

## Staunton - Craigsville Virtual Community Meeting Transcript

We are going to go ahead and get started this evening. Good evening and welcome to the Pre-Construction Virtual Community Meeting for the 115 kV Staunton to Craigsville Electric Transmission Rebuild Project. This meeting is being recorded.

My name is Kristi Moore and I am part of the electric transmission communications team at Dominion Energy. Tonight's meeting is being brought to you virtually to provide a safe and accessible opportunity to learn about this important infrastructure upgrade and repair project.

Though tonight's meeting is virtual, you will still have an opportunity to engage with our project team and to ask questions that are on your mind. During the meeting, you can submit your question by selecting the "All Panelists" button on the bottom left hand portion of your screen. Questions will be addressed by our project team.

As a reminder, your audio will remain off and video muted, excuse me, your video will remain off and your audio will remain muted throughout the presentation; however, you may still submit questions by clicking the "All Panelists" button as we just reviewed. And as mentioned, we are recording this meeting and the meeting will be posted to the project webpage for those who are unable to join us this evening or if you'd like to go back and review the recording at any time.

On tonight's agenda we will begin with a Safety Message; and then we will virtually meet our project team; review the project and construction process and answer your questions.

At Dominion Energy, we like to start every meeting with a safety message. For tonight's message, I thought we could discuss what to do if you experience downed power lines. Power lines could potentially fall for many reasons including high wind or as even as the result of a vehicle accident.

Should you encounter downed power lines, stay at least 30 feet away and consider them energized and dangerous.

- Call 911 immediately if they present an imminent danger to you or your property.
- Electricity travels; never touch a power line with any part of your body or with an object
- If someone makes contact with a downed power line, call 911. Do not touch the person because you may become a victim yourself.
- Should you experience a power outage, call Dominion Energy at 866-366-4357
- And we encourage you to download our app with your smartphone.

I wanted to share a quick remainder, excuse me, reminder about engagement during the virtual meeting. If you would like to ask a question, please select the "All Panelists" button on the bottom left-hand portion of your screen. Keep in mind, if your question is specific to activities on or near your property, please leave your name and the best way for our team to reach you. A team member will follow-up after the meeting. More general questions may be submitted by selecting the "All Panelists" button.

Before meeting the project team, I wanted to take a moment to quickly review how transmission lines work. How does the electric generated at the power station power your home or business? So there are two types of lines that carry power from the generation station to your home and business –electric transmission and electric distribution lines. The lines look different and serve different purposes. For simplicity, the electric is generated at the power generation

station, then sent via high voltage transmission line to the substation. Once the power is received at the substation, the voltage is lowered and sent through a distribution line to power to your home or business.

Now, to introduce you to our team of experts assigned to this project. We have with us tonight, our Project Manager, Bob; Angela from our project team; John in Construction/Access; Monica in Environmental; Chuck with Siting and Permitting; Amanda in Engineering; Sam in Forestry; and Julia our external affairs representatives. Julia will be our moderator later in the evening when she will be fielding some of those questions asked throughout the presentation.

This project is a 14.6 mile project that is being conducted in three phases – we have Phase 1 & 2, from the Staunton substation, as you can see in the right-hand corner of the screen to Trimble Mill, which is sort of in the middle of the screen. Phase 3 runs from Trimble Mill to our Craigsville substation. All of the work will take place in Augusta County, VA.

This line is being rebuilt to address aging infrastructure. The transmission line has been in service for nearly 100 years and rebuilding the line will address federal reliability standards and ensure the integrity of the grid and reliable electric service to our customers.

As mentioned earlier, the work will take place in Augusta County and includes replacement of 72 existing steel lattice structures, as pictured on the screen, with weathering H-frames and vertical switch monopoles. Sixteen (16) new structures will be installed to comply with current standards relative to electrical clearances and Dominion standard structure configurations.

Among the drivers for this project is the replacement of that aging infrastructure just mentioned. The Commonwealth of Virginia continues to grow as does our customer's need for reliable electric service. This project will meet that need through the installation of higher capacity conductor to support future load growth. Finally, Dominion Energy is committed to providing safe and reliable electric service to our customers. Rebuilding the line will ensure reliable electric service to 2,500 Shenandoah Valley Electric Co-op (SVEC) customers who are served by this line.

A project page has been launched to provide information about the Staunton-Craigsville project. The page features a variety of project related resources including maps, proposed structure types and heights as well as a project timeline. Much of this information will be reviewed briefly in this presentation. Should you want to access the webpage, you can do so by searching [www.DominionEnergy.com/staunton-craigsville](http://www.DominionEnergy.com/staunton-craigsville) in your browser. Or, you may use your smartphone and click the QR code on the screen.

As mentioned earlier, our crews will be replacing the existing painted steel lattice structures depicted on your screen, with weathering steel H-frames, also depicted.

