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VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

March 31, 2016

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**Application of Virginia Electric and Power Company for approval and certification of
electric facilities: Haymarket 230 kV Double Circuit Transmission Line
and 230-34.5 kV Haymarket Substation
Case No. PUE-2015-00107**

Dear Counsel:

Enclosed are the responses of Virginia Electric and Power Company to the Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents by the Staff of the State Corporation Commission (Second Set).

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Charlotte P. McAfee
Senior Counsel

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Neil Joshipura
Will Reisinger, Esq.
Cliona Mary Robb, Esq.
Michael J. Quinan, Esq.
James G. Ritter, Esq.
Vishwa Link, Esq.
Jennifer Valaika, Esq.

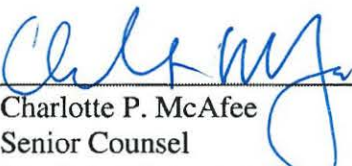
Virginia Electric and Power Company
Case No. PUE-2015-00107
Virginia State Corporation Commission Staff
Second Set

The following response to Question No. 22 of the Second Set of Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents Propounded by the Virginia State Corporation Commission Staff received on March 22, 2016 has been prepared under my supervision as it pertains to transmission line siting.



Jon Berkin
Routing Specialist
Natural Resource Group, LLC

The following response to Question No. 22 of the Second Set of Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents Propounded by the Virginia State Corporation Commission Staff received on March 22, 2016 has been prepared under my supervision as it pertains to legal matters.



Charlotte P. McAfee
Senior Counsel
Dominion Resources Services, Inc.

Question No. 22

Please reference Table 4-1 on pages 60-65 of the Environmental Routing Study in Volume 2 of the Application. The I-66 Overhead Alternative and I-66 Hybrid Alternative indicate impacts to the various residential types, but the visual impacts are not quantified for pre- and post-construction. Please provide the matrix analysis of the long term visual impacts, after construction is completed, by residential type.

Response:

The Company objects to this request as vague and overly broad to extent it requests “the matrix analysis” without definition or specificity. Notwithstanding and subject to the foregoing objection, the Company provides the following response.

Dominion Virginia Power considered two key factors that affect the evaluation of visual impacts: the magnitude of change and the sensitivity of affected resources to that change. The sensitivity to change and the factors affecting the magnitude of change to a resource are defined below.

Magnitude

Dominion Virginia Power considered the following factors when classifying the magnitude of visual or aesthetic change:

- Compatibility of the Project with the surrounding landscape: How well the proposed development fits with its surroundings.
- Scale of the development: How large the development is relative to its surroundings.

Dominion Virginia Power classified the magnitude of change as follows:

- Large: Notable change in overall aesthetic character over an extensive area and/or very intensive change over a more limited area.
- Intermediate: Moderate changes to a local area.
- Small: Changes to specific landscape elements.
- Negligible: No substantial changes to the baseline condition.

Sensitivity

Dominion Virginia Power considered the following factors when classifying the sensitivity of affected resources to changes in the visual environment:

- Existing quality of natural and cultural resources
- Importance and rarity of the affected area’s distinctive landscape elements and/or overall aesthetic character
- Ability of the affected area to accommodate change

Dominion Virginia Power classified the degree of sensitivity as follows:

- High: important landscape elements and/or the overall aesthetic character are particularly distinctive, and/or incompatible with even small changes;
- Medium: moderately valued overall aesthetic character that can accommodate some level of change; and
- Low: less valued (typically heavily developed) overall aesthetic character that is able to accommodate extensive change.

Impact

Dominion Virginia Power defines the significance of visual impacts as a product of the sensitivity of affected resources and the magnitude of change associated with the Project. Table 1 shows these significance thresholds.

Table 1				
Significance Thresholds of Potential Visual Impacts				
		Sensitivity to Change		
		Low	Medium	High
Magnitude of Change	Negligible	No Impact	Negligible Impact	Negligible Impact
	Small	Slight Impact	Slight/Moderate Impact	Moderate Impact
	Intermediate	Slight/Moderate Impact	Moderate Impact	Moderate/Significant Impact
	Large	Moderate Impact	Moderate/Significant Impact	Significant Impact

Dominion Virginia Power defined the significance thresholds for visual impacts as follows.

- Significant: The Project would cause significant degradation of existing aesthetic character.
- Moderate: The Project would cause noticeable (but less than significant) degradation of existing aesthetic character.
- Slight: The Project would cause a barely noticeable degradation of existing aesthetic character.
- Negligible: The Project does not affect existing aesthetic character.

Analysis

The project area is heavily developed and possesses extensive existing infrastructure features. These features dominate the viewshed, both locally and at the landscape level. Several recent and ongoing transportation and other development projects are also present, including overpass and interchange (local) improvements, and improvements along longer stretches of I-66 (landscape). The presence of these features and projects, as well as the overall developed and built character of the landscape, indicates that the Project area would not be particularly sensitive to changes in aesthetic conditions. Dominion Virginia Power therefore identified the project area as having “low” sensitivity to changes in the visual environment.

The Project is expected to create only minor changes in aesthetic conditions. The local viewshed is dominated by both horizontal features (*e.g.*, I-66 and sound walls) and vertical features (*e.g.*,

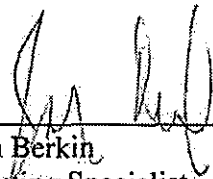
road signs, interstate and off-ramp lights), which are generally compatible with linear infrastructure such as an electric transmission line. Nonetheless, because the transmission line structures (for an overhead line) would be taller than some existing landscape features, Dominion Virginia Power determined that the Project would have an “intermediate” impact magnitude. As a result, the Project would have an overall “moderate” level of visual impact. Table 2 identifies the expected sensitivity, magnitude, and visual impacts from the Project on residences along the two I-66 alternatives.

Table 2				
Visual Impact Analysis Matrix for the Haymarket 230 kV Transmission Line Project				
	I-66 Hybrid Alternative Route		Proposed Route (I-66 Overhead)	
	Sensitivity	Magnitude	Sensitivity	Magnitude
Residences within 500 feet	Low	Negligible	Low	Small
<i>Impact Level</i>	Negligible Impact		Slight Impact	
Residences within 200 feet	Low	Negligible	Low	Small
<i>Impact Level</i>	Negligible Impact		Slight Impact	
Residences within 100 feet	Low	Negligible	Low	Intermediate
<i>Impact Level</i>	Negligible Impact		Slight/Moderate Impact	

In the context of the overhead and hybrid route alternatives along I-66, the level of adverse impact depends largely on how visually compatible the Project is with existing aesthetic conditions. Given the extensive development within the immediate project area, including residential, commercial, utility, and rail and road transportation infrastructure, Dominion Virginia Power believes the Project would not substantially contrast with existing aesthetic conditions. Although the Proposed Route (I-66 Overhead) would have a “slight/moderate” visual impact on the closest residences, it would be generally visually compatible with the existing landscape. Because the I-66 Hybrid Alternative Route would be buried near residences, it would have a negligible visual impact.

Virginia Electric and Power Company
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The following response to Question No. 23 of the Second Set of Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents Propounded by the Virginia State Corporation Commission Staff received on March 22, 2016 has been prepared under my supervision as it pertains to transmission line siting.



Jon Berkin
Routing Specialist
Natural Resource Group, LLC

Question No. 23

Please provide the Visual Impact Analysis Photographs provided by Dutton + Associates in a larger, more legible format, preferably with a maximum of two per page.

Response:

See Attachment Staff Set 2-23(1) for the visual impact analysis photographs in a larger format.