Transcript

March 5, 2025, 11:00PM

SEAN R Doherty (Services - 6) 0:04

Good evening.
Welcome to our virtual meeting about the transmission line in Virginia Beach.
If you're here for that good, you're in the right place.
Apologies if you tried or thinking about joining us in person.
The winter had other plans for us and now, in order to be able to get information out as soon as possible, we had to switch to a virtual format here.
So thank you for your patience as we were all dealing with Mother Nature.
My name is Sean Doherty.
I'm on the communications team and I'll be presenting tonight with have a a group of subject matter experts also that are involved with the project intimately that are happy to jump in with any specific questions that I'm not able to answer myself or they're not in the slide.
Deck here.
So this presentation will be recorded and we encourage you to submit questions to the Q&A feature in this team's application.
We'll compile them at the end of the presentation and go over them with appropriate well articulated answers, and either I will be answering them myself or I'll bring some of my colleagues on screen to present that information that was requested.
This project is a very important to this area of Virginia Beach to maintain reliable energy. Not all of our projects can really be seen by the naked eye that we need to replace or we need to rebuild equipment.
But this one you can actually see driving along it that there are bending poles and whatnot.
So this this is an extremely important project that we need.
We need to get on here very soon.
A little bit of an well. First of all, we like to start our meetings with safety moment and although the the calendar looks like it's going to be on the warmer end here on out and the knock on wood for all of us, but that pesky Groundhog up.
There in Pakistani said we had six more weeks of of winter, so just anticipating that

we'll have any more low temps.
These are just some good safety measures when dealing with winter weather as we did a few weeks ago.
Black ice.
Very hard to see, really. What gives it away is the machine that can be seen right on the surface, however.
You may not always see that is present, so always treat areas outside with caution when that are below below freezing temperatures, especially when driving, give yourself twice as much room when you're following others, or even going in and out of traffic intersections as others might be racing to.
Get through that or might be sliding through it and not intentionally going into it.
So keeping your lights on is also very helpful to make sure that others know that you're around when the temperatures get really low, which is not not necessarily typical for this area of Virginia, but it is helpful to have a safety package available in the House, should you?
Run into situations where you need to stay warm, hydrated and fed.
As I mentioned, I have several my colleagues that have joined us on this call.
So as I am Sean, hello again. I represent the electric transmission communications team, specifically this project and I work with Rick, our project manager, Chloe, our engineer J, CS representing permitting.
Jacob is working with external affairs as well as elected officials and others in the area specific to this project.
Cliff is representing our access team.
And construction is been hand is being overseen by I, our good friend Lonnie.
Not pictured because not because I do great work, but because I made you a little shy to share their headshot. Melissa represents right away, and Selena is helping us with real estate questions.
For those of you that may not be intimately aware of how power works.
As I mentioned, we represent the electric transmission part of Dominion energy and that's the bulk power.
Think about it as as the highways that run across in the state and in the country the interstates are transmitting large amounts of energy that start at our generation plants or sources, which includes fossil fuels.
Wind, hydro, solar, all of that energy gets collected and then it's sent across in a bulk fashion across our transmission lines that usually the taller structures.

And then they those go to what we call substations.
That helps go through the process of.
The right sizing, the energy going out to distribution, which goes to our homes and our, our, our neighborhoods, retail establishments.
Different businesses distribution is what takes that energy from those substation to those actual.
Facilities and there's a a very rudimentary.
Illustration of the grid there that runs across the across Virginia.
This project specifically is running from our Burton substation is where it originates, which is very close to the Norfolk airport there and runs E through our Bayside substation up through Long Creek substation near Shore Drive and then down Bainstore substation and then finishing at our Virginia Beach Subst.
Here and I'll go into a little bit more detail about these areas as we go through the slides.
Line 27 is 115 kilovolt line.
These go all the way up into the 760 fives, but in this area.
The largest we really see is is 230, but this line is specifically is 1/1/15.
Again, this is not a new line.
This is not new right of way.
This is strictly keeping up with aging infrastructure to make sure that we can maintain reliable service to our customers in this area.
The whole project is almost 13 miles long.
A few more details on the project.
So the existing infrastructure has been in place for almost 5 decades.
And after various inspections, I mentioned, you know, the eye tests passed for several that we know that need to be updated, but through more extensive.
Inspections we could tell through, we could see more decay, woodpecker damage, even salt contamination being so close to the beach there that a lot of this equipment is is obviously at end of life. And it's about that time frame where it needs to be replaced as it is.
187 structures will need to be replaced.
Place they most of them are wooden with there are some structures that have been replaced over the years that have advanced in their degradation or how they've been broken down.
So the the ones that are wooden in concrete will be replaced to be steel structures.

