

YOUR LETTERS

Dominion gets low marks

On page 8 of the January issue, Consumer Reports (CR) asks Virginians “Do you know what you’re paying for your electricity?...98% of customers had no idea how much they pay per kilowatt hour (kwh).”

The writer goes on to say it is not unusual for large utilities to take advantage of consumers’ lack of knowledge.

Virginia like most states is assessing how to implement the Clean Power Plan, which, according to a new study by Georgia Institute of Technology, would save the average home about \$160 annually for electricity.

But Dominion Virginia Power is going the other way: pushing to build expensive generating plants and an enormous \$19 billion nuclear reactor. All while national electricity usage is flat or declining, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). Total electricity sales fell in 2015 for the fifth time in past eight years. The reactor and other expensive power plants would generate big profits for Dominion under current rules, with costs for these expensive solutions falling on customers. “CR opposes Dominion’s spendthrift plan...”

To be fair, Dominion’s Virginia customers pay less per

kwh than the national average, per the EIA. In November 2016, we paid 11.52 cents against an average of 12.75 cents. Let’s keep it that way and ask our representatives and the State Corporation Commission to push back against Dominion’s plans.

The root problem here is that Dominion Virginia Power is a monopoly. With no competition, they pretty much do as they please. Monopolies do not allow for choice as deregulation does. And monopolies lose any incentive to innovate.

For example, a “better solution” for everyone might be to go under the Rappahannock River with planned upgrades instead of using old, industrial era towers.

**George R. Bott,
Lancaster**