

APPLICATION OF

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

CASE NO. PUR-2025-00073

For approval and certification of electric transmission facilities: 230 kV Duval-Midlothian Lines and Duval Substation

FINAL ORDER

On April 24, 2025, 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 Chesterfield 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.*

Through its Application, the Company proposed to complete the following (collectively, the “Project”):²

- 1) Construct two new 230 kilovolt (“kV”) double circuit overhead transmission lines (for a total of four circuits) extending approximately 7.1 miles on new primarily 160-foot-wide-right-of-way from the Company’s existing Midlothian Substation to the proposed new Duval Substation in Chesterfield County, Virginia, resulting in (i) Duval-Midlothian Line #2448, (ii) Duval-Midlothian Line #2449, (iii) Duval-Midlothian Line #2453, and (iv) Duval-Midlothian Line #2454 (the “Duval-Midlothian Lines”). The Duval-Midlothian Lines will be constructed primarily with double circuit weathering steel monopoles utilizing three-phase twin-bundled 768.2 Aluminum Conductor Steel Supported/Trapezoidal Wire/High Strength type conductor with a summer transfer capability of 1,573 megavolt amperes; and
- 2) Construct a new 230-34.5 kV substation in Chesterfield County, Virginia, within property rights to be obtained by the Company (Duval Substation)

¹ Application at 1, 2.

² *Id.* at 2-3.

and perform substation-related work at the Company's existing Midlothian Substation.³

In the Application, Dominion asserted the proposed Project is necessary to:

(i) ensure that [the Company] can adequately and reliably serve significant projected residential and commercial load growth identified in Chesterfield County, Virginia; (ii) maintain and ensure reliable electric service consistent with [North American Electric Reliability Corporation ("NERC")] Reliability Standards for the overall growth in the load area ... (the "Western Chesterfield Load Area"⁴), thereby supporting economic growth in Chesterfield County and Virginia; and (iii) comply with mandatory NERC Reliability Standards.⁵

Specifically, Dominion stated that the Company's primary sources of distribution power in the Western Chesterfield Load Area – including the existing Genito, Midlothian, and Winterpock Substations – cannot serve the projected load due to practical considerations, geographic constraints, and/or the lack of available capacity.⁶ Accordingly, the Company proposed the Project to serve the projected residential and commercial load identified in the delivery point ("DP") request beginning in 2028 and increasing to approximately 134 megawatts ("MW") by

³ To accommodate termination of the Duval-Midlothian Lines at the Midlothian Substation, the Company stated that transmission-related work will be required within the Company's existing property rights. Specifically, four existing lines coming into and out of the Midlothian Substation will need to be reconfigured, including 230 kV Midlothian-Short Pump Line #2009, 230 kV Bremo-Midlothian Line #2027, 230 kV Midlothian-Spruance Non-Utility Generator (NUG) Line #282, and 500 kV Midlothian-North Anna Line #576. *Id.* at 3 n.4. While this reconfiguration work is a component of the proposed Project and is included in the total Project conceptual costs, the Company considers it to qualify as an "ordinary extension[] or improvement[] in the usual course of business" (*i.e.*, "ordinary course") pursuant to Code § 56-265.2 A 1 and, therefore, asserted that it does not require approval pursuant to Code § 56-46.1 B or a certificate of public convenience and necessity ("CPCN") from the Commission. *Id.*

⁴ The "Western Chesterfield Load Area" is defined generally in the Application as the area south of Genito and Otterdale Roads, west of the Swift Creek Reservoir and the Woodlake area, north of the Appomattox River and Winterpock area, and east of the Amelia and Powhatan County borders located in western Chesterfield County, Virginia. Application at 4.

⁵ *Id.* at 3-4.

⁶ *Id.* at 4.

2038. To support future load growth identified in DP requests totaling approximately 900 MW of projected load anticipated by 2033 in the Western Chesterfield Load Area, the Company proposed construction of the Duval-Midlothian Lines as two new 230 kV double circuit overhead transmission lines.⁷

Dominion identified an approximately 7.1-mile overhead proposed route for the Duval-Midlothian Lines (the “Proposed Route” or “Route 3B”), an approximately 8.6-mile overhead alternative route (Alternative Route 2B), and an approximately 7.5-mile overhead alternative route (Alternative Route 3A).⁸ The Company stated that Dominion selected Route 3B as the Proposed Route as it is the shortest route, has the greatest amount of collocation with existing and planned linear facilities, crosses commercial and industrial-zoned lands to the greatest extent and therefore has the smallest impact on residential areas, and avoids or reasonably minimizes adverse impact to the greatest extent reasonably practicable on the scenic assets, historic and cultural resources, and environment of the area concerned.⁹

The Company stated the desired in-service date for the proposed Project is June 1, 2028.¹⁰ The Company represented that the estimated conceptual cost of the proposed Project utilizing the Proposed Route is approximately \$121.1 million (in 2025 dollars), which includes approximately \$93.1 million for transmission-related work and approximately \$28.0 million for substation-related work.¹¹

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.* at 4-5.

