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Power lines

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Regatta, realtors, marina owners and others have expressed their opposition to the towers, he said.

"I respectfully suggest that is more than just 'a few,'" Bellows wrote.

He organized a meeting August 25 among Dominion representatives and community stakeholders from both sides of the river, at which Dominion project communications manager Greg Mathe said, "I don't know if there's necessarily much to talk about" and that Dominion was moving forward with construction plans.

Bellows wrote his letter after

the meeting, arguing "Dominion does not truly understand our opposition."

In response to McGuire's letter, Bellows wrote: "It was with some surprise that I noticed that your four-page letter did not once make reference to the impact those towers would have on the natural beauty of the Rappahannock. The unobstructed views both of the bridge and from the bridge belong to all Virginians. They are both an aesthetic asset and an economic asset to our community. They do not belong to Dominion Power. I suggest, with utmost respect, they are not yours to take."

Lancaster takes transmission line opposition to another level

by Renss Greene

LANCASTER—Lancaster County is pushing back against Dominion Power's proposal to erect steel and concrete towers near the Robert O. Norris Jr. Memorial Bridge. The towers are part of a plan to replace the transmission lines now attached to the bridge.

On August 25, the county filed an appeal of the Virginia Marine Resources Commission decision of July 28 approving Dominion's plan to build the new towers in the Rappahannock.

The appeal was filed in Lancaster County Circuit Court and names both Lancaster County and the Lancaster board of supervisors as appellants. The appeal was filed by attorney James E. Cornwell Jr. of Sands Anderson law firm, which has offices in Richmond, McLean, Fredericksburg, Christiansburg and Raleigh.

As of September 8, no response had been filed and no hearing date set.

Meanwhile, Lancaster board of supervisors chairman Jason Bellows has responded to an open letter from Dominion electric transmission project development and execution director Bob McGuire. McGuire's letter concluded, "Our plans provide for adequate, secure and dependable electric service at a reasonable cost for addressing aging infrastructure" and said the company could not justify the additional cost of underwater lines "for the subjective aesthetics of a few."

"On this I must take strong exception," Bellows wrote.

In less than a month since details of the project became available at the July 28 VMRC hearing, by unanimous resolutions the boards of supervisors in Lancaster and Middlesex counties, the towns of Irvington and Urbanna, the Lancaster Republican Committee, Friends of Lancaster County, Hospice Turkey Shoot

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