



Statement on Atlantic Coastal Pipeline Abandonment

July 2020

Virginia Clinicians for Climate Action (VCCA) celebrates the cancellation of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) along with impacted communities, environmental groups, and landowners. Chair of VCCA, Dr. Samantha Ahdoot, states "The cancellation of this pipeline brings Virginia one step closer towards a just and healthy future for all our citizens. The health of those in our most vulnerable communities, such as Union Hill, is now protected from the threat of increased air and water pollution associated with this pipeline and accompanying infrastructure. And our children's future is more secure without this source of greenhouse gas pollution to warm the one planet they call home."

The planned Buckingham compressor station in Union Hill, an environmental justice community whose members include descendants of freed Black men and women, would have exposed this vulnerable, elderly and minority population to hazardous air pollutants and increased levels of greenhouse gases and particulate matter that have short and long term health impacts. In the words of the Fourth Circuit Court, "environmental justice is not merely a box to be checked" and the health and safety of local communities must be addressed in the air permitting process.

The ACP would have significantly increased greenhouse gas emissions in Virginia and it put the Commonwealth's waters at risk for degradation and contamination. The cancellation of the ACP is one step in the larger project of addressing climate change, transitioning to clean and sustainable energy and protecting environmental justice communities from polluting infrastructure. Patients and communities need clean air and water to thrive. VCCA will continue to oppose fossil fuel infrastructure that threatens our health, our safety and our future.