A lot of this line, these these structures will also carry distribution lines. As I mentioned that the right of way is very tight there.
We don't want to take up any more land than we have to, so our poles, trans carry the larger lines up top which are electric transmission and then the ones that are about mid level and those are the distribution ones. Again going to our homes and and bus.
This will not replace all of those distribution lines that some of them will carry over. It's very nuanced on which ones will still carry distribution lines and then ones that will have their own distribution poles.
And we have some examples of those with photo simulations as we go forward.
Here is a a photo simulation as I as I mentioned. So this shows the average height structure. The the poles are not all the same depending on their location and what they are intended to do. They may look a little bit different.
The the average existing height structure is 75 feet and the exist the average of the new structures height is 80 feet.
So very small difference.
The other things in this picture are giving it relative.
Comparisons to what?
What does that height look like?
So if I said 80 feet, might a lot of people might not know what that is.
But compared to the size of a two-story house or a truck?
So this is helps put that into comparison.
Here's our our our timeline.
So we are starting very soon.
So again, if you're just joining us, we appreciate your patience for those of you who are planning to join us in person for our open house, we had to switch to a virtual format so we can engage and inform the the folks in the area to make sure.
That, you know, they aren't surprised by any activities with this projects that starting very soon we are starting pre construction activities.
Which is all going to be more detailed.
What that means is actually access.
Staking is where the structures will be limited forestry, and there's just some slight vegetation management in this.
We're just kind of scaling back some trimming there. Really there aren't any large scale removal of trees. Again based on that title right of way.

The construction part of replacing the actual poles and putting the new ones are scheduled to begin in April, and so that for phase one is what we are here to discuss tonight going from our Burton to Bayside substations.
That time frame is scheduled to go from April to September of this year, again with pre construction. Those pre construction activities starting in mid March.
Phase two is going to jump over to Long Creek and going down to Bain store and then phase three goes from Baine store to Virginia Beach, and then we're going to go back up to Bayside and to over to Long Creek.
Why the jumping around you may ask.
Well, the there are plans with the city that involve a good amount of the area between Bayside to Long Creek.
So that buys us more time to partner, continue partnering to be collaborative with the city on what we could do to work with their plans and to make sure that there isn't any rework or you know too many cooks in the kitchen, so to say, so that that. Builds us a a lot of time to really plan appropriately with the city on what that section there for phase four would look like.
And again caveat being will work as as as as well and as fast as we can depending on weather and and how the progress that we make.
As I mentioned, construction access activities, these pictures aren't necessarily applicable to this to this part of Virginia. This is more from our wetlands and little bit more rural areas, but this gives an example of different mats and the different timber that we.
Put down to create access roads to our equipment.
Good amount of this line will be right off the road, so that'll be very limited and as far as the efforts we need to do, we need to take to go to the equipment itself as well as you know managing the the area around it, a lot of.
These are intended to keep the the vegetation there.
As lively as possible, but we do have a process that comes after the work is done.
Where where we restore for the area as it was.
Once we once we remove all of our equipment from the area.
So you may see some trucks going in and out to create matting to go around where the equipment will be laid and where the trucks need to work and the other equipment is to be able to perform removal of of the structures, but also the installation of the.
Structures themselves.

