

**SCC NEWS RELEASE**Contact: **Katha Treanor**  
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January 8, 2013

**SCC SETS WORKERS' COMPENSATION PREMIUM LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS**

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has approved revisions to the premium levels charged for workers' compensation insurance in Virginia.

Workers' compensation insurance provides medical care and wage replacement benefits to injured workers. Almost all Virginia employers are required to provide the coverage to their employees.

The National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) sought the revisions. The changes approved by the SCC will increase the overall premium levels for surface coal mine classifications in both the voluntary market and the assigned risk plan and for the industrial and federal classes in the assigned risk plan. Overall premium levels will decrease for underground coal mines in the voluntary market and the assigned risk plan and for the industrial and federal classifications in the voluntary market.

The changes will become effective April 1, 2013, for new and renewal workers' compensation policies, as follows:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Voluntary Market Loss Costs</u>	<u>Assigned Risk Rates</u>
Industrial	-5.7%	+7.3%
"F" (Federal)	-2.1%	+14.4%
Coal Mines (Surface)	+4.9%	+19.0%
Coal Mines (Underground)	-14.5%	-3.9%

NCCI, a Florida-based rate service organization, represents insurance companies licensed to write workers' compensation insurance in Virginia.

Virginia's workers' compensation rates remain among the lowest in the country.

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**Case number INS-2012-00144**

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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January 15, 2013

### **SCC'S BUREAU OF INSURANCE OFFERS TIPS FOR GETTING YOUR INSURANCE COVERAGE IN ORDER FOR 2013**

**RICHMOND** – With the arrival of the new year, the State Corporation Commission's (SCC) Bureau of Insurance reminds Virginians that now is a good time to evaluate your insurance coverage. Whether you are insuring your home, auto or health, it is important to make sure your insurance is up-to-date and will provide the coverage you need in the event you have to file a claim.

“Resolve to review your insurance policy and make sure you understand what it does and does not cover. If you have questions, contact your insurance agent or company,” said Virginia Insurance Commissioner Jacqueline K. Cunningham.

The Bureau of Insurance offers the following tips and reminders to help with your review:

#### **Homeowners/Renters Insurance**

Now is a great time to review your home inventory and make sure your homeowners or renters policy is up-to-date. Make sure your holiday decorations and any big-ticket items you received during the holidays such as jewelry, antiques or electronics are included in the home inventory. Include as many details as you can and take a photo of each item. Ask your insurance agent or company if additional coverage is needed for any of these items.

If you are starting a home inventory from scratch, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) offers a free smartphone app – myHomeScr.APP.book – that can facilitate the process. Download the app from [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#). For more information about creating a home inventory or to download a paper home inventory checklist, visit the NAIC website at [http://www.insureuonline.org/home\\_inventory\\_page.htm](http://www.insureuonline.org/home_inventory_page.htm).

#### **Auto Insurance**

Winter can be a challenge for all drivers. One step toward becoming winter-ready is to check your auto insurance policy.

Make sure you have adequate coverage. Liability is part of the policy that pays for any injury

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or damage if you cause an accident. If your liability insurance is too low, it is possible that you could be sued for any damages above your liability limits.

Also review your deductibles for comprehensive and collision coverage. Raising or lowering this amount can affect your premium.

Be sure to take advantage of any available discounts for such things as good driving, good student, multiple vehicles or multiple policies.

Keep a copy of your insurance card and your insurance agent or company's phone number in the car. It is also a good idea to have a way to record details of an accident if you are in one. The NAIC smartphone application WreckCheck walks you through the process of gathering information following an accident. You can then email your notes directly to your agent. Download the free app from [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#).

### **Health Insurance**

Many Virginians recently went through the open enrollment process for their health insurance at work or Medicare Open Enrollment, which means you may have new insurance cards and paperwork coming in the mail. The Bureau of Insurance suggests getting all of this information together before winter illness or accidents happen.

Check your provider lists to verify that visits to your doctor and any specialists are still covered by your policy, as in-network or preferred provider lists change from year to year. Also read through your documents and make note of your co-pays for in-network and out-of-network providers so you are not surprised later.

If you plan a vacation away from home, check with your insurance carrier to identify urgent care centers and hospitals that accept your insurance coverage near your destination and along the way.

If you have questions about your insurance options or your insurance coverage, contact the Virginia Bureau of Insurance in Richmond at (804) 371-9741 or toll-free in Virginia at 1-800-552-7945 or visit its website at [www.scc.virginia.gov/boi](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/boi). Additional information may also be found on the InsureU portion of the NAIC website at [www.insureuonline.org](http://www.insureuonline.org).

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**SCC NEWS RELEASE**

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January 16, 2013

**SCC APPROVES APPLICATION FROM DULLES GREENWAY OPERATOR**

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has approved an increase in the tolls charged for traveling the Dulles Greenway, a 14-mile roadway that runs between Washington Dulles International Airport and Leesburg, Virginia. The SCC made an adjustment that lowered the percentage of the toll increase.

Virginia law states that the Commission shall approve a toll increase request based upon the Consumer Price Index (CPI) plus one percent (Virginia Code Section § 56-542 I).

Toll Road Investors Partnership II (TRIP II), the operator of the Dulles Greenway, filed its application for a toll increase on November 14, 2012. Applying the statutory formula, TRIP II requested a 3.54 percent increase. The SCC approved an increase of 3.02 percent based upon an updated calculation of the CPI plus one percent in accordance with the statutory requirement.

For a 2-axle vehicle, the requested increase would have totaled 14 cents. The SCC approved increase equals 12 cents.

For the efficient collection of tolls paid in cash, the company rounds to the nearest nickel. The actual posted toll will increase 10 cents, from \$4 to \$4.10. During weekday peak periods (6:30 – 9:00 a.m. eastbound and 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. westbound), the toll increases from \$4.80 to \$4.90.

Updating the CPI to a more current figure does impact the posted tolls for vehicles with three or more axles. For example, the posted toll for a three-axle vehicle will be \$8.20, five cents less than the company’s requested increase of \$8.25.



**Case number PUE-2012-00136**

**ADVISORY:** E-mail distribution of SCC news releases is now available.  
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## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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January 17, 2013

### SCC STAFF ISSUES FINAL REPORT ON 911 SERVICE OUTAGES AFTER JUNE 29, 2012 DERECHO

**RICHMOND** – The 911 outage in Northern Virginia following the June 29, 2012 derecho should not have occurred and was avoidable, according to a final report of the communications staff of the State Corporation Commission (SCC). According to the staff's findings, the 911 service outages were a direct result of Verizon's failure to perform the necessary maintenance on its central office facilities, and were compounded by its inability or failure to monitor and respond, both internally and externally, to the outages.

