Butler Farm 230 kV Electric Transmission Line and Substation Project
May 3, 2022
Community Meeting – Presentation

All right, it's a little bit after five, so we're going to go ahead and get started. My name is Roxana, and I'm your host for this evening. I'm going to give a 15-minute presentation and then following the presentation; we'll have time for an open questions and answers session. And then following that, we encourage you to stick around. We have maps and boards here tonight; our project team is here. We're here till 7:00 PM. We have our subject matter experts here to help answer any questions that you may have.

This is a public meeting, so we want to ensure that we are engaging with you. And we also want to hear from you – your concerns, your input, and your perspective on our projects. So we're here to not only share about our proposed project, but also to listen, to learn, and to improve our processes going forward. We involve individual stakeholders, state and local officials, culturally minded advocacy groups, as well as Native American and environmental justice communities in our stakeholder engagement process to ensure that our projects are well communicated, and so people understand that they have an opportunity to engage with us.

Really quickly, I just want to go over what it means when I say “electric transmission” lines. We live and breathe this every day and I never want to assume what people may or may not know. So really quickly, electric transmission lines are the high voltage power lines that transport high voltage power securely, safely, and efficiently over long distances from where the power is generated to a substation. And then at that substation, the voltage is then lowered to then be distributed to homes and businesses. So tonight, we're going to be talking about the electric transmission infrastructure and the grid associated with electric transmission lines.

We are constantly evaluating our electric transmission assets, and generally, there are three forces that drive new infrastructure: economic growth, aging assets, and addressing mandatory federal criteria standards. But these three forces are not mutually exclusive. Projects often involve any or all of these factors during the course of planning, design, and implementation of a project. This project is needed to ensure we can maintain reliability in the community and also meet the load growth that is occurring in Southside, Virginia. Specifically, this area has experienced extensive growth and continues to as the data center industry expands in this area. So this project is needed to ensure that we can meet those load growth requirements, which will, in turn, continue to provide economic growth in the Commonwealth and continue to maintain reliability in the community.

The lines and triangles on this screen depict our current electric transmission infrastructure. You can see the three red circles that displays the three new load centers coming to the area. And so what you see currently is an existing transmission line that is at a lower voltage, so it is not sufficient to meet the load growth that is happening in the area, or is it directly in the area where it's needed. So we have a few projects in the area. We have a good plan in place in understanding the county's needs, and we have plans for those projects to come. We have what we're calling the Butler Farm Project, the South Hill Project and the Jeffress Project. But tonight, we're going to be talking about the Butler Farm Project.

So you may be wondering what is needed for this project. From our existing Clover Substation in Halifax County, we will need to install a new single circuit 230-kV transmission line, starting in Halifax, going through Charlotte County and then into Mecklenburg County at a Butler Farm

Substation, which will be a new substation. And then a new substation in Mecklenburg County, Finneywood, that we will need to install a new single circuit 230-kV transmission line, approximately seven miles to that same Butler Farm Substation in Mecklenburg County. And it's important to note from the Finneywood to Butler Farm route, that based on current load projections, another project will be needed within that same corridor.

A lot of people want to know, what is this going to look like? From the existing Clover Substation to our new Butler Farm Substation, our engineers have two structure types that both work electrically. And so you can see on the left side, we have what we call an H-Frame structure, and on the right side, we have what we call a Monopole structure with a delta configuration. You can see the H-Frame structure is a little bit shorter but does require more land use, more right of way. Whereas the Monopole structure is taller but requires less land use.

These structures can be in a weathering steel or a galvanized finish. And so that's what we're trying to get a feel for tonight in our conversations with you – if you have an opinion on the structure type or the finish type. For example, in previous projects where the scenery, the skyline is more green, we have found communities tend to prefer the weathering steel finish, whereas in communities where the horizon is more sky, they've tended to prefer the galvanized finish. But we understand that every person is different, every community is different, and every project is different, so that's what we want to hear about from you tonight.

For the Finneywood to Butler Farm route, we have a Monopole structure with the circuit stacked on one side. Again, this can be in the weathering steel or galvanized finish. The structures on the left of both images, that's what's needed for this Butler Farm Project. But like I mentioned earlier, a new line will be needed, and so we want to take that into consideration – so those would then be in the same corridor or the same right of way. So the two structures on the right would be for that future project down the road.

