

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
AT RICHMOND, JUNE 13, 2016

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APPLICATION OF

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

CASE NO. PUE-2016-00056

For approval and certification of Elklick
Switching Station and double-circuit 230 kV
tap lines under Va. Code § 56-46.1 and the
Utility Facilities Act, Va. Code § 56-265.1 *et seq.*

ORDER FOR NOTICE AND HEARING

On May 25, 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 and facilities in Fairfax County, 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.*¹

The Company proposes to construct approximately 670 feet of new double-circuit 230 kilovolt ("kV") transmission lines, four structures to support these new lines, and a new 230 kV Elklick Switching Station (collectively, the "Project").² As proposed, the Company would cut the existing 230 kV Bull Run-Loudoun, Line #295, and extend each end for approximately 670 feet to terminate at the proposed Elklick Switching Station, creating a revised Line #295 and a new 230 kV Loudoun-Elklick Line #2173. According to the Application, the

¹ The Application also includes a letter by which Dominion provides to Fairfax County prior notice of the Company's intent to file its Application with the Commission, which is required pursuant to Code § 15.2-2202 E. Application, Appendix at 45.

² Application at 2. In addition to the four new line structures, two new backbone structures would be constructed. *Id.*

Project would accommodate an expansion of Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative's ("NOVEC") existing Pleasant Valley Delivery Point Substation ("Pleasant Valley Station") and is needed to comply with mandatory North American Electric Reliability Corporation standards.³

The proposed Project would be constructed using approximately 170 feet of existing Company right-of-way and approximately 500 feet of new right-of-way, for which the Application indicates that the Company would obtain easements from the underlying property owners, which are the Fairfax County Park Authority, Dominion Cove Point (a customer of NOVEC), and NOVEC.⁴ The proposed Elklick Switching Station would be constructed adjacent to NOVEC's existing Pleasant Valley Station.⁵ As proposed, three of the four structures that would support the new transmission line would be three-pole structures with heights ranging between approximately 35 to 55 feet and the fourth would be a steel pole structure approximately 105 feet in height.⁶ A more complete description of the Project may be found in the Company's Application.

In its Application, Dominion indicates that the in-service date for the Project is December 31, 2017.⁷ Dominion estimates that it will take 10 to 12 months to construct the proposed Project.⁸ The Company estimates the total cost of the Project to be approximately

³ *Id.* at 2-3. According to the Application, construction of the Project would result in Dominion and NOVEC removing certain existing electric facilities, including an existing 230 kV radial tap line that currently connects Line #295 to NOVEC's Pleasant Valley Station. Direct Pre-filed Testimony of Mark R. Gill at 5-6.

⁴ Application, Appendix at 21-22. Dominion indicates that the Company will seek an exemption or approval under the Affiliates Act, Chapter 4 of Title 56 of the Code, as required in securing easements from Dominion Cove Point. *Id.* at 1.

⁵ *Id.* at 21-22.

⁶ *Id.* at 23-27.

⁷ Application at 3.

⁸ *Id.*

\$8.1 million, of which approximately \$2.1 million is for transmission line construction work, and approximately \$6.0 million is for station work at the Elklick Switching Station.⁹

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 Department of Environmental Quality - State Corporation Commission Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Consultation on Wetland Impacts.¹⁰ 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.¹¹

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 on the Application and to participate in this proceeding; 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 public hearing should be scheduled for the purpose of receiving testimony and evidence on the Application. Finally, the Commission

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *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).

¹¹ Letter from William H. Harrison, IV, State Corporation Commission, dated June 1, 2016, to David L. Davis, Department of Environmental Quality, filed in Case No. PUE-2016-00056.

finds that this matter should be assigned to a Hearing Examiner to conduct all further proceedings in this matter on behalf of the Commission.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) This matter is docketed and assigned Case No. PUE-2016-00056.

(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"), a Hearing Examiner is appointed to conduct all further proceedings in this matter on behalf of the Commission and to file a final report.

(3) A public evidentiary hearing on the Application shall be convened on September 7, 2016, at 1 p.m., in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. Any person desiring to offer testimony or other evidence on the proposed Project at this hearing should appear in the Commission's courtroom fifteen (15) minutes prior to the starting time of the hearing and identify himself or herself to the Commission's Bailiff.

(4) 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>.

(5) On or before July 11, 2016, the Company shall cause to be sent by first class mail a copy of the notice and sketch map prescribed in Ordering Paragraph (6) 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.

