

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
AT RICHMOND, FEBRUARY 22, 2016

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APPLICATION OF

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
d/b/a DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER

CASE NO. PUE-2016-00003

For approval and certification of the
Nansemond River crossing transmission line
rebuild of double-circuit 230 kV lines #223
and #226 under Va. Code § 56-46.1 and the
Utility Facilities Act, Va. Code § 56-265.1 *et seq.*

ORDER FOR NOTICE AND COMMENT

On January 20, 2016, Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Virginia Power ("Dominion" or "Company") filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") an Application for approval and for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate electric transmission lines in the City of Suffolk, Virginia. Dominion filed the Application pursuant to § 56-46.1 of the Code of Virginia ("Code") and the Utility Facilities Act, Code § 56-265.1 *et seq.*

According to the Application, the Company proposes to rebuild approximately 1.3 miles of existing double-circuit 230 kilovolt ("kV") transmission lines, Surry-Yadkin Line #223 and Churchland-Surry Line #226, located between Harbour View Substation and Smithfield Substation in Suffolk, Virginia ("Proposed Project"). The Proposed Project, which would be constructed using the right-of-way for the existing transmission lines, would replace a total of seven electric transmission towers located in, or on the banks of, the Nansemond River and would also replace the conductors of the existing lines.

The Proposed Project would replace five double-circuit, galvanized steel suspension-type lattice towers in the Nansemond River with five double-circuit, galvanized steel lattice towers

that would be located approximately 60 feet south of the existing towers.¹ The new towers would be constructed with taller foundations and would be approximately 8 to 14 feet taller, on average, than the existing towers that would be replaced.² The heights of the existing towers in the river range from approximately 189 to 244 feet, while the heights of the proposed towers range from approximately 197 to 258 feet.³ As proposed, concrete caps would be constructed on top of each leg of the proposed towers, with such caps ranging from approximately 6.5 to 13.5 feet above mean high water.⁴

Additionally, the Proposed Project would replace one existing double deadend-type tower on each side of the river with a galvanized steel, double deadend-type monopole structure. The two new monopole structures would be located approximately 60 feet south of the existing riverbank towers and would be approximately 10 and 20 feet taller than the two existing towers that would be replaced.⁵ The heights of the existing towers on the riverbank are approximately 127 and 142 feet, while the heights of the proposed monopoles are approximately 137 and 162 feet.⁶

As part of the Proposed Project, the Company would also replace 1.3 miles of three-phased 721 (18/19) ACAR twin-bundled conductors of Lines #223 and #226 with 1.3 miles of three-phased 768 ACSS/TW/HS-285 (20/7) twin-bundled conductors.⁷ In coordination with

¹ The approximately 60-foot distance is from centerline to centerline. Application, Appendix at 30.

² *Id.* at 41-42, 64.

³ *Id.* at 45.

⁴ DEQ Supplement, Attachment 2.H.1, page 8 of 34.

⁵ Application, Appendix at 30, 45.

⁶ *Id.* at 45.

⁷ *Id.* at 1.



the Proposed Project, the Company would also replace the shield wires located above Lines #223 and #226, which work would extend approximately 0.6 miles west, and 0.2 miles east, of the Proposed Project.⁸ A more complete description of the Proposed Project may be found in Section II of the Appendix to the Company's Application.

According to the Application, the Proposed Project is needed to maintain the structural integrity and reliability of the Company's transmission system and perform needed maintenance on its existing facilities.⁹ The Application indicates that the river and riverbank structures, which were originally installed in the late 1960s, must be replaced to address the risk associated with their age and condition.¹⁰

The in-service date for the Proposed Project is early 2017.¹¹ In its Application, Dominion estimates that it will take 12 months to construct the Proposed Project.¹² The Company estimates the total capital cost of the Proposed Project to be approximately \$19.2 million.¹³

As provided by § 62.1-44.15:21 of the Code, the Commission and the State Water Control Board must consult on wetland impacts prior to the siting of electric utility facilities that require a certificate of public convenience and necessity. Acting on behalf of the State Water Control Board, the Department of Environmental Quality ("DEQ") must prepare a Wetland Impacts Consultation on this Application as required by the Code and Sections 2 and 3 of the

⁸ *Id.* at 1-2.

⁹ *Id.* at 1.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 1-3.

¹¹ *Id.* at 2.

¹² Direct Pre-filed Testimony of Elizabeth Kricorian at 6.