Verizon has embarked on numerous corrective actions since the 911 outage. The staff report recognizes that Verizon's efforts to identify and correct the underlying causes and problems should go a long way in preventing a similar 911 outage. The staff recommends that these efforts should be monitored and evaluated for a period of time to ensure that Verizon continues to undertake the necessary corrective actions.

Among the 15 recommendations in the final report, the SCC staff suggests that:

- Verizon correct deficiencies and implement recommendations identified in its "mission critical" central office audits, and conduct audits in all remaining offices;
- Verizon provide quarterly corrective action progress reports to the SCC;
- Verizon provide quarterly reports to the SCC identifying any problems found in the monthly testing of generators in offices in Virginia;
- Verizon continue to meet and cooperate with local 911 center operators to ensure their concerns are addressed;
- SCC staff prepares an annual status report that includes recommendations on continuing the various requirements on Verizon and/or recommendations on any changes or additions to such.

Recognizing that there are no absolutes to prevent another 911 service outage in the future, the goal of the recommendations identified in the report is to help prevent such a seriously and potentially life threatening event from occurring again.

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**Case number PUC-2012-00042**

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Commonwealth of Virginia

# State Corporation Commission

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## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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January 30, 2013

### SCC STARTS INVESTIGATION OF CURRENT DULLES GREENWAY TOLL RATES

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) is initiating an investigation of the current toll rates charged by the operator of the Dulles Greenway, a 14-mile private toll road that runs between Washington Dulles International Airport and Leesburg, Virginia. State law provides for such a review upon receipt of a complaint and request for an investigation.

Pursuant to statutes, the SCC approved new toll rates by final order on January 16, 2013. Toll Road Investors Partnership II (TRIP II), the operator of the Dulles Greenway, started collecting higher tolls on January 21, 2013.

Also on January 16, the Commission received a written complaint from David I. Ramadan, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. In the complaint, Delegate Ramadan requested an investigation into the current rate structure, and that the rate be decreased.

Virginia law sets forth the criteria by which the Commission conducts such an investigation (Virginia Code Section 56-542 D). Any substitution of new toll rates from those currently being charged must:

- be reasonable to the user in relation to the benefit obtained,
- must not materially discourage use of the roadway by the public; and
- provide the operator no more than a reasonable return as determined by the Commission.

The case has been assigned to an SCC hearing examiner. A case schedule including the dates for filing written public comments and the date, time, and location of a local hearing will be directed by further ruling of the hearing examiner.

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Case number PUE-2013-00011

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## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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February 15, 2013

### SCC SETS HEARINGS ON INVESTIGATION OF CURRENT DULLES GREENWAY TOLL RATES

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) will conduct hearings in Loudoun County and Richmond to receive public testimony on an investigation of the current toll rates charged by the operator of the Dulles Greenway, a 14-mile private toll road that connects Washington Dulles International Airport with Leesburg.

Two public sessions are scheduled in Purcellville on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, at the Loudoun Valley High School Auditorium at 340 North Maple Avenue. The first session begins at 4 p.m. and then reconvenes at 7 p.m.

The public hearing will continue in Richmond on Thursday, July 18, 2013, at 10 a.m. It will be held in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building at 1300 East Main Street. Any person wishing to comment at any of these hearings should arrive early and sign in with the SCC bailiff. The audio of the Richmond hearing will be webcast via the SCC website.

Written comments on the investigation must be submitted by July 9, 2013. All correspondence should be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, and refer to case number PUE-2013-00011.

Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so at the SCC's website: [www.scc.virginia.gov/case](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case). Click on the PUBLIC COMMENTS/NOTICES link and then the SUBMIT COMMENTS button for case number PUE-2013-00011.

Toll Road Investors Partnership II (TRIP II) is the operator of the Dulles Greenway.

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**Case Number PUE-2013-00011**

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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February 25, 2013

### SCC ADVISES VIRGINIANS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF INVESTMENT PLANNING

**RICHMOND** – In observance of *America Saves Week* 2013 (February 25 to March 2), the State Corporation Commission (SCC) encourages Virginians to start a conversation about their personal finances.

“The more families can talk about their finances, the better they will be in the long run,” said Ron Thomas, director of the SCC’s Division of Securities and Retail Franchising. “Information is a powerful tool when making financial decisions that fit your specific needs and avoiding investment fraud.”

To encourage people to talk about financial matters, the Securities Division makes available a series of “Conversation Starters,” developed by the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA) and available on NASAA’s website at [www.nasaa.org](http://www.nasaa.org). These conversation starters, which consist of a series of open-ended questions, are designed to help families begin an ongoing dialogue about budgeting, saving, investing and avoiding fraud.

Thomas urges all investors to beware of potential traps by anyone targeting them for their hard-earned savings. “Before investing, contact your state securities regulator to verify that the investment and the person recommending it are properly registered,” Thomas said. The Securities Division can provide detailed information about an investment product, broker or adviser. Its website – [www.scc.virginia.gov/srf/index.aspx](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/srf/index.aspx) – also offers numerous investor education materials.

Thomas offers the following tips before making any investment decision:

- Investigate before you invest. Check out the registration and license of potential investments and salespeople.
- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Take your time. Don’t give in to high-pressure sales tactics.
- If you’ve been a victim of fraud, contact the Securities Division in Richmond at (804) 371-9051 or toll-free in Virginia at 1-800-552-7945 or by email at [SRF\\_General@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:SRF_General@scc.virginia.gov).

Additional information is available on the NASAA website and at [InvestWiselyVA.com](http://InvestWiselyVA.com).

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*America Saves Week* is part of a national public awareness effort by the Consumer Federation of America to motivate individuals and families to save for their financial future. To learn more, visit [www.americasavesweek.org](http://www.americasavesweek.org).

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Commonwealth of Virginia

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13-08

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March 6, 2013

#### **SCC SETS ADDITIONAL LOCAL HEARINGS ON INVESTIGATION OF CURRENT DULLES GREENWAY TOLL RATES**

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) scheduled additional hearings in Loudoun County in June to receive public testimony on an investigation of the current toll rates charged by the operator of the Dulles Greenway, a 14-mile private toll road that connects Washington Dulles International Airport with Leesburg.

Two public sessions are scheduled in Sterling on Thursday, June 6, 2013, at the Park View High School Auditorium at 400 W. Laurel Avenue. The first session begins at 4 p.m. and then reconvenes at 7 p.m.

The Sterling hearings follow previously scheduled public sessions in Purcellville on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, at the Loudoun Valley High School Auditorium at 340 North Maple Avenue. The first Purcellville session begins at 4 p.m. and then reconvenes at 7 p.m.

