

Carmel Church and Ruther Glen Electric Transmission Project Community Meeting – September 17, 2024

Ann Gordon:

Good evening, everyone. We're going to go ahead and get started. Try to stay on time as we do need to end the meeting tonight at 7:00 PM. But would like to thank you all for attending our second community meeting for the Carmel Church and Ruther Glen Electric Transmission Projects. I do see some familiar faces in the audience, so welcome back. And for those of you who are joining us for the first time, thank you so much for your attendance. I know it takes some time out of your evening to spend learning about the project and sharing your feedback, but we are very thankful that you're able to do that.

So my name is Ann Gordon, also known as AG. I'm the communications consultant for these projects. And with me, I have our project manager, Adam Maguire. We're going to go through some information and updates on the project and then we will go back to the open house style. So hopefully this will help everyone feel like they know where we are in the project and what's coming up next, and then we can talk about how we're going to organize the rest of the meeting tonight.

So as I mentioned, we'll have the meeting open until 7:00 PM. This presentation will be recorded and added to our project website within the next few days. So if you had neighbors that could not attend or if you'd like to go back and review what we talked about, it'll be up there for you. Also, if you grabbed a copy of the presentation at the front desk, you should be able to jot down some notes. So if you have a question about what I'm talking about or anything that Adam's talking about, feel free to do that and come find us after the presentation.

So first, just wanted to thank everyone for all of your feedback. We had 88 attendees at our last community meeting and we heard a lot of great feedback, not only on the project itself but on the format. So we heard from you that a presentation would be helpful to organize how we're sharing this information. So hopefully this will be helpful as we move forward with our next steps. But we want to reiterate our commitment to the community. We know that these projects can be impactful. They're complex, they have a lot of information. So we want to make sure that we're working diligently to make the information easy to understand and share as much information as we can. So if there's any other feedback that you have, please share it with us and we'll do the best that we can. We may share information that you may not agree with. Our job is to really share what we need to do and how we planned to build these new transmission lines. So I'd like to again say thank you so much for being here.

I'm going to pass this over to Adam. He's going to talk a little bit about electric transmission 101 and the project need, and then we'll get into what we have done with

the feedback that we received from you, the route changes, and then we'll go through the project next steps. Adam?

Adam Maguire:

Perfect. Thanks AG. Can everybody hear me okay? Excellent. So we're going to get into the project details here. We're going to keep this relatively brief so y'all can get back, circulate around, and answer questions from us. But before that, we wanted to give you a little bit about just electric transmission as a whole. I know not everybody lives and breathes power lines like I do, and everyone has a different background when it comes to electric power. So normally if you're out and you're driving down the road, you might see the power lines running along the side of the road on the wood poles, delivering power to your houses. In our world, those are electric distribution lines. An electric distribution line typically starts at a substation and brings power to your house or your business. Starting at the substations and working your way back towards the power stations is the electric transmission lines and the electric transmission grid.

So for this project, we're talking about potential electric transmission lines and electric substations here in Caroline County. So I just wanted to give you a little bit of frame of reference for the types of lines we're talking about. Your transmission lines, you're probably familiar with them. They run normally in their own right of ways. They're the larger structures. They might be on tall steel poles or on towers. And then the substations you may have seen before are normally enclosed within a fence on a gravel pad. You see electric equipment inside them, but you've probably never been inside one. They're not that exciting, so you're not missing that much. George, our substation designer might object there, but that's kind of what we're talking about here.

So a little bit just about Dominion and our obligations. So Dominion has a responsibility to serve load in our areas, which means that if someone comes to us with a load request and a request for power, we are obligated to do our best to bring that power to them and to serve that load. When you're looking at projects that we're normally doing on the electric transmission side, there's normally one of three types of projects that we're doing. It's either a project where we're bringing a new line to serve a new load, normally driven by some kind of economic growth. That's what this type of project is here today. We have some customer requests that have asked us to extend electric transmission facilities to them to supply their load. Other types of projects which you might've seen because Caroline County does have a few different Dominion Energy projects that are occurring in it right now, would be rebuilds of existing facilities.

