

Prince William Energy Engagement Group (PWEEG)

First Meeting Summary

The first meeting of the Prince William Energy Engagement Group (PWEEG) was held on May 25, 2023, at 11 AM in Beacon Hall on the campus of George Mason University in Manassas, VA.

PWEEG Organizations in Attendance

- Manassas National Battlefield Park
- Historic Prince William
- League of Women Voters of Prince William – Fauquier
- Prince William Conservation Alliance
- The Coalition to Protect Prince William County
- Haymarket Gainesville Business Association
- Piedmont Environmental Council
- Prince William County Planning Office
- Prince William Economic Development
- Realtor Association of Prince William County
- NAIOP Northern Virginia
- Manassas Interfaith Council

PWEEG Organizations Invited, Not in Attendance

- Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District
- Prince William County Habitat for Humanity
- Virginia Cooperative Extension – Prince William
- Dar Al-Noor Islamic Community Center
- NAACP – Prince William County
- Prince William Chamber of Commerce
- Prince William County Department of Development Services

Dominion Energy Team in Attendance

- Stephen Precker, Electric Transmission Communications
- Dominic Minor, Economic Development Manager
- Sameera Younus-Khan, Economic Development Market Specialist
- Stacey Ellis, Environmental Specialist
- Lucas Dupont, Environmental Specialist
- Amanda Keys, Project Manager
- Jay Llamado, Assistant Project Manager, Burns & McDonnell
- Trey Rydel, Electric Transmission Engineer
- Kristi Moore, ERM
- Carter Jones, ERM
- Bryce Gatling, ERM
- Kenita Matthews, ERM
- Roya Smith, ERM
- Rachel Tippett, ERM

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Agenda:

Stephen Precker, Dominion Energy, welcomed attendees to the meeting, reviewed the agenda, and explained the purpose of the meeting.

Kristi Moore, ERM explained the format of the meeting and the breakdown of the representation by organization (primary representative vs. alternate). She then led the group in introductions. Following introductions, Kristi emphasized that this was a collaborative engagement process and then began the “Team Agreement” exercise.

Team Agreement:

- Meetings will start and end on time.
- Presenters and participants will be concise and use clear language.
- Presenters and participants will respect one another, acknowledging multiple perspectives at the table.
- Dominion Energy and ERM commit to following up with responses to parking lot questions.
- As participants in this engagement process, Prince William Energy Engagement Group (PWEEG) members are not endorsing routes or serving as advocates for transmission routing. Participants advocate for the engagement process.
- Key Takeaways will be developed collectively at the end of each PWEEG meeting for broader sharing throughout the community engagement process.
- Dominion Energy and ERM commit to posting a summary of each meeting to the PWEEG website within the specified timeframe.

2. Project Need & Background:

Stephen Precker provided an overview of the project need and background. He began with the forces driving infrastructure needs in Northern Virginia:

- Economic Growth
- Aging Power Grid
- Mandatory North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Standards

Northern Virginia is home to the world’s largest data center market, with a significant percentage of global internet traffic running through Loudoun County alone. A 214% megawatt increase is projected from 2020-2027. Data centers use a lot of energy. As such, Dominion Energy is legally required to figure out how to get power to the customer while maintaining grid reliability. Dominion is focused on upgrading and investing in energy infrastructure. Dominion Energy recently released a report that gives an overview of how the timeline will evolve to meet the rapid data center growth.

3. Transmission Project Types:

- Delivery Point Requests
 - For new or existing customers
 - New substations
- Reliability Projects
 - Grid Efficiency
 - Reconducting
 - Overall Reliability

Future project areas – new energy infrastructure is needed to meet the increasingly growing energy demands of Prince William County and the region. Dominion Energy is exploring all options to minimize community and environmental impacts as much as possible.

Community input opportunities include the Prince William Energy Engagement group, public open house events, State Corporation Commission (SCC) public engagement as well as additional community engagement through individual and community meetings, individual property owner visits, and the soon to be released website.

Question	Answer
Why aren't data centers in the room to answer for their impacts?	The purpose of this meeting is not to debate whether or not data centers should continue to expand their footprint in Prince William County. This process is about engaging key community leaders to gain insight from their knowledge as well as their organizations'

