

Loudoun Reliability Engagement Group

Sixteenth Meeting – Attributed Summary Report

The Loudoun Reliability Engagement Group's sixteenth meeting was held on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Founders Hall in Ashburn, VA.

Member Organizations in Attendance

- Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce
- Loudoun Coalition of Homeowners and Condominium Associations
- Loudoun County Department of Economic Development
- Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition
- Loudoun Habitat for Humanity
- Loudoun Water
- Loudoun Wildlife
- NAIOP – Commercial Developers
- Piedmont Environmental Council

Observers

- Loudoun County Department of Planning & Zoning
- Loudoun County Supervisor Glass' Office
- Loudoun County Supervisor Letourneau's Office
- Loudoun County Supervisor Saines' Office
- Loudoun County Supervisor Turner's Office

Absent Organizations

- Bike Loudoun
- League of Women Voters of Loudoun County
- Loudoun County Department of Equity & Inclusion
- Loudoun County Department of Economic Development
- Loudoun County Fire & Rescue
- Black History Committee (Friends of Thomas Balch Library)
- Goose Creek Association
- VA Asian Chamber of Commerce

Dominion Energy Team

- Deon Wright, Dominion Energy
- Greg Baka, Dominion Energy
- James Young, Dominion Energy
- Kathleen Leonard, Dominion Energy
- Porlan Cunningham, Dominion Energy
- Rob Richardson, Dominion Energy
- Sean Doherty, Dominion Energy
- Stephen Hudson, Dominion Energy
- Carter Jones, ERM
- Christopher Screen, ERM
- Jared Brandell-Douglas, ERM
- Kristi Moore, Knowles Communication Strategies

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kristi Moore opened the meeting with remarks, led the group through introductions, and reviewed the agenda.

2. Loudoun Reliability Projects Recap

Rob Richardson then walked the group through a recap of the work done for the three Loudoun County reliability projects: Mars to Wishing Star, Aspen to Golden, and Golden to Mars.

a. Mars to Wishing Star

Deon Wright gave an update on the construction of the Mars to Wishing Star project. All phases are under construction and on target for energization in December 2025. Construction is expected to be completed by mid-2026.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	ANSWERS
LREG Member: How tall are the Mars to Wishing Star monopole structures?	Rob Richardson: They are approximately 150 feet tall on average.
LREG Member: How does the Mars to Wishing Star project relieve the transmission constraint for Data Center Alley if it doesn't enter Data Center Alley?	Stephen Hudson: Any additional transmission connections increase the transmission capacity for the network.
LREG Member: Why are the Mars to Wishing Star structures shorter than the other two projects?	Rob Richardson & Stephen Hudson: Clearance and height requirements. Every span between structures is unique and based on the topography, geography, and siting.

b. Aspen to Golden

Rob Richardson reviewed the VA State Corporation Commission's (SCC) early February 2025 ruling on the Aspen to Golden project. The SCC approved a route along the south side of Route 7, and the project is in the final permitting stage. The next step is construction, with a targeted energization date of June 2028, but the project team is aiming for December 2027.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	ANSWERS
LREG Member: How many feet towards the cemetery did the route move?	<p>Rob Richardson: The route is now on the property's western bank of the creek. Now, with it being closer to the creek, we anticipate a more difficult permitting process but understand that it is a part of a compromise with all parties.</p> <p>James Young: The routing selected by the SCC balances all interests. It might not be the least impactful on the environment, but it is balanced for all parties.</p>

c. Golden to Mars

Jared Brandell-Douglas provided a routing update for the Golden to Mars project. He highlighted known constraints like the structure height restrictions by Dulles Airport

due to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Doppler radar regulations. Jared then reviewed the five route options and stated that the County has voted on their preferred options: the blue and green routes. He noted that without the expressed permission from public landowners, there is only one constructible route. All other routes cross publicly owned lands and thus need the controlling agency’s permission.

Rob Richardson stated that the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors has voted to endorse a route that crosses Loudoun County Public School’s (LCPS) property to avoid a route along Loudoun County Parkway. Dominion is currently discussing with LCPS about obtaining permission to cross their property.

