

South Hill 230 kV Electric Transmission Line and Substation Project
June 1, 2022
Community Meeting – Presentation

Thank you all for coming. My name is Roxana. I'm your host for this evening. And I just want to thank you for coming out tonight. I'm going to give a 15-minute presentation. Following the presentation, we'll have time for an open Q and A session. And then after that, I noticed some of you are already doing it, but we'll look at the boards and help answer any questions you may have.

First, I want to start off by saying that this is a public meeting so we're here to not just share about our proposed project, but we want to hear from you. We want to learn and listen, and we want to know your concerns and your input and your perspective on our projects. We involve individual property owners, state and local officials and cultural advocacy groups in our engagement process to ensure that our projects are well communicated, and that people know that they have an opportunity to engage with us.

Before we get started, I just want to review what it means when I say electric transmission lines. We live and breathe this every day, and I never want to assume what someone may or may not know. So really quickly, electric transmission lines are the high voltage power lines that transport high voltage power over long distances, efficiently, safely and securely from where the power is generated to a substation. And then at that substation, the voltage is then lowered or stepped down to then be distributed to homes and businesses. So tonight, we're going to be focused on electric transmission lines.

Generally speaking, there are three forces that drive new infrastructure. Economic growth, aging assets, and addressing mandatory federal reliability criteria standards. And these three forces are not mutually exclusive. Projects often involve any or all of these factors during the course of a project. And so, for the projects tonight, there is new load growth in the area, and we also want to maintain the electric reliability that is currently serving Southside Virginia.

And see on this map, there's three red circles. This indicates the new load centers that are coming to the area. The red lines and blue lines and triangles, that is our existing transmission lines and substations. And so, for these three load centers in red, our existing transmission lines, they are not adequate to- they're not sufficient to serve those areas or are they directly in the areas where they need to be. We do have a good plan in place for South side Virginia with the road growth that's occurring.

We have three projects. What we're calling the Butler Farm Project, the South Hill Project and the Jeffress Project. And so tonight we're talking about the South Hill Project.

What's needed for this project is two single circuit 230 KV electric lines that go into the South Hill La Crosse areas. And so, in that area will be three new substations. And then within those three substations will be an interconnecting transmission line loop. We do have two electrical solutions that will work. What's important to note is for this project, we will only be building one solution at this time, but we do have- we've looked ahead at the load growth projections. And we know that the other solution will ultimately be needed as well.

So only one will be selected for this project but down the road, both solutions will be needed. So, the Eastern solution starts at our existing Heritage Substation in Brunswick County and then goes into Mecklenburg about 25 miles to those new substation interconnects. And then the Northern solution. We would build a new substation, what we're calling the Unity Substation in Lunenburg County and then 10 miles would have to be- would go into Mecklenburg County to those substation interconnects. And it's important to note that one of these routes will go to the State Corporation Commission for approval.

So, the structure types that will need to be installed for either the Eastern or Northern solution are two single circuit monopole structures with the circuits stacked on one side. You can see the right-of-way width and the average height for these typical structures. And these can come in a weathering steel or galvanize finished. And so that's something that we would like your opinion on – if you do have a preference. We found in communities where the skyline is mostly green, communities tend to prefer the weathering steel whereas in communities where the skyline is mostly sky – I'm sorry, where the horizon is mostly sky, the communities tend to prefer the galvanized steel. But we know that every community is different. Every person is different, every project is different. And so that is something that we want to hear from you on.

For the substation interconnects, on both of these images, the two poles on the left will be for the first project. Again, that's whether it's the Eastern or Northern solution but then ultimately down the road when we have to build the other solution, three structure types will be needed. And again, since we know that's coming down the road, we wanted to take that into account in our planning. So that's why they would be in that shared right-of-way together. And again, these can come in the galvanized or weathering steel finish.

So how do we 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 this has on property owners and on communities and on municipalities. It is not easy, but I do want to assure you that many things go into consideration when trying to determine where the routes go. We always want to be respectful of people's homes and properties. We try to co-locate when we can, and we try to stay close to property boundaries. We also look at constraints. Things like environmental impacts, wetlands, water bodies, and tribal property as well. Hopefully you received this map in the mail. If not, we have plenty at the sign-in table out front, but this just shows how we're trying to get from point A to point B.

So, our Eastern solution starts in Brunswick County at our Heritage Substation, and you'll see we have routing alternatives with a variation and the existing purple line, that is our existing 115 KV transmission line. So, you can see the green line. It starts to co-locate with the purple with the existing transmission line, but then we dip down. So that's because we have the Brunswick landfill there. And there's also an area where there's a lot of homes. So, we're always trying to come up with alternatives.

You'll see for the Northern solution. We have two routing alternatives. The orange line and the yellow line as well. So, I just want to stress that these routes are preliminary. Nothing is set in stone. So, this is why we're here tonight. We want to hear your feedback. We want to know what you think. Again, it's a public meeting. So, this is why we want to work together with the community to find the best solution.

This just gives you a flavor of what this will look like in the field. The top is what's existing. It might be hard to see on the screen, but we have the proposed coming through the area, the two monopole structures. And so, these are in the galvanized finish and then the weathering steel. And so, for the Eastern solution, when I mentioned we have an existing 115 KV line, the top is the existing. So that's what is currently out in the field. That 115 KV line and then the bottom shows what would be co-located within that right-of-way.

So, you can see where the right-of-way would need to expand. And you can see the two structures, the single circuit structures with the 230 KV line next to that 115 line, and again galvanized or weathering steel finish. And this is from like sitting on the ground. This is a ground view image for both Northern and Eastern solutions. And so again, weathering steel and galvanized.

The State Corporation Commission or SCC, they are the agency that ultimately selects and approves the route. And so, they have jurisdiction over the routing of this transmission line. So, if, and when we get approval from the SCC, we will have to get subsequent permits in order for this project to move forward.

The SCC has their own time for public input. They will solicit public comments. So, once we file our application that doesn't mean the process is over. So, there is time to still submit your comments and have engagement. And so, it could be anywhere from eight months if there's no complications to get approval from the SCC or it could be anywhere from 12 to 24 months, if there are complications, but again the SCC ultimately selects and approves the route. So, what will happen is, it will lead up to a hearing and so Dominion, we will provide our homework, our paperwork, all of our evidence. And the SCC will determine did we prove that this project was needed? And does this route limit the impacts?

We launched this mapping tool called GeoVoice on our project website. And it's really amazing. You can search for your address, and you can see your parcels and you can see all the routing options. So, you can see where your property is in relation to the closest routing alternative. You can leave a comment for the project team. You can say,

I prefer the yellow route not the orange route. We want to hear from you, "Hey can you shift this, this way around? Or I'm concerned about this." So, this is a great tool. I highly encourage you to sign up. There's a measuring tool. So, you can measure where your property is in relation to the closest line. So, there's a lot of neat features and it's a great way to essentially participate in the routing process firsthand.

Here's our project timeline. I mentioned the three projects that we have in Southside, Virginia. South Hill is highlighted and green. So, you can see where it is in relation to the other projects. But we started our public engagement this past spring and we are having three in-person community meetings this month.

We will also have another in-person community meeting later this summer. So that way, when we get your feedback, we can incorporate it and we'll get new routing boards printed with any changes. And then after that, we will file our application with the State Corporation Commission, and pending SCC and permitting approval, we plan to start construction in early 2024 and then wrap up in 2025.