

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
BEFORE THE
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION**

**APPLICATION OF
VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY
FOR APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION
OF ELECTRIC FACILITIES**

Meadow Brook – Loudoun 500 kV Transmission Line

Application No. 233

Case No. PUE-2007-_____

Filed: April 19, 2007

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

APPLICATION OF)
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VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER) CASE NO. PUE-2007-_____
COMPANY)
)
)
For approval and certification of electric)
transmission facilities under Va. Code)
§ 56-46.1 and the Utility Facilities Act,)
Va. Code § 56-265.1 *et seq.*)

APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL AND CERTIFICATION OF
MEADOW BROOK - LOUDOUN 500 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

Virginia Electric and Power Company (“Dominion Virginia Power” or the “Company”)
respectfully shows as follows:

1. Dominion Virginia Power is a public service corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia furnishing electric service to the public within its Virginia service territory. The Company also supplies electric service to the public in portions of North Carolina. Dominion Virginia Power’s electric system, consisting of facilities for generation, transmission and distribution of electric energy, as well as associated facilities, is interconnected with the electric systems of neighboring utilities and is part of the interconnected network of electric systems serving the continental United States. By reason of its operation in two states and its interconnections with other utilities, the Company is engaged in interstate commerce.

2. In order to furnish adequate and reliable electric service, Dominion Virginia Power must, from time to time, provide additional electric facilities. For the Company, the need for these electric facilities is directly related to providing reliable service to meet the strong and

growing demand for electricity in the northern Virginia section of its service territory. The growth in demand for electric service is being caused by load growth associated with continued increased development from residences, businesses and government facilities.

3. In addition to the critical needs of Virginia customers, the proposed project is necessary to address needs of neighboring utilities for areas north of Virginia, including the nation's capital, the Baltimore load center and, to a lesser degree, other areas in the eastern United States. PJM Interconnection, L.L.C., has verified the Virginia and regional needs for additional transmission facilities.

4. Accordingly, Dominion Virginia Power is seeking authority in this application to construct in Warren, Rappahannock, Culpeper, Fauquier, Prince William and Loudoun Counties, on or immediately adjacent to existing transmission right-of-way and facilities, a new 500 kV line approximately 65 miles in length from a point in Warren County on the west side of the Appalachian Trail near the boundary of Warren and Fauquier Counties to the Company's existing Loudoun Substation in Loudoun County. Trans-Allegheny Interstate line Company ("TrAILCo"), an affiliate of Allegheny Power ("Allegheny"), will jointly own with Dominion Virginia Power, with an undivided 50 percent interest, approximately 29.7 miles of the 65-mile length, from a point in Fauquier County on the east side of the Appalachian Trail to a location near Dominion Virginia Power's Remington Substation in Fauquier County.* The entire 65-mile length of line from west of the Appalachian Trail to the Loudoun Substation will be constructed, operated and maintained by Dominion Virginia Power, with costs related to the jointly-owned section shared between the companies. The entire length of the proposed line is planned to be

* The shared ownership of this section of the line is designed to reflect the relative portions of the line in each company's PJM transmission zone.

located on, or immediately adjacent to (i.e., parallel to and an expansion of), existing right-of-way.

5. From a point to the west of the Appalachian Trail to Allegheny's Meadow Brook Substation, TrAILCo is proposing to construct the continuation of the 500 kV line, and from Meadow Brook Substation, TrAILCo will construct a 500 kV line through Frederick County to the Virginia-West Virginia State Line, where it will continue through West Virginia to Dominion Virginia Power's Mt. Storm facility. TrAILCo's filing with the Commission for necessary approvals for its proposed construction of 500 kV facilities in Virginia is expected to be on or near the same date as this current filing, and it is requested that the cases be consolidated by the Commission for efficiency and economy of resources.

6. Dominion Virginia Power has included information in its filing for an Alternate Route, which would utilize the I-66 right-of-way and existing transmission line right-of-way. The Company proposes that the Alternate Route also be subject to public notice along with the Proposed Route.