The project team anticipated filing the project at the end of February 2025; however, given the continued discussions, the date has been pushed back to the end of March 2025.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	ANSWERS
LREG Member: What happened to the partial underground route across the airport property?	Rob Richardson: We have an underground feasibility study that will be a part of the filing. A dam was discovered that would prevent an underground route on airport property. Additionally, there is not sufficient real estate for the needed transition stations.
LREG Member: Given the routing challenges, would you postpone the energization date to solve them?	<p>Rob Richardson: The PJM-designated energization date is set to avoid violations of the electric grid that would develop without this project.</p> <p>Jared Brandell-Douglas: More time will not solve some of the challenges associated with routing or an underground line.</p>

3. Apollo to Orbit Introduction

Jared led a conversation on the newly announced Apollo to Orbit project. The project adds redundancy to the Apollo substation and connects it to the new Orbit substation. Jared reviewed the project study area map and its known constraints. He noted that overhead structures and an underground feasibility study are being explored since it is a 230 kV project. Jared added that the underground engineers are aware of Goose Creek and that there are significant contours in that area. He shared that Orbit has a smaller footprint and limited space to accommodate equipment for underground installation. Jared did not show routes because the project is early in the development phase, and they are in the fact-finding process. He asked that LREG members share input for routing consideration.

Jared highlighted the communication structure next to existing homes and large berms shielding homes proximate to the Luck Stone quarry.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	ANSWERS
LREG Member: Isn’t the purpose of siting the Orbit substation under the existing transmission lines to avoid additional transmission lines?	Steve Hudson: Additional lines and connections are needed to enable redundancy.

LREG Member: Is Dominion obligated for redundant lines, given that this is to serve one end user?	Steve Hudson: Facilities Interconnection Requirements force Dominion to build these redundancies. There are waivers with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and North American Electric Reliability Corporation to explain when redundancy is impossible to build.
LREG Member: How many more substations will be needed to accommodate the proliferation of data centers?	Rob Richardson: I believe we are planning 40 to 50 new substations to serve the load demand from the area.

4. Morrisville to Wishing Star Reintroduction

Rob Richardson gave an overview of the Morrisville to Wishing Star project, which will be 36.5 miles through Fauquier, Prince William, and Loudoun counties to add a 500 kV line to an existing transmission corridor. The project was paused last year to study a better solution to accommodate all known constraints. 4.7 miles of the corridor will be in Loudoun County. The project team is targeting a July 2025 SCC filing date, with open houses in May 2025.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	ANSWERS
LREG Member: Why another 500 kV line, not a 765 kV line?	Rob Richardson: Part of the answer is space constraints, and PJM evaluated a 500 kV line solution to solve this electrical need.

5. Q&A, Upcoming Meeting(s), and Open House Dates

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	ANSWERS
LREG Member: How are the new administration's positions on green energy impacting future developments?	Rob Richardson: CVOW will be completed, but future offshore wind developments are paused.
LREG Member: Will Dominion build power sources in Loudoun County?	[unanswered]
LREG Member: How can three established power companies get to build a new 765 kV line as selected by PJM?	Rob Richardson: AEP has had 765kV on its system since 1969. To complete the project, the three companies formed a joint venture, Valley Link.
LREG Member: How much wider will the northern corridor be now that there will be both a 500 kV and 765 kV line?	Rob Richardson: 765 kV lines are on lattice structures and generally need 200 feet of right of way, but some space will be saved by collocating with the 500 kV line.
LREG Member: Given that Dominion is the largest lobbyist in Virginia, what is the company's position on proposed legislation surrounding data centers?	Kathleen Leonard: The company was generally more reactive to the proposed legislation. If there are specific bills, we can respond to those.
LREG Member: What other projects are out there in the future?	Project Team Member: Goose Creek to Doubs will be brought back in the future to bring additional capacity to that existing corridor.
LREG Member: What is the timing between filing and the public hearing with the SCC?	Greg Baka: Approximately 7 months.

Kristi wrapped the meeting up by reviewing potential topics for the next LREG meeting and noting the Loudoun Now article about the PJM-approved 765 kV transmission projects.

6. Adjournment

The LREG meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m. No date for the next meeting has been set.