

PROJECT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEETING #1 SUMMARY

**Tuesday, April 26, 2022, 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Fauquier Chamber of Commerce**

Attendees:

Organizations represented: (11)

- Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC)
- Faith Christian Church
- Moriah Farm
- Rotary Club of Warrenton
- Fauquier County Chamber of Commerce
- Journey Through Hallowed Ground
- NOVEC
- Fauquier County Economic Development
- Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Lord Fairfax Community College Workforce Solutions
- NAACP, Fauquier County Branch 7059

Organizations invited but not in attendance:

- Afro-American Historical Association of Fauquier County
- Buckland Preservation Society
- Fauquier County Farm Bureau
- Fauquier County Public Schools
- John Marshall Soil & Water Conservation District
- Prince William Environmental Excellence Foundation
- Prince William County Government
- Women's Business Council, Fauquier

Observers: (11)

- Fauquier County Administration
- Fauquier County Transportation
- Fauquier County Community Development
- Fauquier County Zoning
- Fauquier County Preservation Planner
- Fauquier County Parks & Recreation
- Fauquier County GIS
- VDOT
- Journey Through Hallowed Ground
- Town of Warrenton
- PEC



Dominion Energy Team

- Steve Precker, Communications Consultant, Electric Transmission Communications
- Jenna Brown, Communications Specialist, Electric Transmission Communications
- Stacey Ellis, Environmental Specialist, Environmental Services
- Dominic Minor, Senior Economic Development Market Specialist, Key Account Management – Data Centers
- Dave DePippo, Assistant General Counsel, Legal
- Katie MacCormick, Environmental Justice Consultant, Environmental Services
- Jeanne Underwood, External Affairs Representative – Northern Virginia
- Seth Barratt, Project Manager
- Ally Franken, Assistant Project Manager
- Carla Picard, Communications and Outreach Consultant
- Kristi Moore, Communications and Outreach Consultant
- Madison Weaver, Communications and Outreach Consultant
- Bryce Gatling, Communications and Outreach Consultant
- Andrea Thornton, Routing Consultant

Steve Precker, Dominion Energy's Communications Consultant opened the meeting by welcoming the Project Participation Group members. He thanked the members for taking time to attend and to share their unique perspectives. Steve shared Dominion Energy's commitment to the community and to the PPG process.

Steve introduced Seth Barratt, Project Manager for the Blackwell Road Project. Seth mentioned that the Blackwell Road project is proposed to help support the electric needs of a specific customer. The customer, who purchased a parcel of property behind Country Chevrolet, has submitted a load letter to Dominion Energy, which has been the driver of this project. Seth described the need for additional capacity to ensure safe and reliable service for the broader community. He noted currently the entire Warrenton area is being served by a single substation, the Warrenton Substation located near the Warrenton Fairgrounds.

Seth turned the meeting over to Kristi Moore, ERM who facilitated the discussion. Kristi welcomed participants to the Project Participation Group (PPG) and asked that they introduce themselves, the organization they represent and the number of years they have lived or worked in the area. The facilitator noted the diverse representation of PPG members, representing a variety of interests across the Blackwell Road project area.

The facilitator asked that members openly share perspectives and inputs based on interests of the organization each person represents. She said there will be numerous opportunities throughout the meeting to discuss opportunities, constraints and concerns relative to developing feasible and defensible route options for inclusion in Dominion Energy's application to the State Corporation Commission (SCC).

The facilitator mentioned her role and the role of the ERM team is to ensure we follow the agenda; ensure participation of all members in the process; ensure collaboration

among team members and that each person has an opportunity to share his or her input; and to manage the overall process.

Kristi mentioned that each person was chosen to participate because they are leaders in the community and that many were recommended to us by someone else sitting in the room. She said the team appreciates each person agreeing to work alongside us to provide input into how we route what will ultimately be new infrastructure in the area.

The facilitator acknowledged this will not be easy, but necessary. She said as a society we have become more and more reliant upon technology and reliable electric service. She acknowledged this will impact the community and that the team is mindful of that. She added this is why their input is critical to the project.

The facilitator reviewed the goals of the meeting and the roles and responsibilities of each member. The goal of the PPG is to learn and understand the perspectives of each organization, your own personal insights and local knowledge of historical and other assets within the community. Ultimately, the goal is to develop an informed recommendation to submit to the State Corporation Commission.

The facilitator noted the broad and diverse membership representing a variety of interests around the table. The diverse representation among interests will ensure the many voices of the Town of Warrenton, Fauquier County and those with interests in the western part of Prince William County are heard. The facilitator also noted the presence of observers who joined the meeting to serve as resources to the PPG members. These observers attended to provide additional context, and answer questions outside of Dominion's purview. Some observers represented similar interests to their counterparts around the table and have the potential to serve as an alternate attendee. We wanted to provide an opportunity for the observers to attend, not only to serve as resources and to provide additional context, but also to bring them along on the journey should they need to serve in place of their colleague at some point in the process.

The facilitator turned the meeting over to Steve Precker to discuss project communications and outreach. He said the meeting is the first in a series of three meetings where community members will have an opportunity to learn about the project, about electric transmission and to share their perspectives related to routing and other considerations.

