

# Rappahannock Record

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## NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION OF ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES IN THE COUNTIES OF LANCASTER AND MIDDLESEX CASE NO. PUE-2016-00021

On February 29, 2016, Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Dominion Virginia Power" or "Company") filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") an Application for approval and for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate an electric transmission line in the counties of Lancaster, Virginia, and Middlesex, Virginia, and across the Rappahannock River. Dominion Virginia Power filed the Application pursuant to § 56-46.1 of the Code of Virginia ("Code") and the Utility Facilities Act, Code § 56-265.1 *et seq.*

According to the Application, the Company proposes to rebuild approximately 2.2 miles of the Company's existing 115 kilovolt ("kV") transmission line, Harmony Village-Northern Neck Line #65, located between Harmony Village Substation in Middlesex County and White Stone Substation in Lancaster County ("Proposed Project"). The portion of Line #65 that the Company proposes to rebuild includes an approximately 1.9-mile crossing of the Rappahannock River at the Robert O. Norris Bridge ("Norris Bridge"), with the remaining 0.3 mile of the Proposed Project on land.

For the river crossing, the Proposed Project would replace a total of seven existing wooden H-frame electric transmission structures located east of the Norris Bridge in the Rappahannock River, and 14 existing attachments to the Norris Bridge, with 10 galvanized steel H-frame structures that would be located in the Rappahannock River. As proposed, Line #65 would no longer be attached to the Norris Bridge. The new structures would be located approximately 100 feet east of the Norris Bridge in a right-of-way permitted by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission ("VMRC").

The height of the existing structures in the river is approximately 83 feet, while the heights of the proposed structures in the river range from approximately 102 to 173 feet. The new galvanized steel structures would be erected on concrete pilings capped with concrete foundations, the tops of which would be approximately 22 feet above the zero elevation water line. Additionally, a fender system would be installed in front of the two structures that would be located on either side of and parallel to the navigational channel.

On the Lancaster side of the Rappahannock River, the Company proposes to replace one existing wooden three-pole structure, approximately 48 feet in height, with a galvanized steel three-pole structure, approximately 55 feet in height, that would be located in the existing right-of-way. On the Middlesex side of the Rappahannock River, the Company proposes to replace four existing wooden monopole structures, with heights ranging from approximately 61 to 70 feet, with one double deadend galvanized steel monopole and two weathering steel monopoles, with heights ranging from 79 to 82 feet, that would be located in the existing right-of-way.

As part of the Proposed Project, Dominion Virginia Power would also replace 2.2 miles of existing conductor and one static wire on Line #65 with approximately 2.2 miles of new conductor and two shield wires. The Application indicates that the Proposed Project could be in service by December 2017. The Company estimates the total cost of the Proposed Project to be approximately \$26.2 million.

According to the Application, the Proposed Project is needed to maintain electric transmission system reliability and to address structural and operational deficiencies associated with the existing structures and bridge attachments identified in the Application. The Application indicates that the existing structures and bridge attachments, which were originally installed in 1962, must be replaced to address the risk associated with their age, condition, and proximity to the Norris Bridge.

In addition to the Proposed Project, which Dominion Virginia Power requests Commission approval of, the Application indicates that the Company has identified a 230 kV overhead alternative and an underground alternative for the Commission's consideration. According to the Company, 230 kV construction would require, among other things, structures taller than would be constructed for the 115 kV Proposed Project. The Company indicates that an underground crossing of the Rappahannock River would require, among other things, two transition stations, one on each side of the river crossing in Lancaster and Middlesex Counties. The Company estimates that the cost of the 230 kV and underground alternatives would be approximately \$26.3 million and \$83.6 million, respectively.