This this illustration here is just for just for demonstration purposes is this isn't necessarily the types of equipment that will be at the different areas of construction for this project, but it gives an example of different sorts of activities that are happening in and around the area I.
Mentioned the the access roads.
We have to prepare the site so that.
We again would have the materials. We have a place for the equipment to go and then?
We install the foundations themselves and then we put the the the Poles on top of them and secure them to the foundations.
Then we put up the wires.
Conductor is what carries electricity.
Fiber is what carries data communication so that the different parts of the line could talk to us to tell us we know how it is performing, if anything is out.
And then we take the original equipment away.
And then once we remove all of our equipment, then that's when we begin the restoration of that section of where the work is done.
This part of the presentation is given gives some more photo simulations of what parts of the line would look like.
There are comparisons of what they currently look like from a viewpoint.
And then what they likely will look like once we have that type of equipment replaced?
So this viewpoint coming from Lake Smith looking N at the Northampton Blvd. There at the top it shows you might have to get kind of close on your screen but it shows the existing wooden infrastructure along this line and then Lynn looking at the bottom picture what the.
New.
Infrastructure will look like with the new steel poles, with the lines going across there.
I believe this is section phase two-part of our project.
Maybe actually, maybe phase three where the middle school is there.
And you can see here that these don't look that different than how they are.
The again the top is what the existing conditions look like and then the bottom is with the the new the new structures.
And then close to the the legendary Lynnhaven Marine Boatel, this shows a difference in the with the the wires are doing here and the different purposes they

serve.
So at the top you can see how these existing structures have both electric transmission wires and distribution wires. In these situations, based on how this part of the line works, our engineers has have designed it so that the electric transmission will cross over the road here and then.
Go down towards that part of the water, but the distribution poles will stay intact as they are to make to keep those connections to the the businesses there, including the hotel.
And then coming back up to Northampton Blvd. This is another example.
The top here this you can see that structure right in the middle of that photograph is actually leaning.
So I mentioned earlier before we don't always do with the naked eye that. Infrastructure is aging.
This one we could tell is that end of life just by looking at it.
So this is an example of taking out the infrastructure along this part of Northampton Blvd. And then what it would look like with the new steel poles underneath.
In our last viewpoint here, this also is in the Northampton Blvd. Area.
Again, a lot of this was intended to be towards phase one, since this is this is what part of the project we are talking about here tonight.
So this is on the other side of the fence that runs along the north part of North Hampton Blvd.
So that road there, which is the rustic Arbor way in that neighborhood, you could see again another leaning pole and some down that line that these are going to be replaced with more with.
With better infrastructure to keep it that reliable energy into the area.
And I do want to call out so the those photo simulations were just part of the line.
We have an excellent resource here called the Backyard app. And So what we do work with our engineer to see where all the structures across the line are going to be.
Going and also inventuring which ones are currently there.
So if you type in your address here, or even just curiosity, you'll cross the line and you click on any of these circles here.
This will show you at that exact location.
What the structure is now and what the structure to come will be.
So if you're curious more, more specifically around your home or or residence or where you frequent, you can see in these what are the differences going to be so you

can access this.
Specific information in the the backyard app by going to that website and if you don't have it, aren't in a means to write it down right now.
We we we definitely have ways that you can get in touch with us.
So we can send that information to you directly.
But encourage you to to play around with it. 'cause this is a a great tool for us to show people specifically, what does this.
What does this project mean to them?
All right.
Well, that was the regularly scheduled part of the presentation.
As I mentioned at the beginning of the meeting, if you have any questions to start or along the way to go ahead and enter them into the Q&A function of the teams application here.
So we're going to compile what we have so far and give you a few more moments to put down any other questions that you might have and then we'll inventory those and we'll find the best way to relay that information.
We'll be back on in just a few minutes, so thank you for your patience.
OK. Thank. Thank you for your patience. We've compiled.
Several questions here.
So first question is, will there be traffic impacts Rd. closures?
So no, this project will not close roads.
There will there will be lane closures close to where work is happening to the road, but we will not be stopping traffic so that mostly will be on Northampton Blvd. where the the line as really close to the road but no expected.
No, no Rd. closures.
So good question there.
Next we'll will we lose power.
No, that's actually the the whole reason that we're we're doing this is that we we will not be de energizing these the power to the to the area there, we are still able to reroute power. So that is going to the homes businesses. So that this line can.
Actually be worked on.
So no loss of power.
Who have we talked to in, in, in the area?
So we've had some fantastic collaboration with a variety of stakeholders and.
Influential people in the in the community there. So we had had a great previous

