

Tom (Consulting Engineer, Dominion Energy): At Dominion energy we have both underground and overhead electric transmission lines with approximately 6600 miles overhead and approximately 1.2 percent of these lines are underground. Other than the obvious visible component what is the difference between underground and overhead transmission lines? Reliability, time to construct, operability, and the costs are the main differences. Pinpointing the location of a problem of an underground transmission line is more difficult. Repairs can take several weeks to a month and even longer if the damaged cable must be removed and a new cable installed. Underground transmission lines take more time to construct and are environmentally invasive. Although underground transmission lines may reduce visual impacts after being constructed, they add operating restrictions to the transmission system. Underground transmission lines are typically four to ten times more expensive than comparable overhead lines. In all cases Dominion energy has constructed underground transmission lines because no feasible and/or cost-effective overhead alternative was available. The transmission line was built for direct delivery to a customer who requested underground service and paid for the construction. underground construction was approved by the Virginia State Corporation Commission or SCC as a pilot project. We are not saying underground transmission lines are not feasible we have and will design underground facilities to meet the reliability standards our customers have come to expect. In fact, we consider both overhead and underground options for transmission projects. the SCC reviews transmission facilities that are at or above 138 kilovolts or transmission facilities that are found to be out of the ordinary course of doing business. The SCC makes final decision as to what we will build and issues a certificate of public convenience and necessity or CPCN. Over the years overhead lines have been selected by the SCC as the best choice for providing safe, reliable, and economical energy to our customers. At Dominion energy our primary focus has always been to provide reliable service at reasonable costs. Most of the time, an overhead line will provide the longest term, reliable service with the smallest increase in our customer's monthly bills.