

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

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APPLICATION OF

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

CASE NO. PUR-2024-00225

For approval and certification of electric transmission
facilities: Line #2183 230 kV Evergreen Mills Loop

FINAL ORDER

On December 17, 2024, Virginia Electric and Power Company (“Dominion” or the “Company”) filed with the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) an application (“Application”) for approval and certification of electric transmission facilities in Loudoun County, Virginia.¹ Dominion filed its Application pursuant to § 56-46.1 of the Code of Virginia (“Code”) and the Utility Facilities Act, Code § 56-265.1 *et seq.*

To maintain reliable service for the overall growth in the area, the Company proposed to complete the following (collectively, the “Project”):²

- (1) Construct a new approximately 0.6-mile 230 kilovolt (“kV”) Line #2183 Loop by cutting the 230 kV Brambleton – Poland Road Line #2183 at Evergreen Mills Junction and looping in and out of the Evergreen Mills Switching Station, resulting in: (i) 230 kV Brambleton – Evergreen Mills Line #2210, and (ii) 230 kV Evergreen Mills – Poland Road Line #2183; and
- (2) Install two additional strings of breakers (totaling four) in a breaker-and-a-half scheme at Evergreen Mills Switching Station to allow for two additional 230 kV terminations of 230 kV Brambleton – Evergreen Mills Lane #2210 and 230 kV Evergreen Mills – Poland Road Line #2183. The third and fourth string will consist of two 230 kV breakers with make ready work for a third breaker on each string to be added in the future to allow for the customer’s third and fourth 230 kV delivery.

¹ Ex. 2 (Application) at 1, 2.

² *Id.* at 2.

In the Application, Dominion asserted that the proposed Project is necessary to ensure that the Company can maintain reliable service for the overall growth in the Project area, and to comply with mandatory North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”) Reliability Standards.³

Dominion stated that the Company proposed to construct the Project in two parts in Case No. PUR-2019-00191⁴ (“Evergreen Mills Part A”).⁵ Pursuant to the Commission’s Final Order in the Evergreen Mills Part A proceeding, the Company constructed the Evergreen Mills Switching Station and the Line #2172 Loop.⁶ Evergreen Mills Switching Station was approved by the Commission on May 22, 2020,⁷ and placed into service on May 6, 2021.⁸ For the current proceeding, Evergreen Mills Part B, the Company now proposes to construct the Line #2183 Loop and to install the remaining breakers at the Evergreen Mills Switching Station.⁹

The Company stated that the desired in-service target date for the proposed Project is May 17, 2027.¹⁰ The Company represented that the total estimated conceptual cost of the Project

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Application of Virginia Electric and Power Company, For approval and certification of electric facilities: Evergreen Mills 230 kV Line Loops and Evergreen Mills Switching Station*, Case No. PUR-2019-00191, Doc. Con. Cen. No. 191210023, Application (Dec. 12, 2019).

⁵ Ex. 2 (Application) at 2.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Application of Virginia Electric and Power Company, For approval and certification of electric facilities: Evergreen Mills 230 kV Line Loops and Evergreen Mills Switching Station*, Case No. PUR-2019-00191, 2020 S.C.C. Ann. Rept. 357, Final Order (May 22, 2020).

⁸ Ex. 2 (Application) at 3.

⁹ *Id.* at 2.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 5.

is approximately \$9.46 million, which includes approximately \$6.72 million for transmission-related work and approximately \$2.74 million for substation-related work (2024 dollars).¹¹

On January 17, 2025, the Commission issued an Order for Notice and Hearing, which, among other things: docketed the Company's Application; established a procedural schedule; directed Dominion to provide notice of its Application to interested persons and the public; scheduled a public witness hearing and an evidentiary hearing for the purpose of receiving testimony and evidence on the Application; provided interested persons an opportunity to file comments on the Application or participate as respondents; directed the Commission's Staff ("Staff") to investigate the Application and file testimony and exhibits containing its findings and recommendations; and appointed a Hearing Examiner to conduct all further proceedings in this matter on behalf of the Commission and file a final report.

Staff requested that the Department of Environmental Quality ("DEQ") coordinate an environmental review of the proposed Project by the appropriate agencies and provide a report on the review.¹² On February 19, 2025, DEQ filed its report on Dominion's Application ("DEQ Report"), which includes the Wetland Impact Consultation provided by DEQ's Office of Wetlands and Stream Protection.

On June 13, 2025, Staff filed the testimony of Jay-Ar Llamido with an attached Staff Report. On June 27, 2025, Dominion filed a letter in lieu of rebuttal testimony. No notices of participation were filed. No public comments were filed on the Company's Application.

¹¹ *Id.* at 6.

¹² Letter from Clay F. Kulesza, State Corporation Commission, dated December 20, 2024, to David L. Davis, Department of Environmental Quality, filed in Case No. PUR-2024-00225; Letter from Clay F. Kulesza, State Corporation Commission, dated December 20, 2024, to Bettina Rayfield, Department of Environmental Quality, filed in Case No. PUR-2024-00225.

