

Coalition enters SCC regulatory process to block Dominion towers

WHITE STONE—The Save the Rappahannock Coalition has filed a Notice of Participation as a respondent with the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) seeking to require Dominion Virginia Power to use an alternative to its proposed transmission towers crossing the Rappahannock River.

“The action is the latest in our year-long effort to protect the scenic beauty of the lower Rappahannock without undue cost to electric customers or reduced reliability in electric service,” said coalition president Carl Smith.

“The Rappahannock is a treasure enjoyed by thousands of residents and visitors annually who see it from boats, cars, waterfront restaurants and shoreline homes,” said Smith. “The river is the engine of our local economy and we owe it

to future generations to prevent industrial-looking towers from blighting its beauty.”

“Dominion’s application to the SCC is riddled with inconsistent and incomplete justification for the towers and its rejection of alternatives doesn’t pass the straight face test,” said Emily Davies, leader of the coalition regulatory team. “We are confident the SCC will recognize these many deficiencies and the importance of the scenic, historic, and cultural value of the resource the towers would irreparably harm.”

As a respondent, the coalition will be able to present testimony in the SCC evidentiary hearing September 20 in Richmond, cross examine Dominion witnesses, and submit questions to the company as part of the record that will be considered by the three SCC commissioners.

Attorney E. Stanley Murphy filed the Notice of Participation as Respondent with the SCC.

The SCC will hold public hearings on the Dominion proposal at 2 and 7 p.m. July 6 at Lancaster Middle School, 191 School Street, Kilmarnock.

Anyone may attend the hearings and express an opinion about the project. Only Respondents may address the September hearing in Richmond.