On average, the above ground height of the existing structures is 84 feet; the average above ground height of the new structures will increase by about 15 feet. To help provide a visual of the new heights, we have developed an interactive height structure tool to help our neighbors get a better idea of the size and types of structures along the Right of Way. The tool is available on our website as mentioned earlier, [www.DominionEnergy.com/staunton-craigsville](http://www.DominionEnergy.com/staunton-craigsville). The graphic on your screen is an example of the different height structures, by structure type, across the entirety of the project.

So as you can see here in the middle, the existing height is 84 feet and the new, proposed height is around 99 feet. What we've done, is we've prepared a graphic that shows structure heights compared to some common objects to help provide perspective. The graphic demonstrates those existing and proposed structure heights compared to common objects such as a tractor-trailer, a house and a large tree. With this tool, when logging onto the website, you can actually post, you can actually go in and insert your address into the search bar and it will show you what is being proposed near your home. So, it's a really great tool for relative information, relevant information.

This project has several benefits including the use of an existing Right of Way, this means structures will be built in generally the same locations as the existing structures. New structures will remain in the right of way to minimize the impact on the community and environment. Importantly, it will replace aging infrastructure that will provide long-term reliability and durability as those new structures comply with mandatory standards for safety and reliability.

As you can imagine, electric transmission rebuild projects are multi-disciplinary efforts with input from across teams within Dominion Energy. Thinking back to the beginning of the meeting, I introduced several project team members who have been working on various aspects of this project for some time. Each team member plays an important role in the safe execution of electric transmission line projects.

On your screen, we have displayed a graphic of construction-related aspects of an electric transmission line project, from beginning to end. The process begins on your left and reads to the right. We survey and conduct wetland delineations at the very beginning of the process and that means crews come out to survey the land to identify wetlands and other sensitive environmental conditions and animal species so that mitigation efforts can be deployed to protect these important assets. This process usually takes place about 6-12 months prior to construction and coincides with our permitting activities.

The installation of temporary access roads is one of the key milestones for a project. These roads will be the primary ingress and egress for equipment and supplies used on the project. The temporary access roads include erosion and sediment control measures such as timber matting and gravel to protect environmentally sensitive areas.

Our next step in the process is the removing what we call danger trees. We're going to learn a little bit more about danger tree removal later, however, it's an important part of the construction process as it mitigates the potential for overgrown trees to impede our work or those that create the potential for unplanned electric outages that result from downed trees.

The next step is to mobilize our wire pulling equipment. The access roads built early in the construction process provide our construction team and their equipment with access points to our structures. We remove the existing structures and rebuild them with new conductor wire. When the new structures are in place and the new wire has been pulled in, we demobilize that equipment and move it from the right of way. The final step, which is restoring the land to its preconstruction condition. This process can take up to a year, depending when the project is completed in relation to planting season and ultimately germination. We want to bring that land to the condition it was prior to our coming to the area.

We've covered numerous steps and the execution of each is critical to the safe completion of the project; however, there are a few projects, excuse me, a few steps worth discussing further.

I mentioned wooden matting and temporary gravel erosion and sediment control measures. Those are deployed during temporary access road construction. You can see examples on your screen there. Those really are those protective materials we use when constructing temporary access to be able to get to the structures.

At Dominion Energy we value the environment and are protective of the environmental assets. We employ a variety of environmental protections, including:

- Coordination with federal and state agencies to obtain required permits prior to beginning construction activities.
- The use wooden matting protects those sensitive areas, as described; and
- The installation of temporary land stabilizing and permanent land restoration activities are also deployed.

Earlier, I mentioned the important role our Forestry department plays. The forestry group is really one of the first crews to work in the project area. I mentioned a bit ago about those “danger trees” and the need to keep the right of way clear through tree maintenance. I wanted to take a minute to turn the meeting over to Sam Vincent who’s going provide a little more detail on Dominion Energy’s danger tree program and the important role that it plays. Sam, could you come off of mute? Thanks.

Kristi, thanks. Yeah, so what we’re going to be doing over the next few months is identifying the danger trees along this power line project. We won’t be cutting any of the trees until later in the fall, but it is a time consuming process for us to go through and identify danger trees. What we will do is begin with some engineering documents so we know what the height of the line is going to be built back to and then using some instruments, we will measure the heights of trees all along the power line, from the beginning to the end. We will identify trees that meet those criteria that you see on the diagram. Any tree that can come within ten feet of the line if it were to fall for any reason. So those trees that are identified will be marked and the forester for the project will be reaching out to landowners that have trees on their property. We will have some discussions prior to the work taking place and go over all the details associated with our work. There may be more trees toward the Craigsville end of the project, but we won’t know for sure until we get out there. Rest assured folks will be notified probably even before we enter their property looking for some of these trees. Before our work begins, we will certainly be in touch with folks. This process is all part of the improvement to the infrastructure, it’s a matter of maintaining that reliability for the future and preventing further tree-related outages. Thanks, Kristi. Thanks for sharing that. Should you have any questions about that process, please feel free to put them in the chat and we address them at the conclusion of the meeting.

