

# Community Forum

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Rappahannock Record

Kilmarnock, VA

## ***Contribute to tower opposition legal expenses***

It would be hard to improve upon Ethan Brent's recent letter extolling our Norris Bridge. But the struggle under way to keep Dominion Virginia Power from installing huge electrical towers next to the bridge is not just a matter of aesthetic judgment and taste; it carries as well economic consequences for every citizen of the Northern Neck.

Since this gorgeous gateway entices visitors to explore our waterways and amenities, perhaps to stay and build homes or start a business, it stands to reason that we cannot afford for anything to deface it—and that is exactly what the proposed power towers will do.

Dominion Power has tried to hide this fact by presenting earlier photographic illustrations that did not even include the towers, and, more recently, by making them appear from a distance almost invisible.

The new transmission lines should be buried under the river. Efforts to force this change, begun by William Barnhardt, and

now taken up by the Coalition to Save the Rappahannock, have delayed the project until the Virginia State Corporation Commission comes to a final judgment.

The power company argues that burying the cable would triple the cost, but information about similar underwater installations suggests that Dominion's estimates are wildly inflated. Some have worried that any increase will be passed on to Northern Neck customers, but electrical rates are regulated and applied statewide, so that such costs individually show up in pennies on consumers' bills.

So far, the legal fees involved in the temporary injunction halting work on the towers has been born by the Coalition and a relatively small number of contributors. Because the negative economic impact of the towers affects us all, their defeat is a non-partisan cause around which we can all unite—and to which we should all contribute.

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