The public hearing will continue in Richmond on Thursday, July 18, 2013, at 10 a.m. It will be held in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building at 1300 East Main Street. Any person wishing to comment at any of these hearings should arrive early and sign in with the SCC bailiff. The audio of the Richmond hearing will be webcast via the SCC website.

Written comments on the investigation must be submitted by July 9, 2013. All correspondence should be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, and refer to case number PUE-2013-00011.

Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so at the SCC's website: [www.scc.virginia.gov/case](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case). Click on the PUBLIC COMMENTS/NOTICES link and then the SUBMIT COMMENTS button for case number PUE-2013-00011.

Toll Road Investors Partnership II (TRIP II) is the operator of the Dulles Greenway.

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**Case Number PUE-2013-00011**

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Commonwealth of Virginia

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13-09

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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March 22, 2013

### SCC APPROVES DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM TO BUY ELECTRICITY FROM CUSTOMER-OWNED SOLAR GENERATION

**RICHMOND** — The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has approved a request by Dominion Virginia Power (DVP) to offer a rate option for customers who own solar generation installations. The rate option is one of the components of DVP's Community Solar Power Program.

The new rate program will allow qualifying solar customer-generators to purchase all of their electricity from the company on their current rate schedule and to sell all of their solar generation to DVP at a fixed price of 15 cents per kilowatt-hour for a period of five years. DVP will purchase up to three megawatts of energy output from customer-owned solar generation installations.

DVP utilizes a portion of the voluntary environmental contributions received through the company's Green Power Program in addition to the avoided cost energy rate component to arrive at the 15 cents per kilowatt-hour purchase price.

The Commission found that the solar purchase program, taken as a whole, is reasonably designed to promote customer-owned distributed solar generation facilities and to offer an alternative to net energy metering.

The SCC approved the other component of DVP's Community Solar Power Program in case number PUE-2011-00117. In that component, DVP will construct and operate up to 30 megawatts of company-owned solar generation facilities at various commercial, industrial, and public locations.

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**Case Number PUE-2012-00064**

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Commonwealth of Virginia

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13-10

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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April 1, 2013

### **APRIL IS NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH; AWARENESS OF NEED TO CALL 811 (Miss Utility) BEFORE YOU DIG**

RICHMOND – April is National Safe Digging Month – dedicated to bringing attention to the importance of calling 811 before beginning any digging or demolishing project to avoid damaging underground utility lines.

Thousands of miles of underground utility lines provide our communities and businesses with essential public services such as natural gas, electricity, telecommunications, water and sewer. Preventing damage to these lines is a responsibility shared by all.

The State Corporation Commission (SCC) is responsible for enforcing Virginia's Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act. SCC Division of Utility and Railroad Safety Director Massoud Tahamtani said, "When an underground utility line is damaged, there can be far reaching consequences, such as serious injury, environmental damage, property damage, economic loss, and service interruptions." He added, "Damaging an underground utility line may result in civil penalties and liability claims."

Virginia has a nationally recognized damage prevention program. When properly followed, it can help in preventing damage to underground utility lines. The program is summed up in the message, "Dig With C.A.R.E. Keep Virginia Safe!" C.A.R.E. means:

Call Miss Utility at 811 before you dig.

Allow the required time for marking.

Respect and protect the marks.

Excavate carefully.

Calling 811 connects you to Miss Utility of Virginia, the state's one-call notification center which operates Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding legal state and national holidays. Emergency notification service is available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

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**ADVISORY:** E-mail distribution of SCC news releases is now available.  
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When Miss Utility receives a call concerning digging or a demolition, trained staff will ask for important information about the planned work and then notify member utility operators that may have underground utility lines in your project area. Utility operators will respond by sending locators to your project area within the time allowed by law to mark the approximate horizontal location on the ground within 2 feet of the underground utility lines by means of paint, stakes or flags. There is no cost for this service. Once marked, hand digging is required within 24 inches of these marks.

Please plan your digging or demolition project to avoid damage, disturbance or dislocation to underground utility lines. Dig With C.A.R.E. Keep Virginia Safe!

To learn more about Virginia's damage prevention program, contact the SCC Division of Utility and Railroad Safety at (804) 371-9980, or visit the Division's website at <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/urs/mutility/index.aspx>.

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## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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April 19, 2013

### SCC SETS SCHEDULE TO CONSIDER DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER EARNINGS REVIEW

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has set the schedule for public participation in a biennial review of the rates, terms and conditions of electric service provided by Dominion Virginia Power, the largest provider of electric service in the Commonwealth. In this proceeding, the company is not requesting an increase in its rates for generation and distribution services.

The Commission will be reviewing the company's earnings for the years 2011 and 2012 and establish the authorized rate of return on equity for the years 2013 and 2014. The company is currently authorized a return of 10.9 percent. It is requesting an authorized return of 11.5%.

In this proceeding, the company is requesting approval of changes to certain provisions of its terms and conditions for providing service. And, the company is seeking approval of a new line extension plan that would expand the use of underground lines for new services and enhance the opportunity to convert overhead service lines to underground for existing residential customers.

The Commission has set a public hearing for September 17, 2013 to begin at 10 a.m. Persons wishing to comment at the hearing should arrive early and notify the SCC bailiff. Hearings are held in the SCC's courtroom on the second floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street in downtown Richmond.

The SCC will webcast the audio portion of this hearing via the Internet. Instructions for listening to the proceeding can be found on the SCC website at <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case/>.

For persons wishing to submit comments in writing, they must be received on or before September 10, 2013. Written comments may be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. Please refer to case number PUE-2013-00020.

Persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so at the SCC's website at <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case/>. Click on the PUBLIC COMMENTS/NOTICES link, find the correct case number, and hit the SUBMIT COMMENTS button for that specific case.

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**Case number PUE-2013-00020**

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April 29, 2013

### SCC SETS SCHEDULE TO CONSIDER TWO APPALACHIAN POWER RATE REQUESTS

**RICHMOND** — The State Corporation Commission (SCC) will hold hearings on August 28 and 29 to receive public testimony in two cases involving rate changes proposed by Appalachian Power Company (APCo).

The first request to be considered by the SCC in case PUE-2013-00009 is a rate increase proposed by APCo to recover approximately \$11.8 million in costs for its Dresden Generating Plant, a 580-megawatt natural gas-fired generating plant located in Dresden, Ohio. The amount is above the already approved revenue requirement of approximately \$26.1 million for the plant. Public comments are due on August 21, 2013. A public hearing in Richmond is scheduled for August 28, 2013, at 10 a.m.

In case PUE-2013-00010, the SCC will consider a request by APCo to recover approximately \$38.5 million in costs associated with the installation of equipment to meet state and federal environmental requirements. Comments are due on August 22, 2013. A hearing in Richmond is scheduled for August 29, 2013, at 10 a.m.