several great conversations with the Council. We presented to the Virginia Beach City Council.
Several have been, you know, very involved with one off conversations and asking questions there.
We've also worked with the Bayfront Advisory Commission and had some conversations with them.
We were actually supposed to meet with them and present to them on the day of the snow storm as well. So we are rescheduling that for a future meeting, but we have had conversations with their leadership team.
Friends of Live Oaks Group we've had, we've had a meeting with them and we we are looking to set up some other meetings with, with groups in the area to make sure they're aware of our efforts and and we're we're doing our best to engage and inform the.
Land owners.
As we move forward with the with this project.
So we did have another question here about.
The polls going in in Northampton Blvd.
So when putting the new polls on Northampton Blvd. going across Lake Smith, where were your equipment B staged and what is the approximate time frame to get new lines across the lake?
So that is a great construction question.
I believe we had a colleague here, Chris Sibley, join us that hopefully will be able to answer that if Chris isn't able to answer that, we can take that question back. If you leave your contact information with us, we can get you more specific and we we will.
Have as we go through the construction schedule, have more.
Specific timing as we go through parts of the line, we also will be placing door hangers.
In their residences in and for residents and businesses near the lines themselves, to give them a heads up of when work will be happening. There's a phone number on there for one of our.
One of our colleagues that will be overseeing the day-to-day if they haven't and they can answer more specific questions.
Otherwise you can reach out to me and then I'll go chase it down with them.
But they will have contact information for the actual activities happening.

So Chris, I don't know if you heard that or not. If you were able to help with answer that question or if we should just plan on following up on that.

Christopher C Sibley (Services - 6) 26:58

Yes, thanks.

Thanks, Shawn.

I appreciate that my computer crashed is so I had to switch over to my phone.

I apologize for that.

SEAN R Doherty (Services - 6) 27:05

No worries.

Christopher C Sibley (Services - 6) 27:06

We're going to have some construction equipment staged there.

In the right away itself, behind the structure where we're going to be installing the foundations in a new poles, we are going to have to close the ramp down a couple times, but very short duration to try to not have any impact, you know to the community but.

Just for safety reasons, we will have to close it down.

For a short period of time, I want to say we recall it was maybe a week at a time.

But we can get back together on that and give him a more specific time frame.

SEAN R Doherty (Services - 6) 27:48

OK.

Thank you. Thank you, Chris.

And again for the for the person that submitted that question, if you want to answer your contact information into our Q&A, we can follow up with you with more specific information and again.

About that location. If you're not comfortable sharing it here, you can also follow up with.

With the contact information we're about to share as well.

Hang on just one moment.

Looks like we did have one of our colleagues was willing to add some information here.

Cliff, looks like you had something to share as well. If you want to join us.

Clifton L Kipper (Services - 6) 28:32

Yeah, I was just gonna piggyback off of Chris's comments there and say that we have our access and rehab schedule and it looks like that stretch of lines, you know, obviously we'll be picking up our mats and reopening that boat ramp middle of July is is kind.

Of the tentative schedule. If everything else goes to plan.

So that kind of gives the the duration of when we're starting and then when we should be pulling up and finishing in that stretch through there.

SEAN R Doherty (Services - 6) 29:02

Great. Thank you, Cliff.

Appreciate the additional context.

Looks like we might have another one.

OK.

Thank you for providing your contact information and your names.

We live right behind the boat ramp.

We'll be in touch.

Thank you for sharing that.

Alright, looks like we we're up to date on on questions.

That doesn't mean that this ends here.

Just want to share my contact information here.

So again, thank you for sharing your time with us and your interest in the project. If there are other questions to come up after this call or concerns as we are doing our work, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

Our entire team is really concerned about being a good neighbor as we're doing our work again to provide reliable energy to this area.

This phone number here will reach me and the e-mail will get to me as well as I can follow up, you know preferred method either phone call or by e-mail.

And that website there at the bottom, if you have a chance to write that down, if you haven't seen that yet, that was in our mailers as well, which is likely how you got here.

That has that has all the information we've shared so far.

As well as this, recording will go on there if you want to tell your neighbours and share that information. It also houses the backyard app that I mentioned before.

So you could go in there and see what the structures look like.
Near or again, if you're curious, as it looks like, I will call out one thing I did not mention on the backyard app.
It doesn't have all sections, all phases. We are still working as we go along. So right now we have phase one and most of phase two-part of phase three and we do not have phase four yet that that that's to come as we as we move along.
We will be engaging with neighbors along those sections as the line as we move, so we'll be sure to call that out to them as that information is added as we go along.
So again, thank you for attending.
We hope that you don't really even notice that we're around, but just we we are doing our best to to be mindful and make sure that we just keeping power to all your homes and businesses in the area.
So thank you again for joining.
Have a great night.

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