Other opportunities for input were shared with the group. Between the April meeting and the next meeting in June, the Dominion team will take what they learned and make refinements that will be brought back and shared with the group in June. Two additional opportunities for the broader public to learn about the project and to review the proposed routes will be available in June and again in late summer or early fall. Steve mentioned additional opportunities to share input during the SCC process, which will take place when the project is filed in late 2022. Finally, he mentioned the upcoming launch of a virtual open house which will feature a similar set up to what one would experience at a science fair. There will be several stations with information related to the project as well as maps and links to resources. The virtual open house is expected to launch in mid-May.

Steve turned the meeting over to Seth Barratt and Dominic Minor to discuss the project need and to share some background. Seth discussed Dominion Energy's obligation to



serve customers who submit load letters to the company. These letters become the drivers for electric service to a particular location. As a utility provider, Dominion Energy is obligated to serve its customers.

Seth took a few minutes to describe the difference between electric transmission and electric distribution. He said power is generated at the station and sent out through high voltage electric transmission lines to a substation where it is stepped down to a lower voltage and sent to distribution lines to power your home and business. For this project, Dominion is proposing electric transmission lines.

Seth turned the meeting over to Dave DiPeppo who discussed the SCC process. The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has regulatory authority over utilities and other business and economic interests. The SCC reviews projects for needs, costs, impacts and other related factors. Ultimately, the SCC makes the final determination of need, and then renders a decision on routing, based on input and other factors, including whether the transmission line is built aboveground or underground. Dave mentioned the SCC process can take 12-24 months.

Following introductory remarks, several questions were posed by PPG members. The questions were captured and responses will be prepared and shared with the group and posted as a resource on the Virtual Open House.

Participant Questions during Presentations:

- What would happen if there was not a project? What if the customer's site plan is rejected?
- Has this project been submitted to PJM?
- What is PJM?
- Is this project part of PJM's Regional Transmission Expansion Plan (RTEP)?
- Will comments provided in this venue preclude any of us from commenting on the record during the SCC review?
- Comment: Map is hard to see
- What are NHD flow lines?
- Is Route 2 an option because VDOT did not want the route in their right of way?
- When doing underground routes, does the road need to be closed down? For how long?
- Will VDOT tell the residents in advance of the road closure?
- Is it possible VDOT will say no to the proposed route?
- Are the overhead/underground transition stations aboveground or underground?
- What is the projected cost for each route?
- What is environmental justice?
- Is there a possibility for a hybrid route (e.g. overhead AND underground)?
- Does underground Route 1 touch an historic district?
- Does the Vint Hill [data center] project have any effect on this project?
- Does Dominion have a preferred route so far?
- What is the customer paying?

- Is the customer paying for the lines to be built?
- Would this be above and beyond for the customer?
- Comment: Seems like this route, line, project only serving [one customer].
- The Opal Site was just upgraded, how does that affect the community?

Following the presentation, Andrea Thornton, ERM discussed routing considerations and discussed how proposed routes are derived. She shared maps of potential routes. Andrea's presentation included a review of the Blackwell Road study area and constraints. She also reviewed a variety of layers within map sets for context. At the conclusion of her presentation, the groups were broken into three table groups and provided maps with preliminary routes as well as historical and cultural resources, environmental resources and other constraints. The table groups were encouraged to share other known constraints and to review and react to the proposed routing options.

A summary of each table discussion appears below.

Table 1 – Lead: Ally Franken / Scribe: Carla Picard

1. Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC)
2. Faith Christian Church
3. Moriah Farm
4. Rotary Club of Warrenton

Table Discussion:

- Nobody wants to see overhead lines and time shouldn't be spent discussing that option.
- The viewshed is really valued, people live in this area for a reason.
- Meetze Road is a gateway to the town from the east (and should not be littered with tall poles)
- Underground seems much more practical – more direct route, significantly less tree clearing, out of sight out of mind.
- Table group also noted that more information is needed: what are the other impacts of underground? What underground utilities are in the same space?
- Looking at the light blue dashed underground route: why can't it follow closer to the dark blue route, more under road or unused access areas, requiring less vegetation removal
- Walker Drive route: "not too painful" considering all impacts
- Regarding overhead routes:
 - Green line (western route): too long, doesn't make any sense, crosses 3 different gateways into the town, more impacts on environment and residential development
- Wheeler routes – don't make any sense, significantly longer than Warrenton routes just causing people there to be upset; most impact on historic areas and New Baltimore, Journey Through Hallowed Ground, and would ruin the primary gateway from the north. Pink line is only slightly better than the purple
- There is a future 211 bypass planned; why couldn't the lines follow that new route? (Town of Warrenton?)
- Opinion: The customer should help pay the difference if it can go underground

Table Summary:

- Felt some routes had more impact than others (the west route affected Route 17, Route 22 has large environmental impact, longer route)
- North Wheeler side has impact on Route 29, as well as impacts on scenic view, historical impact, and Journey Through Hallowed Ground
- Overhead is not an option: Warrenton has a lot of economic tourism
- Want an underground route: can we bring the route down (change the route)

