

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

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2016 AUG -3 P 12: 08
CASE NO. PUE-2016-00021

160810097

APPLICATION OF

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

**For approval and certification of
electric transmission facilities:
Line #65 rebuild across the
Rappahannock River**

HEARING EXAMINER'S RULING

August 3, 2016

On February 29, 2016, Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Dominion Virginia Power" or "Company") filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity ("Certificate") to construct and operate an electric transmission line in the counties of Lancaster and Middlesex, Virginia, across the Rappahannock River, pursuant to § 56-46.1 of the Code of Virginia ("Code") and the Utility Facilities Act¹ ("Application"). Specifically, the Company proposes to rebuild approximately 2.2 miles of its existing 115 kilovolt ("kV") transmission line, Harmony Village-Northern Neck Line #65, including an approximately 1.9-mile crossing of the Rappahannock River at the Robert O. Norris Bridge ("Norris Bridge").

On March 18, 2016, the Commission entered its Order for Notice and Hearing in which, among other things, the Commission scheduled public hearings to be held at Lancaster Middle School in Kilmarnock, Virginia, on July 6, 2016; scheduled a public hearing in Richmond, Virginia, to begin on September 20, 2016; and appointed a Hearing Examiner to conduct all further proceedings in this matter and to file a final report.

On April 21, 2016, the County of Lancaster, Virginia ("Lancaster County"), filed its Notice of Participation. On May 18, 2016, William C. Barnhardt ("Barnhardt") filed his Notice of Participation. On May 27, 2016, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative ("ODEC") filed its Notice of Participation. On June 3, 2016, the Save the Rappahannock Coalition, Inc. ("Save the Rappahannock"), filed its Notice of Participation.

On June 22, 2016, Barnhardt filed his Motion to Require Applicant to Supplement Application with Additional Alternatives ("Motion"). Specifically, Barnhardt asked that Dominion Virginia Power be directed to supplement its Application to address the following three alternatives: (i) installing a set of insulated transmission lines on the Norris Bridge ("Barnhardt Option 1"); (ii) installing insulated transmission lines in a shallow trench across the river in conjunction with horizontally drilled pathways from the north and south banks traversing shallow depths adjacent to the banks ("Barnhardt Option 2"); and (iii) laying insulated cables on

¹ Section 56-265.1 *et seq.* of the Code.

the river bottom itself, in conjunction with horizontally drilled pathways from the north and south banks traversing shallow depths adjacent to the banks (“Barnhardt Option 3”). On July 8, 2016, responses to the Motion were filed by Dominion Virginia Power, Lancaster County, Save the Rappahannock, and Staff. Barnhardt filed his reply on July 15, 2016.

On July 18, 2016, Lancaster County filed its Motion to Revise Procedural Dates (“Motion to Revise Dates”). On July 21, 2016, Save the Rappahannock and Barnhardt filed responses in support of the Motion to Revise Dates.

Dominion Virginia Power was directed to conduct further study of Barnhardt Option 1 and Barnhardt Option 2, and the procedural schedule was continued pending further Commission ruling or order in a Hearing Examiner’s Ruling dated July 22, 2016 (“July 22nd Ruling”). In addition, the July 22nd Ruling stated a new procedural schedule would be determined in a prehearing conference that was scheduled in a Hearing Examiner’s Ruling dated July 25, 2016. On August 2, 2016, the prehearing conference was held as scheduled, in which the parties and Staff agreed upon a procedural schedule and a rescheduling of the hearing in this matter. Based on the discussion during the prehearing conference, I find that the procedural schedule should be modified as agreed. Accordingly,

IT IS DIRECTED:

(1) That the hearing currently scheduled for September 20, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. will be retained for the purpose of receiving testimony from public witnesses;

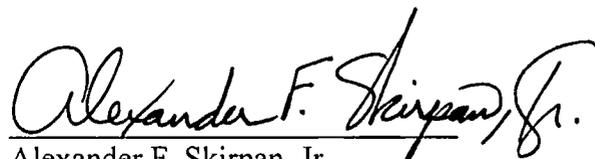
(2) That the hearing for the presentation of evidence by the parties and Staff is hereby scheduled to begin on March 1, 2017, at 10:00 a.m.;

(3) That the date by which the Company shall file its supplemental testimony and exhibits addressing Barnhardt Option 1 and Barnhardt Option 2 is October 31, 2016;

(4) That the date by which respondents shall file their prefiled direct testimony and exhibits is extended from August 9, 2016, to January 11, 2017;

(5) That the date by which Staff shall file its prefiled direct testimony and exhibits is extended from August 23, 2016, to January 31, 2017; and

(6) That the date by which the Company shall file its rebuttal testimony is extended from September 6, 2016, to February 16, 2017.



Alexander F. Skirpan, Jr.
Senior Hearing Examiner

Document Control Center is requested to mail a copy of the above Ruling to all persons on the official Service List in this matter. The Service List is available from the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, 1300 East Main Street, First Floor, Tyler Building, Richmond, VA 23219.