I'm sure some of you guys might live near some existing transmission lines that are potentially being rebuilt. I know we have a couple of projects in the northern area of the county and in the Ladysmith area where we're proposing some facilities out there. And we also have projects designed to address what we call NERC issues. Maybe the system is growing and we need more power and we need more lines, or we need lines

of higher capacity. So those are the three major types. But again, the projects that we're talking about for today are really that first category that you see there.

So a little on project need. As many of you know, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative might be the company you actually pay your power bill to. And REC is one of the many co-ops that we have throughout the state. I have an electric co-op myself at my house, and they do great work. They're back there in the blue shirts. But the way that these projects occurred is that a customer came to Rappahannock Electric and gave them a request and said, "Hey, we're looking to do this development." In this case, both developments are primarily data center type. And so they came to Rappahannock. Rappahannock sent a request into Dominion and said, "Hey Dominion, we need X amount of power by such and such a date in order to meet this customer need." And that's what really gets Dominion kicked into gear and going is when that request officially comes through from Rappahannock. So Rappahannock is the one who will be serving these loads, and Dominion is providing power to Rappahannock to serve that.

So when Dominion looked at the request that came through Rappahannock, we routed it through our planning team. And our planning team looked at the size of the loads, the facilities we had in the areas and suggested that we tap some of the existing transmission lines that we have running through Caroline County and loop them into and out of these sites to bring them the power that they need. So from Dominion's perspective, each of these projects is proposing to build a double circuit transmission line to the site, put what we call a switching station, which is just similar to a substation. And that connects to the Rappahannock Electric Substation, which feeds the customers. So from a big picture standpoint... try not to get too technical on this. But if you want to know more about the details, please come see me after and I'm happy to dig into as much fun technical stuff as you want to.

A little bit about the structure types we're proposing. You'll see them in the photo sims around here, but these are the double-circuit monopoles that are proposed for these projects. They are generally between 110 and 130 feet tall, weathering steel, brown design. You have one transmission circuit on each side of the pole there. So that's the double circuit portion of that structure.

Routing. Just wanted to touch on routing at a very high level. I think anyone from the Dominion team could tell you routing is one of the most serious and one of the most challenging things that we do at Dominion. And we take routing new lines extremely seriously. We know, and we really are grateful to you all being out here. Anytime you're routing a new line, it's going through people's properties. It has the potential to impact them. We want to impact as few people as possible. We want to route the lines in the areas that make the most sense for lines to be routed. We want to minimize environmental impacts and impacts on wetlands, and we want to do it in a way that's responsible and economical for our ratepayers, where we're not building facilities that we don't need or building lines that maybe are excessively long or poorly designed. So we want to do everything that we can to maximize the value for everybody.

And obviously, from a stakeholder portion, all of you are out here, so this project has some impact to everybody. Anyway, we're trying to balance all of those things, make sure that the lines we're picking are as optimal as they can be. And so that's where your feedback is really helpful. Because we don't always know how you might be using land, or maybe you're aware of an environmentally sensitive impact on a piece of property, or you're aware that this parcel has historic significance, and that might be something that we would've missed when we did our initial study. All the feedback that we can get from you, and if you see some routes and you think one route should be chosen and maybe another one shouldn't be, again, very valuable input that we need and that we want as part of this process. So as after we wrap up this presentation, by all means, everyone in the green shirts, the gray shirts, go around, ask your questions, give your feedback. This is really what we're here for.

So a little bit on the project updates. We had a meeting back in July. It was very well attended. We had 88 attendees, which for us is a lot. We got a lot of really good feedback from that meeting. We've had a lot of meetings with customers and with stakeholders after the fact. We've made some route adjustments to some of the routes based off some of the feedback we received at that first meeting. And we've been able to meet with a lot of folks afterwards, get a lot of questions answered, and get a lot of good information from our side to make the routes that are more palatable and that are better for everybody. So we just wanted to, at a very high level, show the routes that you'll see around the room today. We have the Carmel Church Project, which you'll see on this side of the room. We have our photo sims and routes over here.