Table 2 – Lead: Seth Barrett / Scribe: Madison Weaver

1. Fauquier County Chamber of Commerce
2. Journey Through Hallowed Ground
3. NOVEC
4. Economic Development, Fauquier County

Table discussion:

- Preference for underground, as closely following existing roads as possible to minimize residential impacts. All suggested that following Route 29 appears to make the most sense to minimize cultural impacts.
- Inquired about possibility of overhead/underground combination line. Expressed concern for residential areas, including White's Mill.
- All expressed concern for water, especially aquifers.
- Asked about the criteria SCC considers, and how much weight each consideration carries (i.e., is cost the highest?)
- All expressed concern for cost, and ways to share cost with the customer.
- Has Dominion had a project where customer bears a portion of the cost?
 - Interested in cost-sharing through tax incremental financing (asked about tax value of lands and possibility in incrementing land to subsidize)
 - Suggested working with County to find ways to avoid having ratepayers bear entire cost
- How was the location of the substation chosen? (asking about area directly around the proposed data center, i.e. Why this side of lot rather than over here? Etc.)
 - Is there a benefit to considering other locations, especially related to potential future uses?
- Asked about landscaping for both substation and data center
- Are there any other underground projects of this scope?
 - Are there lessons learned somewhere, or would Warrenton area be a test?
- Concerned for mileage of Wheeler routes, asked for lengths of all routes.
- How does the length of a route relate to SCC and cost considerations? How much does length affect impact on the area/more residents?
- How many more customers are predicted? Would the potential for flexibility/additions to overhead lines be beneficial? What additional capacities are needed in the area?
- What is the capacity needed for a data center? Is it 1 substation to 1 data center?
- Did the customer set aside land for Dominion?
- Expressed concern for "lost land" with underground lines, with no development in the right-of-way

- How much maintenance do underground lines need?
Expressed concern for tearing up land for maintenance, manholes, etc.
- Expressed interested in lifespan of a data center vs. lifespans of overhead and underground lines
- How many MW capacity will a transmission line bring to a service area, disregarding the data center?
- Noted Central Sports Complex near Warrenton substation
- Expressed interested in understanding number of “man hours” for overhead vs. underground
- Expressed concern for rocky areas hindering construction, mentioned rocky areas near Vint Hill that delayed past construction
- Suggested overhead option 3 appeared shortest and least intrusive, mentioning Chase property and housing developments as concern with option 3
- Suggested following Route 29 likely has fewest cultural concerns
- Expressed concern for social/cultural issues related to placing line near Oliver City
- Why can't overhead 3 follow Route 29 closer?

Table Summary:

- Customer cost sharing, potential to capture the value of taxpayers currently and in the future.
- Costing difference between overhead and underground, as well as underground considerations like weather and rocky soil
- Overhead Route 3, pushing it west to be close to underground Route 3 hugging Route 29.
- What are the highest considerations taken into account by the SCC?

Table 3 – Lead: Stacey Ellis / Scribe: Bryce Gatling

1. VDOT
2. LFCC Workforce Solutions
3. NAACP

Table Discussion:

- Because the area is high level impact it may require more assistance from VDOT.
 - What level is Dominion dealing with?
- What is VDOT preference? Which route do they prefer?
- The one with minimal impact. VDOT provided high level guidance. Overhead design might not fit in the right of way space. Not enough space in right of way. Last VDOT project was south of Warrenton area.
- The first route made the most sense and least impactful. Second route seemed close to Frytown homes.
- Any route is going to present a challenge. Maybe a landowner owns the land. Depends on the right of way size. Will have a challenge along the primary and secondary.
- Underground tunnel route most costly and can't expand



Table Summary:

- Interested in VDOT and right-of way constraints as related to co-location
- Concerned about potential Route 211 bypass and suggested discussions with Town of Warrenton
- Interested in information about access limitations and sharing agreements
- Asked about information related to existing utilities and co-location/constraints

At the conclusion of the routing exercise, a meeting recap took place and members were asked to share key takeaways or highlights from the meeting. The following were shared:

Discussion Summary Comments:

- New information learned: customer (regardless of size) not responsible for the cost of new infrastructure. The cost of new electric transmission infrastructure is shared among Dominion Energy's ~2.7 million Virginia customers.
- It was good to reflect on the importance of infrastructure to our community's growth and prosperity.
- The sincerity of the group was appreciated, including the Dominion team's willingness to hear what the community wants.
- One person expressed disappointment that some groups were not included/represented.
- Members very much appreciated the opportunity to be involved in the discussion at this stage of the planning process.
- Better appreciated the complexity of the project, and the fact that all of Warrenton is served from a single substation that is nearing its limit (something has to be done)
- Also surprised to learn that adding a second substation somewhere along the existing line to Warrenton could help alleviate the problem.

Prior to adjournment, details for the next meeting were shared with the group.

Upcoming Public Meetings:

Open Houses:

Wednesday, June 22, 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm, Kettle Run High School.

Thursday, June 23, 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm, Fauquier County Fairgrounds.