The hearings will be held in the SCC's courtroom on the second floor of the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street in downtown Richmond. Persons wishing to comment at the hearings should arrive early and notify the SCC bailiff.

Written comments on any of these requests may be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. Please refer to the proper case number.

Persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so at the SCC's website at <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. Click on the PUBLIC COMMENTS/NOTICES link, find the correct case number, and hit the SUBMIT COMMENTS button for that specific case.

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**Case PUE-2013-00009** – Appalachian Power Company – Petition for a revision of a rate adjustment clause with respect to the Dresden Generating Plant

**Case PUE-2013-00010** – Appalachian Power Company – Petition for a rate adjustment clause to recover costs incurred in complying with state and federal environmental laws and regulations

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May 2, 2013

**SCC SEEKS COMMENTS ON KENTUCKY UTILITIES RATE INCREASE REQUEST;  
HEARINGS SET FOR NORTON AND RICHMOND**

**RICHMOND** — The State Corporation Commission (SCC) will hold a public hearing on June 24, 2013, in Norton on a request by Kentucky Utilities Company for a general rate increase. The local hearing will give members of the public in Kentucky Utilities' southwestern Virginia service territory a more convenient location to offer testimony as public witnesses.

Kentucky Utilities, doing business in Virginia as Old Dominion Power Company, seeks an increase in base rates in the amount of \$6.5 million over present total operating revenues. The proposed rate increase would raise the monthly bill of a residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity from \$91.77 per month to \$101.34 per month, an increase of \$9.57, or 10.43 percent.

Two public sessions are scheduled in Norton on Monday, June 24, 2013, in the Norton City Council Chambers at 618 Virginia Avenue. The first session begins at 4 p.m. and then reconvenes at 7 p.m.

The public hearing will continue in Richmond on Tuesday, October 1, 2013, at 10 a.m. It will be held in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, in downtown Richmond. Any person wishing to comment at any of these hearings should arrive early and notify the SCC bailiff.

Written comments on the proposal must be submitted by September 26, 2013. All correspondence should be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, and refer to case number PUE-2013-00013.

Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so at the SCC's website: [www.scc.virginia.gov/case](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case). Click on the PUBLIC COMMENTS/NOTICES link and then the SUBMIT COMMENTS button for case number PUE-2013-00013.

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**Case Number PUE-2013-00013 – Application of Kentucky Utilities Company for a general rate increase**

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Commonwealth of Virginia

# State Corporation Commission

Division of Information Resources  
P. O. Box 1197, Richmond, Virginia 23218

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## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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May 9, 2013

### **SCC SEEKS COMMENTS ON DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER RATE REQUEST; SCHEDULES PUBLIC HEARING**

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) will hold a public hearing on June 18, 2013, on a request by Dominion Virginia Power (DVP) for an increase in its fuel factor. The company says the increase is necessary to cover the higher costs of fuel used to generate electricity.

DVP seeks to increase its fuel factor by 0.236 cents per kilowatt-hour (¢/kWh) from 2.706¢/kWh to 2.942¢/kWh. The proposed fuel factor would increase the average monthly bill of a typical residential customer using 1,000 kWh of electricity by \$2.36, or approximately 2.2 percent.

A public hearing on the request is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Tuesday, June 18, 2013. It will be held in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building, 1300 East Main Street, in downtown Richmond. Any person wishing to comment at the hearing should arrive early and notify the SCC bailiff.

The SCC will webcast the audio portion of this hearing via the Internet. Instructions for listening to the proceeding can be found on the SCC website at [www.scc.virginia.gov/case](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case).

Written comments on the proposal must be submitted by June 11, 2013. All correspondence should be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, and refer to case number PUE-2013-00042.

Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so at the SCC's website: [www.scc.virginia.gov/case](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case). Click on the PUBLIC COMMENTS/NOTICES link and then the SUBMIT COMMENTS button for case number PUE-2013-00042.

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**Case Number PUE-2013-00042** – Application of Dominion Virginia Power to revise its fuel factor

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## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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May 10, 2013

### SCC URGES VIRGINIANS TO UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENT ROLES OF FINANCIAL SERVICE PROFESSIONALS

**RICHMOND** – Whether planning for a new home, retirement or your child’s college education, many Virginians seek assistance from financial service professionals in managing and growing their money. The State Corporation Commission (SCC) reminds investors of the importance of understanding the distinctions between the various types of financial service professionals.

“When selecting a financial service professional, it pays to understand the differences between a broker-dealer agent, an investment advisor, and a financial planner. Each serves a different role in helping with your financial future and their obligations to you as a client vary,” said Ron Thomas, director of the SCC’s Securities Division.

Anyone registered as an investment advisor must, by law, act as a fiduciary and put the interests of his or her clients ahead of their own. However, broker-dealer agents – which can include stock brokers, financial consultants, financial advisors, and registered representatives – are only obligated to recommend securities that are suitable for clients based upon factors such as the client’s age, risk tolerance and investment goals. Financial planners design an overall plan for their clients to save, invest, and manage their money. Planners who provide specific investment advice – such as recommending particular financial products or investments – must be registered as investment advisors and are subject to a fiduciary duty.

The Securities Division offers information on its website that provides basic information on the various types of financial service professionals and their obligations to investors. Before doing business with any investment professional, Thomas urges investors to contact the Securities Division to determine whether the individual, firm, or investment opportunity are properly registered and if there have been any complaints or disciplinary problems involving that individual or his or her firm.

“The information you need to make an informed choice about who you trust with your money is right at your fingertips,” Thomas said. He encourages consumers to ask the following questions and get information in writing:

- What services do you offer?

(more)

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- What licenses, registrations, qualifications, and experience do you have to offer these services?
- Are you a broker-dealer agent, investment advisor, financial planner, or any combination thereof?
- Can you provide me with your Central Registration Depository (CRD) number, and, if not, why not?
- Are you required to always act in my best interest?
- Do you have any potential conflicts of interest when providing me with investment advice?
- How are you paid? Explain commissions or fees you may charge.

“Be wary of high-pressure tactics, pie-in-the-sky promises, or investment opportunities that do not meet your particular objectives,” Thomas said.

To request background information about a stockbroker, contact the SCC’s Division of Securities and Retail Franchising toll-free (in Virginia) at 1-800-552-7945 or in Richmond at (804) 371-9051 and ask for all materials from the CRD about that individual. For similar information about an investment advisor, ask for all materials from the Investment Adviser Registration Depository. These computerized national databases contain licensing and registration information on more than 650,000 stockbrokers and more than 260,000 investment advisors. You can also receive information on their employment, examination and disciplinary histories, civil judgments, arbitration decisions, criminal convictions or indictments, bankruptcies, as well as pending complaints, disciplinary actions, arbitration, and civil proceedings.

