

• August 6, 2015

Submerge these transmission lines

The proposed Dominion Power transmission lines across the Rappahannock River pose a significant threat to our greatest assets—the southern gateway to the Northern Neck and the majestic Rappahannock River. If built as proposed, the looming towers—nearly 180 feet tall—will forever mar the bay and shoreline vistas.

The towers and huge buttresses will increase hazards to navigation, and will negatively impact the environment and wildlife. Dominion Power also proposed a new transmission line across the James River near historic Jamestown. These proposals demonstrate Dominion Power's callous disregard for the importance of these vital assets to Virginia and the Northern Neck. It is morally incomprehensible that our elected leaders in the General Assembly and those responsible at Dominion Power would even consider such a grotesque abuse of these natural treasures.

This is the 21st century—we can do much better than accept 1950s-technology. These rivers are no place for this overhead electrical infrastructure blight. Tell Dominion Power to get with the 21st century and submerge these lines.

Don't be fooled by scare tactics over rate increases, initial costs associated with underwater cables or power outages. The cost to all Virginians for losing these natural resources is immeasurable.

A Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission study in 2006 suggests that submerging

cables had minimal impact on rates to customers. Furthermore, by Dominion's own admission, the Rappahannock line was taken out of service for over a year while the adjacent bridge was painted, which suggests that their claim of a blackout is disingenuous.

Contact delegates and demand they protect the Commonwealth's public assets. The Lancaster board of supervisors stands united in opposition and will fight to preserve these treasured resources. Please join us.

Shame on you Dominion Power. Do what's ethically and morally right. Submerge these transmission lines.

**Jason Bellows, White Stone,
chairman Lancaster County
Board of Supervisors**

Proposed power lines will create visual pollution

Should power lines across the Rappahannock River at Norris Bridge be replaced for redundancy and reliability? Before you answer, ask, "With what?"

The existing power lines run at bridge deck level (attached to the bridge) for the majority of the trip across, offering that breathtaking view both upstream and down to the Chesapeake Bay. Dominion Power is on track now to replace those lines.

The replacement lines will be 10 to 14 towering steel structures over 179 feet tall from shore to shore, placed 100 feet from the bridge—taller than the bridge at the center. Gleaming spires with triple draping lines will march across the bay view as a testament to the one-size-fits-all mentality of the power company.

YOUR LETTERS

Dominion Power is not budgeting on alternatives to these behemoths. There has been no study of alternatives, no consideration, no compromise, no public input, no delay, no arguments, no environmental impact study.

At the hearing last week before the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Dominion Power gave the commission one choice—approve the towers, or reject the project. Full stop—no postponement, no alternatives, no further study.

This doubling down is in spite of, or because of, the Lancaster board of supervisors' unanimous vote to oppose the towers. They support an underwater alternative.

The Norris Bridge is an icon of our region, our water and our values. It is featured in our history, art, literature and conversations and evokes this part of Virginia. The proposed project will be an eyesore that should offend every Virginian who loves the area.

This is the 21st century. We can do better. If we lose what we have now, we won't get it back.

**Joy Gwaltney,
White Stone**

Objection to towers

I write to protest in the strongest terms my objection to the construction of power line towers alongside the Norris Bridge.

That bridge is the principal entry to the Northern Neck from Eastern/Central Virginia, and to destroy its beautiful vista of the river and the bay with the erection of power lines is simply outrageous.

**Bolling Williamson,
White Stone**