### Transmission Line Routes

#### Proposed 115 kV Overhead Route

The proposed 115 kV overhead route of the Proposed Project is a 2.2-mile segment of an existing single circuit 115 kV transmission line, Harmony Village-Northern Neck Line #65. The proposed route originates east of Mary Ball Road (State Route 3) in Middlesex County and heads northeast for approximately 0.3 mile, where it crosses the Rappahannock River for approximately 1.9 miles utilizing an 80-foot right-of-way permitted by the VMRC, which expands to 200 feet at two sections in the center span of the Norris Bridge to accommodate the fender system on either side of the navigation channel in the river. The centerline of the proposed structures in the river will be located approximately 100 feet east of Norris Bridge. Once coming ashore on the northern bank of the Rappahannock River, the proposed route travels less than 0.1 mile (150 feet) in a northeasterly direction before ending at the first structure on land in Lancaster County.

#### 230 kV Overhead Alternative

The 230 kV overhead alternative would rebuild a portion of the existing single circuit 115 kV transmission line, Harmony Village-Northern Neck Line #65, along the same 2.2-mile route for the 115 kV Proposed Project, described above, except that the right-of-way would need to be expanded by three feet in Middlesex County to accommodate the operation of a 230 kV transmission line.

#### Underground Alternative

The underground alternative would replace approximately 2.3 miles of the existing single circuit 115 kV transmission line, Harmony Village-Northern Neck Line #65, with underground and overhead construction. The underground alternative begins east of Mary Ball Road (State Route 3) at the transition station site in Middlesex County and heads northeast for approximately 0.3 mile, where it crosses the Rappahannock River for approximately 1.9 miles and would require an 80- to 100-foot right-of-way and two splice locations measuring 650-feet long and 200-feet wide. The centerline of the cables beneath the river will be located approximately 100 feet east of Norris Bridge. Once coming ashore on the northern bank of the Rappahannock River, the underground alternative travels 0.2 mile in northeasterly direction before ending at the transition station site in Lancaster County.

All distances and directions are approximate. A sketch map of the routes accompanies this notice. A more detailed map of the routes may be viewed on the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/pue/elec/transline.aspx>.

The Commission may consider a route not significantly different from the routes described in this notice without additional notice to the public.

A more complete description of the Proposed Project, and of the 230 kV and underground alternatives, may be found in the Company's Application.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled public hearings in Lancaster County and Richmond, Virginia. A local public hearing will be convened on July 6, 2016, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the auditorium at Lancaster Middle School, 191 School Street, Kilmarnock, Virginia 22482, for the sole purpose of receiving testimony of public witnesses. The public hearing will resume on September 20, 2016, at 10 a.m., in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, to receive testimony from members of the public and evidence related to the Application from the Company, any respondents, and the Commission's Staff. Any person desiring to testify as a public witness at this hearing should appear fifteen (15) minutes prior to the starting time of the hearing and contact the Commission's Bailiff.

Copies of the Application and other supporting materials also may be inspected during regular business hours at the following locations:

Dominion Virginia Power  
701 East Cary Street, 12th Floor  
Richmond, Virginia 23219  
Attn: Amanda Mayhew

Lancaster County  
8311 Mary Ball Road  
Lancaster, Virginia 22503  
Attn: Mr. Frank Pleva

Middlesex County  
877 General Puller Highway  
Saluda, Virginia 23149  
Attn: Mr. Matt Walker

Interested persons also may obtain a copy of the Application by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, Charlotte P. McAfee, Esquire, Dominion Resources Services, Inc., 120 Tredegar Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. If acceptable to the requesting party, the Company may provide the documents by electronic means.

Any person or entity may participate as a respondent in this proceeding by filing, on or before June 7, 2016, a notice of participation. If not filed electronically, an original and fifteen (15) copies of the notice of participation shall be submitted to Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. A copy of the notice of participation as a respondent also must be sent to counsel for the Company at the address set forth above. Pursuant to Rule 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUE-2016-00021. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing.

On or before September 13, 2016, any interested person wishing to comment on the Application shall file written comments on the Application with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Any interested person desiring to file comments electronically may do so on or before September 13, 2016, by following the instructions on the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. Compact discs or any other form of electronic storage medium may not be filed with the comments. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUE-2016-00021.

The Commission's Rules of Practice may be viewed at <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. A printed copy of the Commission's Rules of Practice and an official copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding may be obtained from the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above.

### VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