For more information, visit the Securities Division website at [www.scc.virginia.gov/srf](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/srf) or the North American Securities Administrators Association website at [www.nasaa.org](http://www.nasaa.org).

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## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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May 28, 2013

### SCC'S BUREAU OF INSURANCE ENCOURAGES VIRGINIANS TO PLAN NOW FOR HURRICANE SEASON

**RICHMOND** – Virginians know all too well that Mother Nature can be a determined adversary. With hurricane season just around the corner, the State Corporation Commission's (SCC) Bureau of Insurance encourages Virginians to consider their insurance options **before** the winds and rains arrive.

Hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30 each year. No matter where you live in Virginia, hurricanes and their resulting flooding can threaten lives and property. Once a hurricane develops in the Atlantic, it will be difficult to find an insurance company willing to write related coverage until the storm threat passes.

"Protect your physical and financial well-being by planning ahead and knowing what to do if a disaster strikes," said Virginia Insurance Commissioner Jacqueline K. Cunningham. "Make sure you have the insurance coverage you need **before** the first hurricane begins to brew."

Review your existing insurance policy carefully so you know what it does and does not cover. Contact your insurance agent or company or the Bureau of Insurance if you have any questions.

Some homeowner's policies contain a special deductible for wind or hurricane losses. Some insurance companies automatically include a wind or hurricane deductible, while others offer this deductible at the policyholder's option. The deductible is the amount that you are responsible for paying before the insurance company pays its portion of the claim.

Wind or hurricane deductibles may be written as a flat amount, such as \$1,000. Or, they may be applied to the loss as a percentage of the insurance coverage on the dwelling. For example: assume a hurricane causes damage amounting to \$3,000 and the dwelling is insured for \$100,000. If the policy has a two-percent hurricane deductible, the insured would pay \$2,000 and the insurance company would pay \$1,000. The amounts of these deductibles may vary depending upon where you live, so the Bureau suggests that you shop around and compare prices and terms.

The Bureau reminds Virginians that most hurricane damage comes from flooding, not high winds. Homeowners insurance policies issued in Virginia generally do not provide coverage for damage to your home and belongings due to floods. However, the federal government does sell insurance for direct flood and flood-related damage to residents of eligible communities through its National Flood

(more)

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Insurance Program (NFIP). There is a waiting period for flood insurance policies to take effect. For more information on this program, contact your insurance agent or the NFIP at 1-888-225-5356 or visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov). Be sure to find out whether your flood policy provides coverage for your contents.

Policyholders may also want to consider the following:

- Does your insurance pay replacement costs, or actual cash value for a covered loss?
- Are contents of your home covered in the event of a hurricane? Homeowners policies generally cover contents up to specified limits, but additional coverage may be purchased.
- Are automobiles and other vehicles covered in the event of a hurricane or other windstorm?
- Have you purchased coverage for sewer backup? Most homeowners policies do not provide coverage for sewer backup, but policyholders may purchase additional coverage for this.

Ask your insurance agent or company how you can reduce the severity of a loss, should a hurricane strike. If you must evacuate, know the name of your insurance company and take your homeowners, auto and other insurance policies with you. They will contain your policy number and the phone number of your insurance company in case you have questions or need to file a claim.

Prepare a complete inventory of your personal property ahead of time including serial numbers, photographs and videotapes. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners' free smartphone app – myHOME Scr.APP.book – makes creating a home inventory easier than ever. Download the app from iTunes or Google Play. Keep your home inventory in a safe place, and take it with you if you evacuate. If your property is damaged by a hurricane, make any necessary emergency repairs and take reasonable steps to protect your property from further damage. Make a list of all damage to the house and its contents and include photographs, notes and repair-related receipts.

The Bureau of Insurance offers free consumer guides for homeowners and commercial property owners with information about what to do when a disaster strikes. These and many other consumer insurance guides are available on the Bureau's website at [www.scc.virginia.gov/boi](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/boi).

The Bureau's specially trained staff can assist consumers with their insurance-related questions and concerns. For more information, contact the Bureau of Insurance Property and Casualty Division toll-free at 1-877-310-6560 or in Richmond at (804) 371-9185. Consumers who are hearing or speech impaired may call through the SCC's telecommunications device for the deaf and hard of hearing (TDD) at (804) 371-9206.

For additional emergency preparedness information relating to hurricanes and other types of disasters, visit [www.ready.virginia.gov](http://www.ready.virginia.gov). This statewide public education effort is designed to prepare Virginians for all kinds of hazards.

Commonwealth of Virginia

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### SCC NEWS RELEASE

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June 27, 2013

#### SCC SETS FUEL RATE FOR DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has approved a new fuel rate requested by Dominion Virginia Power that will take effect on July 1, 2013.

The new fuel rate is 2.942 cents per kilowatt-hour (¢/kWh), which represents an increase of 0.236 ¢/kWh from the current fuel factor of 2.706 ¢/kWh. For the average residential customer, the fuel rate increase means the monthly bill for 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity will increase \$2.26, or approximately 2.2 percent.

The fuel rate is the portion of the electric bill that pays for the cost of fuel used to generate electricity and reflects the wholesale purchase and sales of power. Dominion Virginia Power is statutorily entitled to recover its prudently incurred fuel costs. This is a dollar-for-dollar recovery, and the company can make no profit on the recovery of fuel expenses.

The fuel rate is reviewed annually by the SCC and re-set, as necessary, to reflect actual fuel expenses for the previous year and projected fuel expenses for the coming year.

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**Case Number PUE-2013-00042** – Application of Dominion Virginia Power to revise its fuel factor

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## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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July 31, 2013

### **SCC APPROVES APCO ACQUISITION OF ONE POWER PLANT, DENIES ANOTHER; APPROVES WHEELING MERGER**

**RICHMOND** -- The Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) has approved the acquisition by Appalachian Power Company (APCO) of the remaining portion of the Amos electric generating plant that it did not already own.

APCO already owns units 1 and 2 and one-third of unit 3 of the coal-fired, 2,900-megawatt John Amos generating plant complex located in Winfield, W. Va. The SCC allowed APCO to acquire the remaining interest in the Amos 3 plant from an affiliate company at a price of \$565 million, which is \$53.4 million lower than the price APCO proposed to pay. The SCC said the lower price reflects the use of traditional regulatory accounting principles to determine the plant's book value.

