

## Restaurant owner joins the legal fight against proposed transmission towers

WHITE STONE—Restaurant owner William C. Barnhardt has joined the legal battle before the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to continue his fight against Dominion Power's proposed transmission towers across the Rappahannock River near the Robert O. Norris Jr. Memorial Bridge.

Lancaster County also is a

party in the case before the SCC.

"Dominion has proposed a bad plan," said Barnhardt. "We all favor safe, reliable electricity, but this plan is far less desirable than other alternatives, and we intend to prove that."

Barnhardt, owner of Wil-laby's on the Rappahannock at the foot of the bridge, filed suit

before the SCC last year and won an injunction that halted Dominion's work on the project. The SCC ruled in December that state law required Dominion to seek approval for the project.

That ruling came in response to a lawsuit filed by Barnhardt, who argued that Dominion's attempt to bypass the SCC violated the law. Barnhardt said many people were unaware of Dominion Power's intentions and how it would change the face of the area.

Barnhardt said he is also asking the commission to reject Dominion's proposal because "it would dramatically alter the visual impact of the Lower Rappahannock, which is arguably the most scenic of Virginia's major rivers and watershed," he said.

"There are operationally acceptable, commercially preferable and—in all likelihood—less-costly alternative means of relocating the existing transmission line across the Rappahannock River," said Barnhardt.