For guidance purposes, the Commission Staff ("Staff") has identified the following seven categories of transmission line projects for facilities planned for construction in Virginia that, in Staff's view, require a CPCN authorizing such construction.

Any transmission line project 138 kilovolts or greater that:

- (1) proposes construction of a new line more than 0.5 mile long;
- (2) requires the use of new ROW not supplied voluntarily by the requesting customer(s) for which the project is being undertaken;
- (3) includes the replacement of more than three existing structures; or
- (4) requires the replacement of one or more existing structures with a structure that is more than 20% taller than an existing structure being replaced.

Any transmission line project, regardless of voltage, that:

- (5) requires the construction of structures in (and not simply spanning) a navigable waterway;
- (6) proposes construction of an underground line; or
- (7) replaces facilities located within a utility's service territory for a transmission line that received a CPCN after April 8, 1972, and meets the characteristics identified in (2), (3), or (4) above.
- Note 1: Any transmission project that requires only re-conductoring, maintenance, or station work or that does not otherwise meet the characteristics identified above does not require a CPCN except as noted below.
- Note 2: A transmission line project at exactly 138 kilovolts identified above as needing a CPCN can either (a) obtain a CPCN from the Commission or (b) obtain, if for a new line not previously certificated by the Commission, local approval pursuant to the Code.
- Note 3: Transmission line projects that do not meet the parameters identified above, but that have significant costs or significant impacts on scenic assets, historic districts, or the environment, may nonetheless require a CPCN. In such situations, as well as other situations in which clarification or input is deemed necessary, the utility may contact the Staff for consultation.
- Note 4: Transmission line relocation projects that meet the parameters identified above, but that are necessary to accommodate a relocation request by the Virginia Department of Transportation or a similarly situated governmental entity may not require a CPCN depending on the scope of the project. In such situations, the utility may contact the Staff for consultation.