



Indian Affairs Committee

Baltimore Yearly Meeting • 17100 Quaker Lane • Sandy Spring, MD 20860 • (301)774-7663

April 10, 2020

The Indian Affairs Committee stands with the Monacan Nation in opposing construction of a proposed water intake and pipeline in an area known as Point of Fork. This James River Water Authority project would destroy an ancestral village which is known through oral traditions, written histories, and confirmed through initial, cursory archeological investigations. Field-studies for the proposed project identified numerous artifacts, some of which date to pre-historic times, and even to 1,200 BEC (before present era).

Damage to physical and intangible values of disadvantaged people, like the Monacan Nation, is environmental injustice. It happens often when the powerful take advantage of others. Increased costs have been cited as reasons for not locating the water facilities in places that do not damage Monacan sites. Monetary cost-savings and anticipated benefits to people who live at some distance from the location of the facilities does not help those most affected by the damage the project brings. What are the costs of unknown history, lost forever?

When we think of the history of Virginia attempting to eliminate our indigenous people through census manipulation, eugenics, and segregation, we need to stand up and say No More. We value Native peoples, their histories, their rich cultures that they generously share with those of us who are not indigenous—and we value the places of their ancestors.

Don't allow the pumping facility, the pipeline, or other development to disturb the Monacan sites without their support.

Yours in peace,

Susan Marcus
Co-clerk,
Indian Affairs Committee
Baltimore Yearly Meeting