	perspectives to better understand the local area and inform the work associated with Dominion Energy’s legal obligation.
Are the areas of study from current or future load growth?	The study areas do reflect those areas where we see current load growth and planning for the future and does include the Digital Gateway.
What is considered when investing in new infrastructure on the electric grid?	The Dominion Energy planning team considers load growth on the electric grid and how the overall grid is impacted. This includes identifying where load may exceed existing substation capacity, thereby necessitating a new station and whether new transmission lines (and right of way) will be needed or if existing facilities need to be upgraded. Additional considerations include when a new source of power (e.g. a new transmission line) will need to be brought into an area to accommodate reliability – no area has an infinite source of power.
Have there been any discussions on generation of power, like solar?	More power generation will be needed. As referenced in the recent Integrated Resource Plan, Dominion Energy will continue to pursue renewable energy goals and will continue with current generation methods regulated under PJM. PJM is the Regional Transmission Operator which manages the interconnected grids across 13 states along the Atlantic Coast and Midwest.
The word ‘source’ has been used repeatedly. What is actually meant by this?	A new transmission line.
Can you explain the process relative to how energy infrastructure is needed and who pays for it?	Customers across the Commonwealth (i.e., Dominion Energy customers) are responsible for paying for new electric transmission projects in accordance with state regulatory statutes. There is an end-of-line policy where distribution lines are paid for by the customer; however, transmission lines are paid for by all Dominion customers. Costs for infrastructure are shared proportionately based on their usage. Data centers submit load request letters and the ability to serve the demand is evaluated.
How much have individual user costs gone up?	We don’t have that answer today but will work to provide one prior to the next meeting.

4. Regulatory Process Overview:

The State Corporation Commission (SCC) regulates all utility providers in Virginia, including Dominion Energy. The SCC validates the need for a proposed line, reviewing the route and structures in the application process. After reviewing the details, the SCC can approve or deny the application. It can also authorize a new route of its own choosing. This process can take 12-24 months.

Question/Comment	Answer
Are we pre-SCC application right now?	Yes, we are still studying routing for the projects we will talk about in this group. The process begins with a load letter agreement. Outreach then begins with county staff and officials and other public engagement.
Environmental permitting is involved throughout the lifecycle of the project.	

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5. Routing a Transmission Line:

Roya Smith, ERM provided an overview of the transmission line routing process. Transmission line routing is a long process that requires a lot of input and is mapped out before going to the SCC. In order to address the project’s need to move forward, the following must be balanced:

- Statutory Requirements – [Code of Virginia Title 56. Public Service Companies Chapter 1. General Provisions § 56-46.1.](#)
- Project Goals
- Community Concerns

Routing Considerations focus on the scenic assets and protected resources, including:

- Opportunities
- Constraints
- Engineering/Construction
- Identification of potential Routes
- Evaluation, comparison, and selection of routes

Question/Comment	Answer
When looking at new right of way, how do you determine the route options?	Dominion Energy looks at different areas but considers things like collocating with other utilities, crossing roadways, linear infrastructure, etc.
Electric transmission lines 138 kV or higher require a SCC application, distribution lines do not. For the purpose of the PWEEG, we are discussing electric transmission lines.	

6. Project Introductions:

Rachel Tippett, ERM joined Roya Smith to discuss new projects and review associated maps where routing options are being studied:

- Hornbaker – Federal Aviation Administration constraints are being discussed with Manassas Regional airport.
- Dave’s Store – double circuit 230 kV, constraints regarding gas pipelines and highways are being discussed with agencies like the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Norfolk Southern Railroad. This may cause Dominion Energy to only be able to look at partial underground options.

Question/Comment	Answer
There is a need for consistency with the color coding on the maps to eliminate confusion.	Thanks for that feedback. We will be sure to update our color coding for clarity prior to the next meeting.
The two maps only address some of the circled/identified areas on the area map in the presentation but not all, correct?	Correct, once more information is received it will be shared with the group. These maps will continue to change.
Are the circled areas study areas, only addressing data center needs?	Yes. Data center driven, based load levels and forecasts and need for reliability.

<p>Reliability and aging infrastructure have been mentioned. Are there other projects that are causing reliability issues?</p>	<p>We don't have that answer today but will work to provide one prior to the next meeting.</p> <p>Update: The Dominion planning team constantly evaluates the impacts of all projects to the electric grid. Customer driven projects such as data centers do have impacts to the grid and Dominion Energy is charged with addressing those projects while also providing reliable service to existing customers.</p>
<p>Who pays for new generation?</p>	<p>Dominion customers across the Commonwealth.</p>

7. Key Takeaways:

- The Prince William Energy Engagement Group (PWEEG) is intended as pre-engagement in this process with a commitment to seeking broader community engagement and public input.
- There is a desire from the group to better understand this engagement process and the organizations that are involved. PWEEG attending and invited organizations are listed above.
- The participation of these organizations does not provide endorsement of any transmission routing or outcome.
- Dominion Energy has a legal obligation to serve customers and is not driving the data center development in Prince William County.
- ERM is the routing consultant for Dominion Energy, working as collaborative partners during this process.
- Several study areas are being considered for new transmission line and substation infrastructure.
- There is a projected 214% megawatt increase from 2022 – 2027 in Northern Virginia due to data center demand. *
- Customers across the Commonwealth are responsible for transmission infrastructure costs.
- In order to maintain reliability, more electricity imports (e.g., purchasing power) from out of state may be necessary.
- Next meeting:
 - Date – TBD (June 20, 2023, is primary election day in Prince William County)
 - Time – 10 am – noon
 - Location – TBD

**Source: Projected increase based on load requests received through PJM forecast.*