to compliance with the NAAQS for fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) that are in place today, unless more restrictive standards are required in the future. This commitment is a condition of the Special Use Permit approved by Fluvanna County in March 2026.

Public Engagement Throughout

Both the air and wastewater permits in Virginia go through a structured review process led by the DEQ, with adherence to federal laws.

Before a permit is issued, DEQ releases a draft permit, opens a public comment period and provides an opportunity for a public hearing. That means the public has multiple chances to review the draft permit, ask questions and share input before a final decision is made.