¹³ Application at 3. This cost estimate does not include an estimated \$1.5 million of distribution relocation costs that the Company identifies could be necessary to facilitate installation of the Proposed Project. Direct Pre-filed Testimony of Elizabeth Kricorian at 5.

Department of Environmental Quality - State Corporation Commission Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Consultation on Wetland Impacts.¹⁴ The Commission Staff ("Staff") has requested the Office of Wetlands & Stream Protection of the DEQ to provide a Wetland Impacts Consultation for the Proposed Project.¹⁵

The Staff has also requested the DEQ to coordinate an environmental review of this Application by the appropriate agencies and to provide a report on the review.¹⁶ By letter dated February 4, 2016, the DEQ informed the Staff that it would coordinate a review of the environmental impact of the Proposed Project and that it would provide a report to the Commission.¹⁷

NOW THE COMMISSION, upon consideration of the Application and applicable statutes, finds that this matter should be docketed; that the Company should give notice of its Application to interested persons and the public; that interested persons should have an opportunity to comment and request a hearing on the Application; and that the Staff should investigate the Application and file a report containing the Staff's findings and recommendations. The Commission further finds that a Hearing Examiner should be assigned to rule on any discovery matters that may arise in this proceeding.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) This matter is docketed and assigned Case No. PUE-2016-00003.

¹⁴ *In the Matter of Receiving comments on a draft memorandum of agreement between the State Water Control Board and the State Corporation Commission*, Case No. PUE-2003-00114, 2003 S.C.C. Ann. Rept. 474, Order Distributing Memorandum of Agreement (July 30, 2003).

¹⁵ Letter from D. Mathias Roussy, Jr., State Corporation Commission, dated January 26, 2016, to David L. Davis, Department of Environmental Quality, filed in Case No. PUE-2016-00003.

¹⁶ Letter from D. Mathias Roussy, Jr., State Corporation Commission, dated January 26, 2016, to Bettina Sullivan, Department of Environmental Quality, filed in Case No. PUE-2016-00003.

¹⁷ Letter from Bettina Sullivan, Department of Environmental Quality, of February 4, 2016, to D. Mathias Roussy, Jr., State Corporation Commission, filed in Case No. PUE-2016-00003.

(2) Pursuant to § 12.1-31 of the Code and 5 VAC 5-20-120, *Procedure before hearing examiners*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), the Commission assigns a Hearing Examiner to rule on any discovery matter that may arise in this proceeding.

(3) A copy of the Application may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, Charlotte P. McAfee, Esquire, Dominion Resources Services, Inc., 120 Tredegar Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. If acceptable to the requesting party, the Company may provide the documents by electronic means. Copies of the public version of all documents also shall be available for interested persons to review in the Commission's Document Control Center, located on the first floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>.

(4) On or before April 5, 2016, the Company shall cause to be sent by first class mail a copy of the notice and sketch map prescribed in Ordering Paragraph (5) to all owners, as of the date of this Order, of property within the route of the proposed line, as indicated on the map or sketch of the route filed with the Commission, which requirement shall be satisfied by mailing to such persons at such addresses as are indicated in the land books maintained by the commissioner of revenue, director of finance, treasurer or other officer of the county or municipality designated as provided by § 58.1-3100 *et seq.* of the Code.

(5) On or before April 5, 2016, the Company shall publish in two (2) successive weeks the sketch map of the proposed route, as shown on page 94 of the Appendix to the Application, and the following notice as display advertising (not classified) in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in the City of Suffolk:



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY
 VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
 FOR APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION OF ELECTRIC
 TRANSMISSION FACILITIES IN THE CITY OF SUFFOLK
CASE NO. PUE-2016-00003

On January 20, 2016, Virginia Electric and Power Company d/b/a Dominion Virginia Power ("Dominion" or "Company") filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") an Application for approval and for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate electric transmission lines in the City of Suffolk, Virginia. Dominion filed the Application pursuant to § 56-46.1 of the Code of Virginia ("Code") and the Utility Facilities Act, Code § 56-265.1 et seq.

According to the Application, the Company proposes to rebuild approximately 1.3 miles of existing double-circuit 230 kilovolt ("kV") transmission lines, Surry-Yadkin Line #223 and Churchland-Surry Line #226, located between Harbour View Substation and Smithfield Substation in Suffolk, Virginia ("Proposed Project"). The Proposed Project, which would be constructed using the right-of-way for the existing transmission lines, would replace a total of seven electric transmission towers located in, or on the banks of, the Nansemond River and would also replace the conductors of the existing lines.