⁹ *Id.* at 5-6.

¹⁰ *Id.* at 7.

¹¹ *Id.* at 6-7.

On May 21, 2025, the Commission issued an Order for Notice and Hearing that, among other things: (i) docketed the Application; (ii) required the Company to provide notice of the Application; (iii) established a schedule for the filing of notices of participation, prefiled testimony, and written comments; (iv) scheduled a public hearing for November 5, 2025, with any public witness testimony to be received telephonically at the commencement of the hearing and evidentiary proceedings to follow; and (v) assigned this case to a Hearing Examiner to conduct all further proceedings on behalf of the Commission and to file a final report containing the Hearing Examiner's findings and recommendations.

Commission Staff ("Staff") requested that the Virginia 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 July 2, 2025, the DEQ filed its report on Dominion's Application ("DEQ Report"), which included a Wetlands Impacts Consultation provided by DEQ's Office of Wetlands and Stream Protection.

The Company filed its proof of notice and service on June 26, 2025. Timely notices of participation were filed by the following: Edward W. Nunnally, Jr. and Scot A. Hawthorne ("Landowners"); and the County of Chesterfield, Virginia ("Chesterfield").

On September 24, 2025, Chesterfield filed testimony. The Landowners filed testimony on September 24, 2025, and filed corrected versions of their testimony on September 26, 2025. On October 8, 2025, Staff filed testimony with an attached Staff Report. Chesterfield filed a corrected version of its testimony on October 9, 2025. On October 22, 2025, the Company filed

¹² Letter from Simeon Brown, State Corporation Commission, dated May 2, 2025, to Brenda K. Winn, Department of Environmental Quality, filed in Case No. PUR-2025-00073; Letter from Simeon Brown, State Corporation Commission, dated May 2, 2025, to Bettina Rayfield, Department of Environmental Quality, filed in Case No. PUR-2025-00073.

its rebuttal testimony. The Commission also received approximately 200 public comments on the Company's Application.

The Hearing Examiner convened a public witness hearing and an evidentiary hearing in the Commission's courtroom on November 5, 2025, and the hearing continued until November 7, 2025. Counsel for Dominion, Staff, the Landowners, and Chesterfield participated in the hearing. A total of 88 public witnesses testified at the hearing.¹³

On December 19, 2025, the Hearing Examiner issued the Report of Kati Dean, Hearing Examiner ("Report"), in which she analyzed the law, the evidence, and the arguments in this case and made detailed findings and recommendations. In the Report, the Hearing Examiner made the following findings:¹⁴

1. The Company established the need for the Project, as proposed, to (i) ensure that the Company can adequately and reliably serve significant projected residential and commercial load growth identified in Chesterfield County; (ii) maintain and ensure reliable electric service consistent with NERC Reliability Standards for the overall growth in the load area, thereby supporting economic growth in Chesterfield County; and (iii) comply with mandatory NERC Reliability Standards.
2. The Project will assure continued reliable bulk electric power delivery to the residential and commercial load growth in the Western Chesterfield Load Area, thereby supporting economic development in the Project area.
3. Existing rights-of-way cannot adequately serve the identified need for the Project.
4. The Proposed Route, in an overhead configuration, constitutes the preferred routing alternative for the transmission line component of the Project and should be approved by the Commission.
5. The Company reasonably demonstrated need for the Project, using the Proposed Route, avoids or reasonably minimizes adverse impacts on scenic assets, and historic, cultural, and environmental resources to the greatest extent reasonably practicable.

¹³ Tr. 6-7, 178-181, 358-359.

¹⁴ Report at 70-71.

6. There is sufficient record evidence that the Project does not represent a hazard to public health or safety.
7. The uncontested recommendations in the DEQ Summary of Findings and Recommendations should be adopted by the Commission as conditions of the Project's approval.
8. The Company reasonably considered the requirements of the [Virginia Environmental Justice Act ("VEJA")]¹⁵ in its Application.
9. The Commission should approve a Project in-service date of June 1, 2028, with an authorization sunset date of June 1, 2029. For good cause shown, the Company should be granted leave to apply to the Commission for an extension of the approved sunset date no later than 90 days before the approved sunset date.
10. The Company should be encouraged to work with [Chesterfield], to the greatest extent practicable, in coordinating efforts for recreational trails along the Project route.