You may be wondering; how do you know where the lines are going? Planning and determining an electric transmission line route is one of the most challenging things we do at Dominion Energy. We know the impact that this has on individuals and groups, and on this municipality. It is not easy. But I do want to assure you that multiple factors are considered when trying to determine where an electric transmission line route goes. Things like we always want to be respectful of people's homes and properties, we try to co-locate when we can, and we want to stay close to property boundaries. We also think about constraints, as well, so environmental impacts, wetlands, water bodies, and tribal property.

Hopefully, you've received our mailer which included this map of the routing alternatives, and if not, we have them at the front table. But essentially what we're trying to do is we are trying to get from point A to point B with the least amount of impact. When we go from point A to point B, those routes will be refined and narrowed as we continue this public engagement process. So from the existing Clover Substation to the new Butler Farm Substation, we have three routing alternatives, some containing variations. And from the Finneywood Substation to the Butler Farm Substation, we have two routing alternatives, both of which go around Chase City. I mentioned that we try to co-locate when we can. I know it's hard to see on the screen, but at the top of the map, the top line, we actually have an existing 500-kV line. So three of the routes, the three routes coming out of Clover, they all start heading east, because they're co-locating with that existing transmission line, but we always want have alternatives. So you can see the blue line starts to head south and then the pink, and then the green. It's important to note that we always want to try and minimize impacts, and we are here to have this conversation with you to gather your feedback. For each of these routes, from Clover to Butler Farm, and from

Finneywood to Butler Farm, a route will be selected to go to the State Corporation Commission for consideration.

These also are probably hard to see, but this will give you a flavor of what's in the field. The top image is what's currently existing with that 500-kV line that I mentioned earlier. You can see the structure in the top left, but on the bottom is what an H-Frame structure would look like within that same corridor. You can see the H-Frame structure next to the existing transmission line, and you can see the height difference. This is the H-Frame structure in the weathering steel. And on the next slide, it'll be the same image, but with the Monopole structure in the galvanized steel, so it just shows you what it would look like. Here's the H-Frame and here's the Monopole structure within that same 500 line.

We do have a series of permits that are needed. the State Corporation Commission or SCC, that is the agency that ultimately selects and approves the route. They have jurisdiction over this route and transmission line. But once we receive SCC approval, subsequent permits will also be needed.

A little bit about the SCC process. Once we file our application with the SCC, they will have a period for public comments where they will solicit input from interested stakeholders. And so that could be anywhere from eight to maybe 12 to 24 months, depending on if there are any complications of the project. And so at this point, we don't know how long it will take, but once we do submit our application, a procedural order will follow. And so you can see we do have this enlarged throughout the room, but there are various steps along the way in which there are checks and balances on the application. And once we submit our application, there will be a hearing. Dominion will provide the SCC our documents and they will review the evidence. And the SCC will determine if we, Dominion, proved that this project was needed and that the route minimizes impact.

We actually do have a really good crowd tonight but not everyone is here that we invited. But we do want everyone's input, so we did launch this application tool, it's a mapping tool called GeoVoice. And the best way to access it is on our project website, DominionEnergy.com/butlerfarm. And essentially, you can participate in the routing process firsthand. You can sign up, search for your address, and make comments for the project team. There's a print tool, a measuring tool. There's a lot of neat features, but you can essentially view all the routing options. And so we want to hear about the locations that matter to you. So I highly encourage you to sign up.

And this is a project timeline. These are the three projects that I mentioned in the area, but, of course, with Butler Farm highlighted in green, we began our public engagement process this past spring. We're hosting two in-person community meetings, one tonight, one next week. We'll host another in-person community meeting later this summer. And then following, we will file our application with the State Corporation Commission. And then pending SCC and permit approvals, we'll plan to start construction in early 2024, and then wrap up in 2025.

So where do we go from here? What's next? As I mentioned, we have our project team here to help answer any questions you may have. We have lots of routing maps and boards for you to view. You can always reach out to us via phone or email. Again, I really encourage you to go to the public website and sign up for GeoVoice. And again, we will be hosting another in-person community meeting later this summer, so be on the lookout for details regarding the date and time.