7. Construction of the proposed new transmission facilities is necessary to assure that Dominion Virginia Power can continue to meet projected load growth in northern Virginia. Load projections show that the Company's transmission system will overload if the proposed new facilities are not in service by Summer 2011, resulting in an inadequate supply of electricity and the potential for rolling blackouts as load growth continues. The necessity for the proposed transmission facilities is described in more detail in Section I of the Appendix attached to this application as well as in prefiled direct testimony.

8. The 500 kV transmission project will consist of structures, conductors, insulators and associated equipment. The approximate size of the structures, the materials to be used in the transmission line, and the right-of-way clearing methods, corridor usage and maintenance

procedures are described in Section II of the Appendix. The proposed facilities will meet or exceed the standards of the National Electrical Safety Code in effect at the time of construction.

9. The proposed facilities will afford the best means of meeting the continuing need for reliable service while reasonably minimizing adverse impact on the scenic, environmental and historic assets of the area. The factors influencing the selection of the proposed transmission line routing are described in Section III of the Appendix.

10. Based on consultations with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (“DEQ”), a supplement (“DEQ Supplement”) has been developed containing information designed to facilitate review and analyses of the proposed facilities by the DEQ and other relevant agencies. The DEQ Supplement is attached to this application.

11. Dominion Virginia Power’s experience, the advice of consultants and a review of published studies by experts in the field have not disclosed any causal link to harmful or safety effects from electric and magnetic fields generated by the existing or proposed facilities. For further discussion of this topic, *see* Section IV of the Appendix.

12. A list of federal, state and local agencies and officials that reasonably may be expected to have an interest in the proposed construction and to which a copy of the application will be sent is set forth in Section V of the Appendix.

13. In addition to the information provided in the Appendix and the DEQ Supplement, the proposed project is supported by the prepared direct testimony of Dominion Virginia Power witnesses Smatlak, R. Bailey, Palermo, Herling, Gass, Powell, Reynolds, Monforte, Koogler, Badalato, Allen, Koonce, J. Bailey and Welter.

14. In order to have the necessary facilities in place by Summer 2011, the Company requests an expeditious hearing process to enable the Commission to issue a final order on this application no later than one year from the filing date of the application.

WHEREFORE, Dominion Virginia Power respectfully requests that the Commission expeditiously:

(a) direct that notice of this application, including the Proposed and Alternate Routes, be given to property owners within the route as required by § 56-46.1 of the Code of Virginia and that, in addition the Company be authorized and directed to also provide individual notice as follows:

- i) to property owners within 250 feet of either side of the center line of the Proposed Route from the western edge of the crossing of the Appalachian Trail through Warren County, Fauquier County, Rappahannock County, Culpeper County and again through Fauquier County to where the Proposed Route intersects with the existing #569 Line;
- ii) to property owners adjacent to the #569 Line corridor utilized for the Proposed Route; and
- iii) for the Alternate Route, all property owners within 250 feet of either side of the Virginia Department of Transportation right-of-way for Interstate 66.

(b) approve pursuant to § 56-46.1 of the Code of Virginia construction of the proposed transmission facilities;

(c) grant certificates of public convenience and necessity for the transmission facilities under the Utility Facilities Act, including a certificate to TrAILCo authorizing TrAILCo's undivided interest in the segment of the transmission line, as described herein;

(d) consolidate Dominion Virginia Power's application with the application of TrAILCo for construction and operation of related transmission facilities; and

(e) grant such other relief as necessary for the construction and operation of said facilities.

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

By: 

Lisa S. Booth
Counsel for Applicant

Pamela J. Walker
Vishwa B. Link
Lisa S. Booth
Dominion Resources, Inc.
120 Tredegar Street, Riverside, 2nd Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 819-2458
(804) 819-2288
(804) 819-2183 (fax)
pamela.walker@dom.com
vishwa.link@dom.com
lisa.s.booth@dom.com

James C. Dimitri
Stephen H. Watts, II
Kristian M. Dahl
McGuireWoods LLP
One James Center
901 E. Cary Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 775-1115
(804) 698-2195 (fax)
jdimitri@mcguirewoods.com
swatts@mcguirewoods.com
kdahl@mcguirewoods.com

Counsel for Applicant Virginia Electric and Power Company