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Recent comments support alternatives to proposed transmission line towers

WHITE STONE—The Virginia Outdoors Foundation (VOF) and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Planning and Recreation Resources Division have submitted comments to the State Corporation Commission (SCC) stating that alternatives to Dominion Power's proposed towers will have less visual impact on the Rappahannock River and protected open spaces.

According to a press release issued by Save the Rappahannock Coalition president Carl Smith, the DCR Planning and Recreation Resources Division noted that it has changed its position on the project after receiving a more detailed application submitted to the SCC. The division had previously commented that the project as Dominion described it to the Virginia Marine Resources Commission would have no impact.

These comments, and others, can be viewed at scc.virginia.gov/docketsearch#caseDocs/135630, said Smith.

The DCR Planning and Recreation Resources Division now recommends "the new line be reattached to the bridge in order to limit obstacles to river recreation and reduce visual impacts of this potentially scenic resource," according

to comments submitted by the division's environmental impact review coordinator Roberta Ruhr.

The VOF indicated "the underground option will have the least visual impacts to VOF open space easements, their protected resources and character-defining setting," according to comments submitted by VOF deputy director for stewardship Martha Little.

"I am confident that the SCC will give a full and fair review to the Dominion proposal and alternatives, and will listen carefully to concerns of residents of this area and state-wide organizations and agencies in deciding how to address Dominion's proposal," said Smith.

"I have been gratified that so many people have expressed their concerns in comments to the SCC and plan to speak on July 6 at the hearings which will be held at the Lancaster Middle School in Kilmarnock at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.," he said.

Meanwhile, responding to these recent comments, Dominion Resources senior communications specialist Daisy Pridgen released this statement: "We look forward to developing the full record on this project and the SCC's review of our application."