

[https://www.thecentralvirginian.com/news/state-officials-back-board-s-view-of-gas-pipeline/article\\_594e5436-3028-11ec-920a-cfff6c0145b.html](https://www.thecentralvirginian.com/news/state-officials-back-board-s-view-of-gas-pipeline/article_594e5436-3028-11ec-920a-cfff6c0145b.html)

## State officials back board's view of gas pipeline

Jessica Adkins

Oct 18, 2021



Robert Linder on Unsplash

After reviewing responses from counties affected by the proposed Chickahominy natural gas pipeline, State Corporation Commission staff recommended that the pipeline obtain a certificate of public convenience and necessity in order to proceed with construction.

The final decision belongs to the commission itself, which may rule on the matter before the end of the year.

The pipeline's developers tried to argue in their SCC filing that there would be no mercantile relationship between them and other entities, so they should be exempt from SCC jurisdiction. But the developers have also said they would receive the natural gas from another company.

Ad removed. [Details](#)

According to the commission staff report, the pipeline should be classified as a public utility because the gas received and transmitted through the pipeline to the end point would have to be metered. Gas would be lost during the metering process. Chickahominy would have to pay for the lost gas, which would then establish a mercantile relationship.

Louisa County Attorney Helen Phillips submitted a report to the SCC with comments from the Louisa County Board of Supervisors. After the Oct. 4 board meeting, the county requested that the commission reject the petition filed by the pipeline's developer.

The supervisors were angry that developer Irfan Ali failed to appear and sent a contracted employee to give what they thought was a minimally informative presentation. Supervisors were also upset the developers went directly to residents before consulting the county.

In the response to Chickahominy's petition request, commission staff noted that the power plant in Charles City County that would be served by the pipeline is in the area serviced by Virginia Natural Gas. According to their response, the commission would be unable to issue a permit to the pipeline unless Virginia Natural Gas was unable to properly service the public. Even if the commission finds that company is unable to provide gas, they would have to give it time to remedy the inadequacy.