(6) On or before July 11, 2016, the Company shall publish the sketch map of the proposed route, as shown on page 71 of the Appendix to the Application, and the following notice as display advertising (not classified) in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in every county and municipality through which the proposed Project would be built:

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY
VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
FOR APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION OF ELECTRIC
TRANSMISSION FACILITIES IN FAIRFAX COUNTY
CASE NO. PUE-2016-00056

On May 25, 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 and facilities in Fairfax County, 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.*

The Company proposes to construct approximately 670 feet of new double-circuit 230 kilovolt ("kV") transmission lines, four structures to support these new lines, and a new 230 kV Elklick Switching Station (collectively, the "Project"). As proposed, the Company would cut the existing 230 kV Bull Run-Loudoun, Line #295, and extend each end for approximately 670 feet to terminate at the proposed Elklick Switching Station, creating a revised Line #295 and a new 230 kV Loudoun-Elklick Line #2173. According

to the Application, the Project would accommodate an expansion of Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative's ("NOVEC") existing Pleasant Valley Delivery Point Station ("Pleasant Valley Station") and is needed to comply with mandatory North American Electric Reliability Corporation standards.

The proposed Project would be constructed using approximately 170 feet of existing Company right-of-way and approximately 500 feet of new right-of-way, for which the Application indicates that the Company would obtain easements from the underlying property owners, which are the Fairfax County Park Authority, Dominion Cove Point (a customer of NOVEC), and NOVEC. The proposed Elklick Switching Station would be constructed adjacent to NOVEC's existing Pleasant Valley Station. As proposed, three of the four structures that would support the new transmission line would be three-pole structures with heights ranging between approximately 35 to 55 feet and the fourth would be a steel pole structure approximately 105 feet in height. A more complete description of the Project may be found in the Company's Application.

In its Application, Dominion indicates that the in-service date for the Project is December 31, 2017. Dominion estimates that it will take 10 to 12 months to construct the proposed Project. The Company estimates the total cost of the Project to be approximately \$8.1 million, of which approximately \$2.1 million is for transmission line construction work, and approximately \$6.0 million is for station work at the Elklick Switching Station.

Transmission Line Route

The Project is located northwest of Sudley Springs in Fairfax County, Virginia, approximately 2.4 miles south of the intersection of Braddock Road and Bull Run Post Office Road. Two new 230 kV tap lines of approximately 670 feet will be constructed between existing Line #295 and the proposed Elklick Switching Station.

All distances and directions are approximate. A sketch map of the route accompanies this notice. A more detailed map of the 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 Commission entered an Order for Notice and Hearing in this proceeding that, among other things, scheduled a public evidentiary hearing at 1 p.m., on September 7, 2016, in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. Any person desiring to offer testimony or other evidence on the proposed Project at this hearing should appear fifteen (15) minutes prior to the starting time of the hearing and contact the Commission's Bailiff.

Copies of the Application and documents filed in this case 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: Stefan R. Brooks

Fairfax County Government Center
12000 Government Center Pkwy.
Fairfax, Virginia 22035
Attention: Mr. Edward L. Long, Jr.,
County Executive

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 August 31, 2016, any interested person wishing to comment on the Application shall file written comments on the Application with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth above. Any interested person desiring to file

comments electronically may do so on or before August 31, 2016, by following the instructions 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 such comments shall refer to Case No. PUE-2016-00056.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure may be viewed at <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. A printed copy of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure 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

(7) On or before July 11, 2016, the Company shall serve a copy of this Order on the chairman of the board of supervisors or mayor of every county, city, and town through which the proposed Project would be built. Service shall be made by first class mail or delivery to the customary place of business or residence of the person served.

(8) On or before July 25, 2016, the Company shall file proof of the notice and service required by Ordering Paragraphs (6) and (7), 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.

(9) On or before July 25, 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 (5). 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.

(10) On or before August 31, 2016, any interested person may file written comments on the Application with the Clerk of the Commission at the address set forth in Ordering Paragraph (8). Any interested person desiring to submit comments electronically may do so on

or before August 31, 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-2016-00056.

(11) The Staff shall investigate the Application. On or before August 18, 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. The Staff shall serve a copy thereof on counsel to the Company and all respondents.

(12) The Company may offer rebuttal testimony and exhibits at the public evidentiary hearing that shall be convened on September 7, 2016.

(13) Responses to written interrogatories and requests for production of documents shall be provided 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.¹² 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.*

(14) 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,

¹² 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-2016-00056, in the appropriate box.

Richmond, Virginia 23219; Vishwa B. Link, Esquire, William G. Bushman, Esquire, and Anne Hampton Andrews, Esquire, McGuireWoods LLP, Gateway Plaza, 800 East Canal Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219; and C. Meade Browder, Jr., Senior Assistant Attorney General, Division of Consumer Counsel, Office of the Attorney General, 202 North Ninth Street, 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.