A public evidentiary hearing was convened in the Commission's courtroom on July 16, 2025, to receive testimony and evidence offered by Dominion and Staff on the Application. No public witnesses signed up to testify.¹³

On July 31, 2025, the Hearing Examiner issued the Report of T. Borden Ellis, Hearing Examiner ("Report"). In the Report, the Hearing Examiner made the following findings:¹⁴

- (1) The Company established the need for the Project to maintain reliable service for the overall load growth in the area and to comply with NERC Reliability Standards.
- (2) The Project will assure reliable electric power delivery, thereby supporting economic development in the Project area.
- (3) The Proposed Route will use existing Company [rights-of-way ("ROWs")].
- (4) The Company reasonably demonstrated the Project avoids or reasonably minimizes impacts on scenic, historic, and environmental resources to the greatest extent reasonably practicable.
- (5) The uncontested recommendations in the DEQ Report should be adopted by the Commission as conditions of the Project's approval.
- (6) The Company should not be required to develop an invasive species management plan in addition to its already-existing [Integrated Vegetation Management Plan ("IVMP")].
- (7) The Company should not be required to perform ROW restoration and maintenance beyond what is already required by its IVMP and standard maintenance practices.
- (8) The Project does not represent a hazard to public health or safety.
- (9) The Company reasonably considered the requirements of the [Virginia Environmental Justice Act]¹⁵ in its Application.

¹³ Tr. 7.

¹⁴ Report at 17.

¹⁵ Code § 2.2-234.

- (10) The Company's request for a desired in-service target date of May 17, 2027, and an authorization sunset date of May 17, 2028, for energization of the Project is not unreasonable.

On August 6, 2025, Staff filed a letter stating that Staff had reviewed the Report, supports the analysis and conclusions therein, and requests that the Commission adopt the Hearing Examiner's findings and recommendations. On August 15, 2025, Dominion filed a letter stating that the Company agrees with the findings and recommendations of the Report and requests that the Commission approve the Application and construction of the Project, grant a certificate of public convenience and necessity ("CPCN") for the Project, and grant any further relief as the Commission deems necessary and appropriate.

NOW THE COMMISSION, having considered this matter, is of the opinion and finds as follows.

Hearing Examiner's Report

After analyzing the law and weighing the evidence – and providing a thorough and detailed analysis thereof – the Hearing Examiner recommended that the Commission enter an order that:¹⁶

- (1) **ADOPTS** the findings of [the] Report;
- (2) **AUTHORIZES** Dominion to construct and operate the proposed Project as specified [in the Report];
- (3) **ISSUES** the appropriate CPCN(s) for the Project; and
- (4) **DISMISSES** this case from the Commission's docket of active cases.

Upon consideration of this matter, the Commission concludes that the Hearing Examiner's findings and recommendations are supported by the law and the evidence, have a

¹⁶ Report at 17.

rational basis, and should be adopted. The Commission further finds that the public convenience and necessity requires the construction of the Project and that a CPCN authorizing the Project should be issued subject to the recommended findings and conditions contained in the Report.¹⁷

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) The Commission adopts the Hearing Examiner's findings and recommendations in the Report.

(2) The Hearing Examiner's recommendations as set forth in the Report are ordered.

(3) Dominion is authorized to construct and operate the Project as proposed in its Application and specified herein.

(4) Pursuant to §§ 56-46.1, 56-265.2, and related provisions of Title 56 of the Code, the Company's request for approval of the necessary CPCN to construct and operate the Project is granted as provided for herein.

(5) Pursuant to the Utility Facilities Act, § 56-265.1 *et seq.* of the Code, the Commission issues the following CPCN to Dominion:

Certificate No. ET-DEV-LDN-2025-C, which authorizes Virginia Electric and Power Company under the Utility Facilities Act to operate certificated transmission lines in Loudoun County, all as shown on the map attached to the certificate, and to construct and operate facilities as authorized in Case No. PUR-2024-00225 and cancels Certificate No. ET-DEV-LDN-2025-B, issued to Virginia Electric and Power Company in Case No. PUR-2024-00131 on March 19, 2025.

(6) Within thirty (30) days from the date of this Final Order, the Company shall provide to the Commission's Division of Public Utility Regulation electronic maps for the foregoing

¹⁷ The Commission has fully considered the evidence and arguments in the record. *See also Board of Supervisors of Loudoun County v. State Corp. Comm'n*, 292 Va. 444, 454 n.10 (2016) ("We note that even in the absence of this representation by the Commission, pursuant to our governing standard of review, the Commission's decision comes to us with a presumption that it considered all of the evidence of record.") (citation omitted).

Certificate Number that show the routing of the transmission lines approved herein. Maps shall be submitted to Michael Cizenski, Deputy Director, Division of Public Utility Regulation, mike.cizenski@scc.virginia.gov.

(7) Upon receiving the maps directed in Ordering Paragraph (6), the Commission's Division of Public Utility Regulation forthwith shall provide the Company copies of the CPCN issued in Ordering Paragraph (5) with the maps attached.

(8) The Project approved herein must be constructed and in service by May 17, 2027. The Commission approves a CPCN sunset date of May 17, 2028, for energization of the Project. No later than ninety (90) days before the CPCN sunset date approved herein, for good cause shown, the Company is granted leave to apply and to provide the basis for any extension requested.

(9) This matter is dismissed.

A COPY hereof shall be sent electronically by the Clerk of the Commission to all persons on the official Service List in this matter. The Service List is available from the Clerk of the Commission.