While approving the Amos 3 acquisition, the SCC rejected APCO's request to purchase half of the Mitchell coal-fired generating plant in Moundsville, W. Va. at a price of \$536 million, also from an affiliate. The SCC wrote that the risks associated with the Mitchell plant were greater than those associated with Amos 3. The Commission noted that APCO currently owns none of the Mitchell plant and has no track record of operating and maintaining the Mitchell plant or knowledge of all potential environmental and contractual risks associated with Mitchell and further, that APCO ratepayers have no prior investments in the Mitchell plant. In distinguishing Mitchell from the Amos 3 acquisition, the SCC wrote, "We consider it relevant and important that APCO already owns [most of the Amos plant] ... Virginia ratepayers already have made substantial investments in the Amos units."

In denying the Mitchell acquisition, the SCC also cited the risks associated from a lack of diversity in APCO's generating fleet. Approving both acquisitions would raise the percentage of coal-fired electricity produced by APCO's generation fleet to a projected 87 percent by 2017.

The SCC also approved APCO's request to merge with Wheeling Power, a distribution utility located in northern W. Va. The SCC found that APCO's representations that the rate impact on Virginia ratepayers would be neutral and potentially positive were reasonable. However, the SCC directed that APCO provide a \$3.3 million rate credit to Virginia ratepayers to resolve timing concerns and the SCC will review evidence in APCO's next biennial review and fuel proceedings as to the effect of the merger on Virginia ratepayers.

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**Case number PUE-2012-00141**

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Commonwealth of Virginia

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August 2, 2013

### SCC APPROVES CONSTRUCTION OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY POWER STATION BY DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER; AUTHORIZES RATE RIDER FOR RECOVERY OF PROJECT COSTS

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has approved a request by Dominion Virginia Power to construct and operate a 1,358 megawatt natural gas-fired power plant in Brunswick County. The SCC also approved a rate surcharge (Rider BW) effective September 1, to allow for timely recovery of project costs.

In approving the project, the Commission found that the company had, “established a need for the additional capacity and energy.” In satisfying the applicable statutory requirements, the Commission determined that “the facts supporting this finding include, but are not limited to, the reasonableness, prudence, and benefits associated with the chosen technology, fuel source, cost, fixed-price contracts, locations, natural gas pipeline expansion, economic development, tax revenues, and the company’s resulting fuel diversity.”

The estimated construction cost is approximately \$1.27 billion, excluding financing costs. The rate rider is designed to produce \$43.485 million over 12 months. The rider is subject to annual review and adjustments. The estimated initial impact of Rider BW is 81 cents on a typical monthly residential customer bill for using approximately 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity.

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**Case number PUE-2012-00128**

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Commonwealth of Virginia

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### SCC NEWS RELEASE

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August 7, 2013

#### **NATIONAL 811 DAY IS AUGUST 11;** **AWARENESS OF NEED TO CALL 811 (Miss Utility) BEFORE YOU DIG**

RICHMOND – Sunday, August 11 is National 811 Day and serves as a reminder to all homeowners and professional excavators of the importance of calling 811 before beginning any digging or demolishing project.

A simple and free call to 811 connects you to Miss Utility of Virginia, which notifies the appropriate utility companies of your intent to dig. From there, utility locators come to your project area in the time

allowed by law to mark the approximate location of the underground utility lines by means of paint, stakes, or flags. Once marked, hand digging is required within 24 inches of these marks.

The State Corporation Commission (SCC) is the agency responsible for enforcing the Virginia Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act. SCC Utility and Railroad Safety Division Director Massoud Tahamtani says, “On August 11 and throughout the year homeowners and contractors alike are reminded to call 811 before digging to prevent damage to underground utility lines.”

Underground utility lines provide many vital utility services to our homes and businesses. According to Tahamtani, “Whenever an underground utility line is damaged, the consequences can be far-reaching and can include personal injury or worse. Also at stake are environmental damage, economic loss, and disruption of vital utility services that we use on a daily basis.” He added, “Damaging an underground utility line can lead to liability claims and civil penalties against the responsible party.”

(more)

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Dig with **CARE**. Keep Virginia safe!

- C** all 811 before you dig
- A** llow the required time for marking
- R** espect and protect the marks
- E** xcavate carefully



Miss Utility of Virginia is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding legal state and national holidays. However, emergency notifications can be made 365 days a year, 24-hours-a-day.

Virginia's C.A.R.E. message reminds you to call Miss Utility at 811 and avoid damage to underground utility lines. C.A.R.E. means:

Call Miss Utility at 811 before you dig.

Allow the required time for marking.

Respect and protect the marks.

Excavate carefully.

To learn more about "Digging with C.A.R.E." and Virginia's damage prevention program, contact the SCC's Division of Utility and Railroad Safety at (804) 371-9980, or visit the division's website at [www.scc.virginia.gov/urs/mutility/index.aspx](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/urs/mutility/index.aspx).

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Commonwealth of Virginia

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### SCC NEWS RELEASE

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August 27, 2013

#### **SCC APPROVES VIRGINIA'S FIRST PREPAID ELECTRIC SERVICE OFFERING: A VOLUNTARY PROGRAM FOR RAPPAHANNOCK ELECTRIC CO-OP CUSTOMERS**

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has approved the framework to allow customers of an electric cooperative to participate in a voluntary prepaid electric service program. It is the first such program to be offered in Virginia.

Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, which serves approximately 155,000 meters in primarily rural counties and towns from Fredericksburg to Front Royal, proposed the program which will be available to customers who request it. The program allows a customer to prepay for electric service and allows the cooperative to suspend service when sufficient funds are not available.

Under the traditional billing method, a customer consumes electricity for at least one month, after which the meter is read and a bill is sent to the customer.

Under prepaid service, a customer establishes a prepaid balance with the cooperative. As electricity is consumed, charges are deducted daily from the customer's prepaid account. The cooperative reads the meter at least once a day. When the charges for electric service equal or exceed the amount of the prepayment balance, the cooperative will issue a notice that service will be suspended if no payment is received by 8 a.m. of the next calendar day. If payment sufficient to re-establish a positive prepayment balance is not received by 8 a.m. of the next calendar day, electric service will be automatically suspended without additional notification.

In its order on the application, the SCC identified a number of specific requirements for a voluntary prepaid electric service program:

- There will be no termination of service prior to 7 a.m. or after 3 p.m.;
- The prepaid electric service is not available to households receiving service subject to a Serious Medical Condition Certification;
- The cooperative is allowed up to three hours to restore service once prepaid service is terminated;
- The cooperative is not required to set a particular time of day to read meters, and no paper bills will be part of the prepaid service program;
- The SCC staff and the cooperative will work together to formulate a consumer education process prior to offering the prepaid service program to customers.