If you came out to the meeting back in July, you'll notice that the green route, we've made some shifts to that route based off some feedback that we had received there. So if you are familiar with the green route, you'll notice that that looks a little bit different here now, again, based off the feedback we received. The Ruther Glen route, we made some tweaks to the teal route, again, based off feedback we received. The Ruther Glen's project is set up on this side of the room. Again, also photos sims and maps. So happy to talk to everybody after the presentation on that. Just a high-level project timeline. Don't worry, we're almost done with the presentation. But we're looking to file this project with the State Corporation Commission in this fall, so fall of 2024.

State Corporation Commission normally takes 9 to 12 months to go through their full review process. And if you're interested in participating in the State Corporation Commission, that is an excellent opportunity to make your voice heard on whether a route should or shouldn't be selected or whether the project should move forward or not. That is your opportunity to make your voice heard as a stakeholder, as a county, as whatever your involvement in the case might be. After the SCC makes the ruling, which we expect to come through in summer of 2025, if they give us authorization to proceed, they would tell us which route we're allowed to proceed on, and then we would start acquiring right away, working on permits, ordering structures. And then construction

would start in 2026 and wrap up in 2027. It's how that timeline would lay out, assuming everything plays out like it could.

So a little bit about next steps. Already talked a little bit about the State Corporation Commission process. But before we get to the SCC process, we have this open house tonight where we're going to collect all your feedback. Afterwards, our routing team, we'll meet up, we'll review all the pros and cons of the routes that we've looked at. We'll make any adjustments based off of feedback we receive here tonight. And then we will select one route for each project as our preferred route and some other routes as alternate routes. Those routes will be included in the State Corporation Commission application that goes to the SCC this fall.

At that point, anyone who is interested in the project is going to receive a letter giving them information on how to participate in the SCC process. We'll direct you to our website which has additional information on that as well. And there you can participate in the SCC process and go through the... The State Corporation Commission will have a variety of hearings on this, where they'll solicit feedback from anyone who might be interested in the case. And after that, it kind of moves on to the rest of the timeline if the State Corporation Commission chooses an approved route and gives us authorization to proceed. And with that, I'll turn back over to Ann Gordon here to wrap us up.

Ann Gordon:

Thanks so much. So just wanted to touch on what the next steps are from public outreach, when you'll be hearing from us. I have received a few questions about will you let us know when you file your application? And the answer is yes. So when we make our decision on which route we are proposing when we file the application, we will send a letter and we will add the information to our website. So the letter will contain the case number, which we don't have until we actually file it. And we'll put all that information on the website. So you can see here. I know it's fairly faint when you're looking at it, but we'll have all this information outlined and what you can do with that case number. You can either go directly to the SCC website or you can look at the key documents including the application, which will be made public on the legal section of our website.

So after about two or three weeks, once we file, then the SCC typically issues procedural order. So that outlines the next steps, what the time frame is, when any public hearings will be, and when the public comment period will be open. So there is a limit on when you can enter a case. All of that will be outlined in our letter and will be available should you decide that you want to participate in the case and have some questions about how to do so. So we're still here after we file through construction. We are with you along the way.

So that really concludes our updates for the project. Did want to just mention what we have here tonight. As Adam mentioned, we have all of us in the green shirts. And then

you'll see some of our team are in gray shirts, kind of wave your hand. Gray shirts are our routing specialists, so they are very skilled at answering questions about why we are looking here or we're not looking somewhere else. So if you have specific routing questions, please try our folks in the gray shirts first. We also have Rappahannock Co-Op representatives in the blue shirt in the bleachers back there. They can help you with any questions related to your local co-op.

Anything else that you may have, feel free to ask any of us in the green shirts and we'll do our best to help you. But most importantly, just a reminder, the project has not been filed yet. We are still taking your feedback. We want to hear from you. If we don't hear your feedback then we really don't know what is concerning you or what you're interested in. So we appreciate you taking time to come to the meeting. Feel free to send some feedback, and we look forward to having more conversations with you in our open house style. Thank you.