The Proposed Project would replace five double-circuit, galvanized steel suspension-type lattice towers in the Nansemond River with five double-circuit, galvanized steel lattice towers that would be located approximately 60 feet south of the existing towers. The new towers would be constructed with taller foundations and would be approximately 8 to 14 feet taller, on average, than the existing towers that would be replaced. The heights of the existing towers in the river range from approximately 189 to 244 feet, while the heights of the proposed towers range from approximately 197 to 258 feet. As proposed, concrete caps would be constructed on top of each leg of the proposed towers, with such caps ranging from approximately 6.5 to 13.5 feet above mean high water.

Additionally, the Proposed Project would replace one existing double deadend-type tower on each side of the river with a galvanized steel, double deadend-type monopole structure. The two new monopole structures would be located approximately 60 feet south of the existing riverbank towers and would be approximately 10 and 20 feet taller than the two existing towers

that would be replaced. The heights of the existing towers on the riverbank are approximately 127 and 142 feet, while the heights of the proposed monopoles are approximately 137 and 162 feet.

As part of the Proposed Project, the Company would also replace 1.3 miles of three-phased 721 (18/19) ACAR twin-bundled conductors of Lines #223 and #226 with 1.3 miles of three-phased 768 ACSS/TW/HS-285 (20/7) twin-bundled conductors. In coordination with the Proposed Project, the Company would also replace the shield wires located above Lines #223 and #226, which work would extend approximately 0.6 miles west, and 0.2 miles east, of the Proposed Project. A more complete description of the Proposed Project may be found in Section II of the Appendix to the Company's Application.

According to the Application, the Proposed Project is needed to maintain the structural integrity and reliability of the Company's transmission system and perform needed maintenance on its existing facilities. The Application indicates that the river and riverbank structures, which were originally installed in the late 1960s, must be replaced to address the risk associated with their age and condition.

The in-service date for the Proposed Project is early 2017. In its Application, Dominion estimates that it will take 12 months to construct the Proposed Project. The Company estimates the total capital cost of the Proposed Project to be approximately \$19.2 million.

Route for Proposed Project

The proposed route for the Proposed Project is the approximately 1.3-mile corridor currently occupied by the existing 230 kV transmission lines. Including the additional 0.7 mile being used in conjunction with the fiber replacement, the Proposed Project route originates west of Crittenden Road (SR 628) in Suffolk and heads east/south east for approximately 0.6 mile where it crosses the Nansemond River for approximately 1.3 miles. Upon coming ashore on the eastern bank of the Nansemond River, Line #223/226 turns due east and continues for another 0.2 mile, crossing Bridge Road (US 17).

All distances and directions are approximate. A sketch map of the proposed route accompanies this notice. A more detailed map of the proposed route may be viewed on the Commission's website:
<http://www.scc.virginia.gov/pue/elec/transline.aspx>.

The Commission may consider a route not significantly different from the route described in this notice without additional notice to the public.

The Application and related documents are available for interested persons to review in the Commission's Document Control Center, located on the first floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, between the hours of 8:15 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Interested persons also may download unofficial copies from the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>.

Copies of the Application and other supporting materials also may be inspected during regular business hours at the following locations:

Dominion Virginia Power
 701 East Cary Street, 12th Floor
 Richmond, Virginia 23219
 Attn: Nadiah Younus, EIT

City of Suffolk
 442 West Washington Street
 Suffolk, Virginia 23434
 Attn: Patrick Roberts, City Manager

Interested persons also may obtain a copy of the Application by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company, Charlotte P. McAfee, Esquire, Dominion Resources Services, Inc., 120 Tredegar Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. If acceptable to the requesting party, the Company may provide the documents by electronic means.

On or before May 3, 2016, interested persons may file written comments on Dominion's Application with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so on or before May 3, 2016, by following the instructions found on the Commission's website, <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. Compact discs or any other form of electronic storage medium may not be filed with the comments. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUE-2016-00003.

Any person or entity may participate as a respondent in this proceeding by filing, on or before May 3, 2016, a notice of

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participation. If not filed electronically, an original and fifteen (15) copies of the notice of participation shall be filed with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Pursuant to Rule 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure ("Rules of Practice"), any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as required by Rule 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUE-2016-00003.

On or before May 3, 2016, any interested person may request a hearing in this matter by filing an original and fifteen (15) copies of a request for hearing. Any request for hearing shall state with specificity why the issues raised in the request for hearing cannot be adequately addressed without a hearing. All such requests for hearing shall be filed with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above, or filed electronically by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. Copies of any such filings shall refer to Case No. PUE-2016-00003.