(MORE)

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In addition, the SCC directed Rappahannock to provide customers with direct notification of low balance conditions prior to the termination of service:

- Rappahannock will provide direct notice to a customer when the customer's prepayment balance represents approximately five days of estimated normal usage;
- Daily notifications will continue to be made until the prepayment balance exceeds the predetermined notification level or reaches zero;
- Customer notifications will be provided by telephone, email or text message, as selected by the customer;
- Rappahannock shall offer low balance notification to a third party designated by the customer.

The Commission concluded that a pre-paid electric service program is lawful and in the public interest only if such requirements are met. A provision of Virginia law adopted in 2010 allows electric cooperatives to provide such a program. The law also directs the Commission to ensure that the tariff for such a program is not contrary to the public interest.

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**Case Number PUE-2011-00091**

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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August 28, 2013

### **SCC'S BUREAU OF INSURANCE REMINDS VIRGINIANS TO REVIEW THEIR PROPERTY COVERAGE BEFORE A HURRICANE OR OTHER DISASTER**

**RICHMOND** – September 1 marks the midpoint of the Atlantic hurricane season. With three months to go, the Virginia State Corporation Commission's (SCC) Bureau of Insurance reminds Virginians to act now to protect their property from loss. There have been six named storms so far during the 2013 Atlantic hurricane season, which began June 1 and runs through November 30.

The Bureau encourages Virginians to plan ahead and know what to do before a hurricane or other disaster strikes your home or business property. Review your insurance policy carefully to make sure you have enough coverage in the event of a disaster. Know what your policy does and does not cover. Contact your insurance agent or company or the Bureau of Insurance if you have any questions.

"Protect yourself physically and financially. Take steps now to insure you have the coverage you need if disaster strikes," said Virginia Insurance Commissioner Jacqueline K. Cunningham.

Ask your insurance company or agent how you can minimize property damage and, if such damage occurs, how to expedite the processing of claims with your insurance company.

Prepare a complete inventory of your personal property ahead of time including serial numbers, photographs and videotapes. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners' free smartphone app – myHOME Scr.APP.book – makes creating a home inventory easier than ever. Download the app from iTunes or Google Play. Keep your home inventory and your insurance policies in a safe place, and take them with you if you evacuate.

If your property is damaged by a hurricane, call your insurance agent or company as soon as possible. Make any necessary emergency repairs and take reasonable steps to prevent further damage to your property. Record all damage to your property and include photographs, notes, and repair-related receipts.

If you must evacuate, know the name of your insurance companies and take your homeowners, auto and other insurance policies with you. They will contain your policy number and the phone number of your insurance company in the event you have questions or need to file a claim.

The Bureau also encourages policyholders to consider the following:

(more)

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- **Does your homeowners policy contain a special deductible for wind or hurricane losses?** Some companies have wind or hurricane deductibles. These deductibles are applied separately from any other deductible on a homeowners policy and may be written as a flat amount, such as \$1,000, or applied to a loss as a percentage of the insurance coverage on the dwelling.
- **Is your home covered in the event of a flood, surface water, or storm surge?** Homeowners insurance policies issued in Virginia generally do *not* provide coverage for damage to your home and belongings due to flood, surface water, or storm surge. However, flood insurance is available through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). For more information on this program, contact your insurance agent or the NFIP at 1-888-225-5356 or visit [www.floodsmart.gov/](http://www.floodsmart.gov/).
- **Does your homeowners policy provide any coverage for such things as sewer backup?** Most homeowners policies do not provide coverage for sewer backup, but policyholders may purchase additional coverage for this.
- **Are automobiles and other vehicles covered in the event of a hurricane or other windstorm?** If you have comprehensive coverage – also known as other than collision coverage – for your vehicle under your automobile policy, you will be covered for flood and wind damage.

The Bureau cautions that once a hurricane develops in the Atlantic, it will be difficult to find an insurance company willing to write related coverage until the storm threat passes.

The Bureau of Insurance has specially trained staff who can assist consumers with their insurance-related questions and concerns. For more information, contact the Bureau of Insurance Property and Casualty Division toll-free at 1-877-310-6560 or in Richmond at (804) 371-9185. Consumers who are hearing or speech impaired may call through the SCC's Telecommunications Device for the Deaf and hard of hearing (TDD) at (804) 371-9206.

The SCC is located in the Tyler Building at 1300 East Main Street in downtown Richmond. Normal business hours are from 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. Correspondence may be mailed to the Bureau of Insurance at P. O. Box 1157, Richmond, VA 23218.

The Bureau of Insurance offers free consumer guides for homeowners and commercial property owners with information about what to do when a disaster strikes. These and many other consumer insurance guides are available on the Bureau's website at [www.scc.virginia.gov/boi](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/boi).

For additional emergency preparedness information relating to hurricanes and other types of disasters, visit [www.readyvirginia.gov](http://www.readyvirginia.gov). This statewide public education effort is designed to prepare Virginians for all types of hazards.

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Commonwealth of Virginia

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## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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November 21, 2013

### SCC SETS LOWER FUEL RATE FOR DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has approved a reduction in the fuel rate requested by Dominion Virginia Power that will take effect on December 1, 2013.

The new fuel rate is 2.572 cents per kilowatt-hour (¢/kWh), which represents a decrease of 0.37 ¢/kWh from the current fuel factor of 2.942 ¢/kWh. For the average residential customer, the fuel rate decrease means the monthly bill for 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity will decrease \$3.70, or approximately 3.3 percent.

The fuel rate is the portion of the electric bill that pays for the cost of fuel used to generate electricity and reflects the wholesale purchase and sales of power. Dominion Virginia Power is statutorily entitled to recover its prudently incurred fuel costs. This is a dollar-for-dollar recovery, and the company can make no profit on the recovery of fuel expenses.

The company's voluntary fuel rate reduction seeks to align its 2013-2014 fuel year revenues with corresponding fuel expenses in light of recent weather conditions and fuel commodity prices.

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**Case Number PUE-2013-00042** – Application of Dominion Virginia Power to revise its fuel factor

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Commonwealth of Virginia

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## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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November 21, 2013

### SCC SCHEDULES HEARING ON A PROPOSAL TO BUILD 750 MW ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY IN LOUDOUN COUNTY

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) will hold a hearing in Richmond on March 11, 2014, to receive public and evidentiary testimony on an application by Green Energy Partners/Stonewall LLC to build a 750 megawatt natural gas-fired generating facility in Loudoun County.

The company proposes to build the power plant on a 101-acre site located south-southeast of the Leesburg Executive Airport and north of the Dulles Greenway at 20077 Gant Lane.

