West Loop Project Frequently Asked Questions

What is the West Loop Project?
Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc. (DETI) has proposed the West Loop Project to help meet the increasing demand for natural gas in the Midwest. The project will reduce emissions and improve regional energy reliability by providing gas supply to a new electric power-generation facility. Access to new natural gas supply is critical to offsetting the loss of coal-fired, electricity-generating plants which continue to be retired across the country.

What is the scope of the project?
The project would provide 150,000 dekatherms per day of firm transportation service, which is enough natural gas to heat more than 136,000 households for a single winter day.

What is the timeline for the project?
The proposed project schedule would be to file an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in the first quarter of 2019, plan to receive the FERC Order in the fourth quarter of 2019, begin construction in the first quarter of 2020 and have the project completed and in-service by the third quarter of 2021.

Where are the proposed project facilities located and what additions/upgrades are expected to be made?
Project facilities being proposed include: installing 5 miles of 36-inch pipeline on an existing right of way parallel to our existing interstate natural gas pipeline in Beaver County, Pa.; modifying existing compressor units (no horsepower change) at Carroll Compressor Station in Carroll County, Ohio; installing additional regulation and measurement upgrade at Beaver Compressor Station in Beaver County, Pa.; and adding automation and new control valves at the existing Old Petersburg Regulation Junction in Lawrence County, Pa.

What are the benefits of the project?
The West Loop Project would provide both short-term and long-term benefits. Short-term benefits include a boost to the local economy because of several months of construction with additional workers spending money for lodging, gas, food, etc. Long-term benefits include providing Pennsylvania an outlet to produce natural gas to power a cleaner-burning, natural gas electric-generating plant in Ohio, which will reduce regional emissions as more coal-fired plants continue to go offline, and bring more reliable electricity to eastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania.

In addition, Dominion Energy Transmission will continue to support the area through the Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation and employee volunteerism.

What is the permitting process for this project?
Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc. (DETI) plans to file an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in the first quarter of 2019. If approved, the FERC will issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the West Loop Project in accordance with Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act. Dominion Energy Transmission is using FERC's traditional filing process. The FERC will conduct a complete review of the project in compliance with the Natural Gas Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. The FERC process includes consulting with stakeholders, identifying issues through scoping and preparing environmental documents. Additionally, DETI will work with federal, state, and local agencies.

How can Dominion Energy Transmission assure the public that operation of the pipeline would be safe?
Safety and preventive measures are at the core of Dominion Energy Transmission's values and are supported by the company's extensive programs related to integrity management and damage prevention.

There are a variety of programs and methods to assess the integrity of natural gas transmission pipelines, such as aerial and foot-patrol inspections, pigging (internal computerized pipeline inspection), pipeline coating, corrosion control and around-the-clock monitoring by our Gas Control group.

In addition, each compressor station will be well equipped with safety features, including automatic pressure-relief valves, an emergency shutdown system, natural gas detection devices and 24/7 computerized pressure monitoring.

Natural gas pipelines are regulated by the federal government's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to ensure all facilities under its jurisdiction are constructed and maintained with public safety first and foremost in mind.

The Dominion Energy Transmission pipeline also is monitored 24/7 from a staffed and fully automated control center.

How will you go above and beyond and what technology will be used to ensure to prevent an incident from occurring similar to what occurred in September 2018 in Beaver County, Pa.?
Dominion Energy Transmission has a long and successful track record of designing, building, operating and maintaining its pipeline system in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

For example, during construction we inspect each weld with non-destructive testing equipment and pressure test the entire line to a level above the maximum operating pressure to ensure strength.

The pipeline will be built with 0.625-inch thick steel pipe and a protective layer of epoxy coating, both of which provide inherent defense against corrosion and other external damage. The grade of steel and pipeline wall thickness that is being used for this project will provide an additional factor of safety than what is required by Pipeline Hazardous and Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) requirements for Class 1 and Class 2 locations, which is based on population density.

Although not required by the Pipeline Hazardous and Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), we fly our entire interstate transmission pipeline system every month evaluating the right of way (ROW) for encroachments, third-party damage, ground movement, dead vegetation or other signs of a possible gas leak, as well as any other anomalies that require additional ground inspection.

And every three months, the pipeline ROW is flown with additional methane detection equipment to further evaluate for possible leaks. In the event of a potential ground shift because of, for example, extensive flooding, Gas Control will be notified and field personnel will be dispatched to investigate.

And, in July 2018, our interstate natural gas transmission group, along with seven other energy companies, announced a partnership with The Nature Conservancy to develop best practices to minimize environmental impacts of pipeline construction in mountainous areas. The intent is for the pipeline industry to reduce the risks of landslides, slips, erosion and other environmental impacts to wildlife.

Is it safe to live near a compressor station or pipeline?
Yes, safety is our highest priority and No. 1 core value – in the workplace and in the community. From construction through operations, safety will be the top priority of the West Loop Project.

Dominion Energy Transmission employs highly trained staff with years of experience to operate our pipeline system in accordance with federal, state and local government regulations. The West Loop Project would be monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week, using sophisticated computer and telecommunications equipment at Dominion Energy Transmission's Gas Control Center. Operators also would employ a number of safety measures, including:

- Computer-assisted control centers capable of detecting and interpreting pressure or flow changes in pipeline
- Remote-controlled shutoff valves
- Regular aerial and foot patrols
- Periodic internal inspections using "smart pigs," high-tech instruments that travel through the line collecting millions of data points about the pipeline's condition

Dominion Energy Transmission also works closely with and supports local first responders to educate them about our process and to understand their capabilities in the event of an incident or emergency.

What is Dominion Energy doing about renewable energy?
Dominion Energy currently has more than 3,300 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy resources either operational or under development across 10 states. These include solar, wind, hydro and biomass. The company has rapidly grown its solar resources over the last five years, and currently has more than 2,400 megawatts of solar energy either under development or operational across 9 states, including purchases of solar energy under contract.

In July 2018, Dominion Energy committed to have 3,000 megawatts of new solar and wind, enough to power 750,000 homes, under development or in operation in Virginia by the beginning of 2022. This commitment was made in conjunction with the company's filing for regulatory approval of the first phase of a Grid Transformation Plan in Virginia.

Dominion Energy's solar development has already helped Virginia rank 10th in the nation for solar development in 2017, according to the Solar Energy Industry Association and Greentech Media. Additionally, Dominion Energy ranks 6th in the nation for solar energy resources owned by utility holding companies, according to data from S&P Global Market Intelligence.

Dominion Energy also continues to lead a multi-year effort to foster offshore wind energy in the Mid-Atlantic region. The company is working to develop a 12-megawatt offshore wind project 27 miles off the Virginia coast, which will provide valuable information that could lead to more extensive offshore wind development.

How does Dominion Energy Transmission give back to the community?
Dominion Energy Transmission will continue to be involved with the local communities where our facilities are located and along the transmission pipeline in Ohio and Pennsylvania. This includes sponsoring events and area employees volunteering for local programs. It also includes providing grants to support nonprofit causes that meet basic human needs, protect the environment, support education and promote community vitality.

Who do I contact if I have a question about the project?
Please email us at WestLoop@dominionenergy.com and we will respond to your inquiry in a timely manner.