

September 16, 2015

Dear Neighbor/Property Owner:

Dominion Virginia Power will soon be performing work in your community to ensure you have safe, reliable electric service. This packet contains information, answers to commonly asked questions and resources about a project to upgrade an electric transmission line that was built more than 50 years ago.

The line is an overhead 115-kilovolt transmission line that crosses the Rappahannock River and is now partially attached to the Norris Bridge on Route 3. This line provides critical electric service to residents and businesses in the Northern Neck region served by Dominion Virginia Power and the Northern Neck Electric Cooperative.

Our plan is to restructure about two miles of this line where it crosses the Rappahannock River. The project will replace seven aging wooden structures in the water east of the bridge and remove 14 attachments on the bridge. We will relocate the line onto 10 new steel structures with concrete foundations spanning the river approximately 100 feet from the east side of the bridge. A visual example of the new line is included in this packet. Photo simulations of the new line from different locations can be found at dom.com/Norris Bridge.

By replacing equipment that is nearing the end of its life and rebuilding the line to current standards, we can lessen the risk of power outages in your region. This project also will reduce traffic impacts on the bridge when electric repairs need to be done and eliminate any future needs to displace the line if/when the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) upgrades Norris Bridge.

A great deal of thought and planning has gone into our decision to rebuild this line. Our first and foremost goal is to meet, if not exceed, your expectation for high reliability and reasonable costs. We also want to guarantee safety for our crews and VDOT workers, minimize impacts to tidal wetlands and ensure no disturbances to river habitats. We know the importance of these waterways to private oyster farms and the recreation and tourism that are so vital to your local economy.

We know that some have asked if the line can be buried under the river. While technology to do this exists, this approach would create environmental, logistical and cost concerns that make an underwater option unacceptable. Depending on the method used, submerged construction could require more acreage to be removed from the Baylor Grounds; impact on the riverbed, tidal wetlands, aquatic vegetation and water quality. From a logistical standpoint, a change in project design would delay our ability to

perform the needed work, endangering our ability to maintain reliable service. From a cost standpoint, the estimated \$30 million price tag of the project would increase by three to five times.

We met with your elected officials numerous times over the past year to seek input and concerns and no objections were raised. Lancaster and Middlesex counties have since however, passed a resolution asking Dominion to bury the line. While we try our best to coordinate with our local government partners, we cannot fulfill this request for the reasons previously stated.

We are required to have federal, state and environmental permissions to rebuild the line. The General Assembly overwhelmingly passed legislation which the Governor signed into law in March that 1) authorized Dominion to cross Commonwealth-controlled oyster grounds at the river crossing 2) certified the Virginia Marine Resource Commission (VMRC) to hear Dominion's request for a permit. The hearing took place in July with the VMRC board voting unanimously to approve our request. Earlier this summer the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers also gave us the needed permits to proceed.

We are now ready to begin rebuilding this line. You will see construction activity in mid to late October, and we expect to complete the project by the end of 2016. You have our commitment to keep you informed of our progress, work safely and diligently, minimize any disruption to your community and complete the project on time. We will be good stewards to the environment and conscientious in our spending to keep your rates reasonable. If at any time you have questions about the work we are doing or our schedule, please feel free to contact us by email at powerline@dom.com or call us toll free at 1-888-291-0190.

We thank you in advance for your patience.

Respectfully,

Scott Miller

Vice President of Electric Transmission

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Dominion Virginia Power

Enclosures