The public hearing will be held in Richmond on Tuesday, March 11, 2014, at 10 a.m. in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building at 1300 East Main Street. Any person wishing to comment on the proposal at the hearing should arrive early and sign in with the SCC bailiff.

Written comments on the proposal must be submitted by March 4, 2014. All correspondence should be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, and refer to case number PUE-2013-00104.

Persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so at the SCC's website: [www.scc.virginia.gov/case](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case). Click on the PUBLIC COMMENTS/NOTICES link and then the SUBMIT COMMENTS button for case number PUE-2013-00104.

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**Case Number PUE-2013-00104**

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## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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November 26, 2013

### SCC COMPLETES FINANCIAL REVIEW OF DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER; ADJUSTS AUTHORIZED RATE OF RETURN

**RICHMOND** - The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has ordered Dominion Virginia Power to make various financial and accounting adjustments to ensure that customers continue to pay fair and reasonable rates for electric service. The SCC directives come after a review of the rates charged by the state's largest electric utility, as required by Virginia law, for calendar years 2011 and 2012.

Dominion Virginia Power's base rates will be reduced slightly since three demand-side management programs are no longer offered by the company. Other decisions set forth in the SCC's final order become the basis for the next biennial review for calendar years 2013 and 2014.

As a whole, the Commission made findings which "we conclude are reasonable and supported by evidence in the record." Among the significant decisions within the SCC order:

- A determination that Dominion Virginia Power earned, on average, a return on equity of approximately 10.25 percent on its generation and distribution services. The company was authorized a minimum return of 10.4 percent. Thus, the company experienced an under-recovery of approximately \$22.7 million, an amount that will be recognized in the next two-year financial review as a 2013 accounting adjustment.
- A determination that the new return on equity (ROE) for Dominion Virginia Power is 10 percent. The Commission considers that return "fair and reasonable to the company, permits the attraction of capital on reasonable terms, fairly compensates investors for the risks assumed, enables the company to maintain its financial integrity," ... and is in line with other peer group investor-owned electric utilities. The 10 percent ROE serves as the baseline for the next financial review of earnings for 2013 and 2014.
- A determination that Dominion Virginia Power's proposed equity percentage, at 55.02 percent, is unreasonably high. Under the facts of this case, the SCC found that an equity percentage of 50 percent is reasonable for rate-making purposes. The SCC said, "This unreasonably high equity percentage results in an unreasonable cost of equity and an excessive cost of capital that will be borne by customers, and should be adjusted."

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- A determination that Dominion Virginia Power requires approximately \$4.87 billion in annual revenues to recover its cost of service and earn a fair return. While the company's current rates are projected to produce more than that annual amount, by law, any rate adjustment must await the results of future biennial reviews.
- A determination that base rates should be reduced to account for three discontinued demand-side management programs. Since the costs of these programs have already been recovered, existing base rates can be lowered by approximately \$7.9 million. The impact on the bill of an average residential customer is approximately 11 cents per month, or \$1.32 annually.

Numerous other changes or withdrawals of tariffs, terms and conditions of service were decided as part of this case. The company has been directed to file revised tariffs to comply with the directives set forth in the Commission order.

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**Case number PUE-2013-00020**

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## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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November 26, 2013

### **SCC APPROVES SURRY-SKIFFES CREEK 500-KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT** ***Project Needed to Assure Electric Service Reliability***

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has approved a request by Dominion Virginia Power to build new high voltage electric transmission lines from Surry County to the city of Hampton. The project includes an overhead crossing of the James River.

In its final order, the SCC wrote, “The Commission understands the importance of this case to the many people who cherish Virginia’s historical and natural assets and to those who depend on the reliable electric service so critical to Virginia’s economic strength, safety, and quality of life.” The SCC found that based on the record of the case, the routes chosen for the project reasonably minimize adverse impact on scenic assets, historic districts and resources, and the environment.

Under the Code of Virginia, the SCC must determine whether the public convenience and necessity require the construction of transmission lines in the Commonwealth. “Ultimately, the Commission must base its decision on the law as applied to the factual record of the case. That is what we have done ...” The Commission added that, “The evidence is clear that the proposed project is necessary to continue reliable electric service to the hundreds of thousands of people who live and work across this broad region of Virginia.”

The first segment of the project will be a new overhead 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between a Dominion switching station in Surry County and a new switching station at Skiffes Creek in James City County. From the Skiffes Creek switching station, a new 230-kV transmission line will be constructed through James City and York counties, Newport News, and ending at the Whealton substation in Hampton.

The SCC said that the engineering evidence is overwhelming that as a result of generation retirements prompted by stricter federal environmental regulations and normal continued load growth in the North Hampton Roads Area, an overhead 500-kV transmission line needs to be constructed soon to ensure that a large part of the Commonwealth continues to have reliable electric service.

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“The Commission can no more ignore the severity of fast-approaching reliability problems than it can the environmental, scenic, and historic impacts associated with the many different possible alternatives explored in this case for addressing those problems,” the SCC wrote. “In this case, the risks associated with the construction of a lower voltage project, either underground or overhead, or other alternatives that do not include a 500-kV overhead transmission line, are simply too great. Were lesser transmission options, for example, approved herein, the record demonstrates that reliable electric service would be compromised to a degree that is unacceptable anywhere in the Commonwealth ...”

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**Case Number PUE-2012-00029**

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**SCC NEWS RELEASE**

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December 4, 2013

**SCC SETS WORKERS' COMPENSATION PREMIUM LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS**

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has approved revisions to the premium levels charged for workers' compensation insurance in Virginia.

Workers' compensation insurance provides medical care and wage replacement benefits to injured workers. Almost all Virginia employers are required to provide the coverage to their employees.

The National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) sought the revisions. The changes approved by the SCC will decrease the overall premium levels for the federal classifications in both the voluntary market and assigned risk plan and industrial and surface and underground coal mines in the assigned risk plan. They will increase the overall premium level for the industrial and surface and underground coal mine classifications in the voluntary market.

The changes will become effective April 1, 2014, for new and renewal workers' compensation policies, as follows:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Voluntary Market Loss Costs</u>		<u>Assigned Risk Rates</u>	
	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>SCC Approved</b>	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>SCC Approved</b>
Industrial	+4.1%	+4.1%	-4.2%	-7.6%
"F" (Federal)	-2.3%	-2.3%	-7.4%	-10.7%
Coal Mines (Surface)	+18.0%	+18.0%	+4.4%	-1.6%
Coal Mines (Underground)	+18.0%	+18.0%	+4.2%	-2.2%

NCCI, a Florida-based rate service organization, represents insurance companies licensed to write workers' compensation insurance in Virginia.

Virginia's workers' compensation rates remain among the lowest in the country.

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**Case number INS-2013-00158**

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