

CommunityForum

January 21, 2016

Rappahannock Record

Kilmarnock, VA

What's with the tower plan now?

What is happening with Dominion Power's towers plan for crossing the Rappahannock?

The victory for our river counties in Richmond at the State Corporation Commission (SCC) put the matter back to square one for Dominion. The power company's effort to speed through a plan with major impacts was halted. Sound arguments prevailed. In summary, the company proposed one thing and said it was another, the county governments disapproved the plan but were not given a voice, and the towers threaten the economic and environmental importance of the bridge in our region.

Square one is a new start. Dominion will submit a full application and it will undergo a thorough review by the SCC. The hope is that Dominion will work with the county leaders to develop the infrastructure in a sensitive manner.

It is a time for the governor to reflect on the towers plan in contrast to the much-applauded Oyster Trail. Our state representatives, Sen. McDougle, Del. Keith Hodges and Del. Margaret Ransone, can consider the plan without the crisis mentality that accompanied the earlier effort. Citizens will be given an opportunity to go on record in a public hearing.

Much goodwill can come from working together. Cost can be thoroughly reviewed and put in the context of real monthly impact on individual homes. The example of local and state government working with the communities can restore the trust that was lost in the earlier process.

Time to work together, explore options and get a compromise that is best for the people who live and earn in the Northern Neck.

**Joy Gwaltney,
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