

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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BREDL REPORT CARD

Name: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Data sources providing estimates of minority population at Union Hill	Did DEQ use this data source to estimate minority population at Union Hill?	Percentage of population surveyed as the basis for this estimate	Estimated minority population within 1-mile radius of compressor station	Estimated minority population within 2-mile radius of compressor station	Estimated minority population within 5-mile radius of compressor station	Estimated minority population within 20-mile radius of compressor station	PASS or FAIL Do DEQ's methods adequately assess the percentage of minority population in the Union Hill community, now targeted for construction of a compressor station for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline?
EJScreen (see description, next page)	YES	<4 - 5%	37.0%	38.0%	39.0%	29.0%	FAIL DEQ's dependence on EJScreen is based on the ACS survey of only about 4 to 5% of the affected community.
ESRI (see description, next page)	YES	Undisclosed	29.3%	28.5%	-	-	FAIL DEQ's dependence on ESRI is based on undisclosed GIS tools and algorithms to estimate the percentage of EJ population in the Union Hill community.
2010 U.S. Census (see description, next page)	NO	100%	60.1%	47.5%	36.5%	28.9%	FAIL DEQ has failed to consider the 2010 U.S. Census, which irrefutably establishes the Union Hill community as having sufficient minority population to qualify as EJ.

EJScreen

The EJScreen is a tool developed by U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide preliminary estimates of minority populations in specific geographic areas. All of EJSCREEN's demographic data comes from the latest annual update of the five-year average American Community Survey (ACS) estimates. These ACS estimates are based on 200,000 to 300,000 surveys sent to U.S. households each month by the U.S. Census

Due to the very small population samples used by the ACS, the U.S. EPA advises that the EJScreen renders "substantial uncertainty in demographic and environmental data".

DEQ's dependence on the EJScreen as the basis for discounting the EJ status of Union Hill, the community targeted for construction of a compressor station for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline, is highly questionable and brings into question the integrity of DEQ's approach to assessment of this and other environmental impacts.

ESRI

Under contract with VA DEQ, ESRI used Census 2010 data to which it applied undisclosed geographic information system tools and algorithms to project demographic data. Until the methods employed by ESRI are fully disclosed, the public must consider the ESRI data "suspect".

2010 U.S. Census

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a census every ten years to provide an official count of the entire U.S. population. BREDL accessed the 2010 U.S. Census data via the mapping program offered by the Missouri Census Data Center, a Census Bureau State Data Center Program. See www.mcadc.missouri.edu. The 2010 U.S. Census provides the most substantive estimate of EJ population in the Union Hill community, because it is based on a survey of 100% of the population. DEQ's failure to consider the 2010 Census materially impedes the Department's consideration of impacts of building a compressor station in the Union Hill community of Buckingham County.

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For detailed description and analysis of the data sources listed above,
please see BREDL's **EJ Fact Sheet for Buckingham Compressor Station**, attached.