A copy of any written comments, requests for hearing, and notices of participation simultaneously shall be sent to counsel for the Company at the address set forth above.

The Commission's Rules of Practice may be viewed at <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. A printed copy of the Commission's Rules of Practice and an official copy of the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding may be obtained from the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above.

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

(6) On or before April 5, 2016, the Company shall serve a copy of this Order on the mayor of the City of Suffolk. Service shall be made by first class mail or delivery to the customary place of business or residence of the person served.

(7) On or before April 19, 2016, the Company shall file proof of the notice and service required by Ordering Paragraphs (5) and (6), including the name, title, and address of each

official served, with Joel H. Peck, Clerk, State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118.

(8) On or before April 19, 2016, the Company shall file with the Clerk of the Commission a certificate of the mailing of notice to owners of property prescribed by Ordering Paragraph (4). The certificate shall not include the names and addresses of the owners of property served, but the Company shall maintain a record of such information.

(9) On or before May 3, 2016, interested persons may file written comments on the Company's Application with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth in Ordering Paragraph (7). Any interested person desiring to submit comments electronically may do so on or before May 3, 2016, by following the instructions found on the Commission's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. Compact discs or any other form of electronic storage medium may not be filed with comments. All comments shall refer to Case No. PUE-2016-00003.

(10) On or before May 3, 2016, any person or entity may participate as a respondent in this proceeding by filing a notice of participation. If not filed electronically, an original and fifteen (15) copies of the notice of participation shall be filed with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth in Ordering Paragraph (7), and the respondent simultaneously shall serve a copy of the notice of participation on counsel to the Company at the address in Ordering Paragraph (3). Pursuant to Rule 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission's Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent must be represented by counsel as

required by Rule 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUE-2016-00003.

(11) Within five (5) business days of receipt of a notice of participation as a respondent, the Company shall serve upon the respondent a copy of the Application and supporting materials, unless these materials have already been provided to the respondent.

(12) On or before May 3, 2016, any interested person may file a written request for a hearing. If not filed electronically, an original and fifteen (15) copies of the hearing request shall be filed with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth in Ordering Paragraph (7), and a copy of the request for hearing shall also be sent to counsel to the Company at the address in Ordering Paragraph (3). Any request for hearing shall state with specificity why the issues raised in the request for hearing cannot be adequately addressed without a hearing. All requests for hearing shall refer to Case No. PUE-2016-00003.

(13) The Staff shall investigate the Company's Application. On or before May 17, 2016, the Staff shall file with the Clerk of the Commission an original and fifteen (15) copies of a Staff Report containing its findings and recommendations and promptly shall serve a copy of the same on counsel to the Company and all respondents.

(14) On or before May 27, 2016, the Company may file with the Clerk of the Commission and serve on the Staff and all parties any response in rebuttal to the Staff Report and any comments filed by interested persons in this proceeding.

(15) The Company and respondents shall respond to written interrogatories and requests for production of documents within seven (7) calendar days after receipt of the same. In addition to the service requirements of Rule 5 VAC 5-20-260 of the Rules of Practice, on the day that copies are filed with the Clerk of the Commission, a copy of the interrogatory or request for production shall be served electronically, or by facsimile, on the party to whom the interrogatory

or request for production is directed or the assigned Staff attorney, if the interrogatory or request for production is directed to the Staff.¹⁸ Except as modified above, discovery shall be in accordance with Part IV of the Commission's Rules of Practice, 5 VAC 5-20-240 *et seq.*

(16) This matter is continued.

AN ATTESTED COPY hereof shall be sent by the Clerk of the Commission to:
Charlotte P. McAfee, Esquire, Dominion Resources Services, Inc., 120 Tredegar Street,
Richmond, Virginia 23219; Jennifer D. Valaika, Esquire, and Jennifer D. Daglio, Esquire,
McGuireWoods LLP, Gateway Plaza, 800 E. Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219; and
C. Meade Browder, Jr., Senior Assistant Attorney General, Division of Consumer Counsel,
Office of the Attorney General, 900 East Main Street, Second Floor, Richmond, Virginia 23219.
A copy also shall be delivered to the Commission's Office of General Counsel and Divisions of
Energy Regulation and Utility Accounting and Finance.

¹⁸ The assigned Staff attorney is identified on the Commission's website, <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>, by clicking "Docket Search," then "Search Cases," and entering the case number, PUE-2016-00003, in the appropriate box.