The Hearing Examiner recommended that the Commission enter an order that:¹⁶

1. **ADOPTS** the findings in [the] Report;
2. **AUTHORIZES** Dominion to construct and operate the proposed Project subject to the conditions recommended [in the Report];
3. **ISSUES** the appropriate CPCN(s) for the Project;
4. **DIRECTS** the Project to be constructed and in service by June 1, 2028, with a CPCN sunset date of June 1, 2029; no later than ninety (90) days before the CPCN sunset date, for good cause shown, the Company should be granted leave to apply and provide the basis for any extension requested; and
5. **DISMISSES** this case from the Commission's docket of active cases.

On December 31, 2025, Chesterfield and Staff filed comments on the Report. In its comments, Chesterfield supported Findings 1, 2, 3, 6, and 10 of the Report, while also requesting

¹⁵ Code § 2.2-234 *et seq.*

¹⁶ Report at 71.

further clarification on Finding 10 regarding the specific actions to be taken by Dominion.¹⁷ Chesterfield further requested that the Commission modify Finding 4 of the Report to require an underground configuration along the portion of the route identified in Chesterfield's proposal presented at the evidentiary hearing.¹⁸ In its comments, Staff continued to recommend the alternative project consisting of only one of the two proposed 230 kV double circuit Duval-Midlothian Lines.¹⁹ Staff reiterated its position that the need for the second double-circuit 230 kV Duval Midlothian Line has not yet been fully demonstrated because the planned data center development has only executed an Engineering Letter of Authorization, and the future Garnet, Topaz, and Amethyst Substations are still in the planning stages and have only recently been submitted to PJM Interconnection, LLC.²⁰

On January 2, 2026, Dominion and the Landowners filed comments on the Report. In its comments, Dominion agreed with the Report's findings while adding one point of clarification regarding Finding 7.²¹ Specifically, the Company clarified that it is not opposed to Finding 7 to the extent that the finding does not include recommendations that the Company opposed or sought to clarify through the rebuttal testimony of Company witness Dupont.²² The Company further noted that in the Report, the Hearing Examiner specifically recommended that the Commission accept the clarifications as outlined in Company witness DuPont's rebuttal

¹⁷ Chesterfield Comments at 2.

¹⁸ Chesterfield Comments at 4-8.

¹⁹ Staff Comments at 1.

²⁰ *Id.*

²¹ Dominion Comments at 6-7.

²² *Id.* at 7.

testimony.²³ In their comments, the Landowners stated their support for the findings and recommendations of the Report.²⁴

NOW THE COMMISSION, upon consideration of this matter, is of the opinion and finds that the Hearing Examiner's findings and recommendations as set forth in the Report are supported by law and evidence, have a rational basis, and should be adopted.²⁵

Specifically with respect to the need for the second double-circuit line, the Commission agrees with the Hearing Examiner's finding that:

Neither Staff nor any party disputes the fact that, if the Google Development materializes, the second double-circuit line will be needed. Similarly, no one seems to dispute the dynamic nature of data center development in Virginia – however, in Staff's view, that warrants caution in transmission planning, and in the Company's view, it warrants more advance transmission planning in order to optimize needed infrastructure projects. *Neither view, taken broadly, is unreasonable*, but the risks and benefits of each approach on a specific transmission line project depend on the specific facts of a case.²⁶

Given the dynamic nature of anticipated load growth in Virginia, as well as the affordability challenges being experienced by all classes of Virginia consumers, Staff's careful consideration of stranded asset risk is merited and appreciated. While we agree that a blanket rule is not necessary at this time, the relationship between load interconnection and transmission planning deserves continued scrutiny to ensure we are appropriately balancing the benefits of efficient,

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ Landowners' Comments at 2.

²⁵ 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).

²⁶ Report at 54 (emphasis added).

optimized transmission development with the unknown risks associated with anticipated load growth.

Finally, the Commission also clarifies that the conditions of the Project's approval regarding Finding 7 of the Report include only the uncontested recommendations in the Summary of Findings and Recommendations found on pages 6-7 of the DEQ Report. All participants are required to comply with such directives.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) The Report's findings and recommendations are adopted.
- (2) The Report's recommendations are ordered.
- (3) Dominion is authorized to construct and operate the Project as proposed in its Application, subject to the findings and recommendations approved 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-CHE-2026-A, which authorizes Virginia Electric and Power Company under the Utility Facilities Act to operate certificated transmission lines in Chesterfield County, all as shown on the map attached to the certificate, and to construct and operate facilities as authorized in Case No. PUR-2025-00073 and cancels Certificate No. ET-DEV-CHE-2025-A, issued to Virginia Electric and Power Company in Case No. PUR-2024-00179 on June 26, 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 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 June 1, 2028. The Commission approves a CPCN sunset date of June 1, 2029, 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.