As we’ve mentioned numerous time, safety is certainly a top priority at Dominion Energy. We maintain right of way near landowner properties where those structures will be built. So it’s important to keep that right of way clear of those danger trees as Sam referenced, as well as objects that may impede crews from safely accessing the line. We coordinate with landowners for ingress and egress and maintain communication through the life of the project. You may be wondering, what does a right of way look like? So really, it’s that parcel of land you can see pretty clearly here. The cleared out area that provides access to the structure and has that clearance that we’ve been talking about.

I wanted to take a few minutes to talk about restoration, which we alluded to a bit earlier when we were showing the construction diagram. Restoration activities are crucial to the completion of the project. Dominion crews take pride in restoring those lands to preconstruction conditions. This activity includes the removal of equipment we may have used and construction materials. Once the equipment and construction related materials are removed from the area, the restoration crews plant grass and ensure the area is restored to the same or better condition than it was when the work began. The process does take time. As I mentioned, its dependent upon weather, time of year and germination; however, know that the project is not considered complete until we confirm the vegetation is viable and that the land has been restored appropriately.

Wanted to review an important asked, which is our timeline. So the timeline shows a number of activities that have taken place or will be taking place over the next two years. Our long-term permitting, excuse me, our year-long permitting and survey work was completed in the spring of 2022. We announced the project to our neighbors, elected officials and others, such as cultural resource groups and Native American Tribes, just over a year ago, in May 2021.

Tonight, we are hosting this meeting to provide additional information about the project and to answer any questions you may have. We expect Phase 1 and 2 construction, including construction of temporary access roads and entrances as well as forestry to begin in July. Phase 3 is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2023. We anticipate construction to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2023 with restoration activities taking about six months, which brings the entire project to completion in the spring of 2024.

This concludes the formal presentation for this evening. As a reminder, we are looking forward to receiving any questions that you may have. Please feel free to put them in the chat function, "All Panelists" at the bottom left-hand portion of your screen. Our moderator, Julia, will share those with the folks who are on the call and can answer them most appropriately.

Julia, do you have any questions in the chat? Thanks, Kristi. I'm opening up the chat right now and I don't see any questions right now so I'll give folks a minute to submit any questions they may have. And, as a reminder, should you have a question that's more specific to your property or activities nearby your property, you will want to please include some contact information, name and a good phone number or email address to get in touch with you and we'll have a member of our project team follow-up. Some of those more general questions, please feel free to put them in the chat and we can address them here with the team. Thanks, Kristi.

Well, while we're waiting, one question that we tend to get a lot during these rebuild project is whether customer's power will be impacted as a result of this project, at any point during the project. So I don't know if that's a question for you, or maybe for Bob? Yeah Bob, would you mind coming off of mute and video and talking through that process and answering the question about whether or not folks will lose power as a result of the work we are doing. Certainly, can you hear me ok? Yes, sir. We will have opportunity and we will use switching to de-energize and isolate the line. We have capabilities to transfer the customers to another location so there should be no planned activities that impact the customers during construction. Thank you.

Julia, have any other questions come in? Not yet. As a reminder, the Q&A chat box is at on the right-hand side of your screen and make sure to select "All Panelists" when you enter a question.

I guess while folks are thinking of any questions they have, um, this is just one opportunity to engage with the community. Certainly, we have our project webpage that is available 24/7, you can call our Powerline, which is our toll-free number 1-888-291-0190 to speak with somebody, a communications professional who will then direct you to the appropriate person within the team to answer your question. If you do use that powerline number, we ask that you reference the Staunton – Craigsville project; we want to make sure we are able to connect you with the right person associated with this project. You could also send your questions to us at [powerline@dominionenergy.com](mailto:powerline@dominionenergy.com) and your question will be directed to one of our team members again, who will be able to answer it directly by calling and following-up with you.

Any other questions, Julia. Not seeing any others, I will go ahead and turn it back over to you.

Finally, I want to thank you for attending tonight's meeting. We hope it was beneficial. As I mentioned earlier, there are a variety of ways to get in touch with us over the next several years, two years or so. If you have any questions, please utilize one of those vehicles, please.

Again, thank you for joining us. We will post this recording to the project webpage, [DominionEnergy.com/Staunton-craigsville](http://DominionEnergy.com/Staunton-craigsville) within the week and you can watch it at your leisure. Thanks for your time this evening and we hope you enjoy the rest of your night.