

part 2

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BAINÉ

WITNESS DIRECT TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Witness: Edward H. Baine

Title: Senior Vice President – Distribution

Summary:

Company Witness Edward H. Baine introduces the Company's proposed plan to transform its electric distribution grid (the "Grid Transformation Plan," the "GT Plan," or the "Plan") and explains the needs driving the Plan. He also provides an overview of the first three years of the Plan ("Phase I") for which the Company seeks approval through its petition for approval of electric distribution grid transformation projects filed pursuant to Va. Code § 56-585.1 A 6.

Mr. Baine explains why the investments proposed in Grid Transformation Plan are necessary to address the structural limitations of the Company's distribution grid in a systematic manner in order to recognize and accommodate fundamental changes and requirements in the energy industry. He details both system needs and customer needs and expectations for (1) achieving even higher levels of reliability and resiliency against natural and man-made threats; (2) leveraging technology to enhance the customer experience and improve the operation of the system; and (3) safely and effectively integrating new utility-scale renewable generation and storage as well as customer-level distributed energy resources. Mr. Baine also provides context for the Grid Transformation Plan, providing background on the current state of the Company's electric distribution grid and explaining why now is the optimal time for the Grid Transformation Plan.

Mr. Baine then provides an overview of the Grid Transformation Plan. Specifically, Mr. Baine explains that the Company has created a ten-year plan to transform its electric distribution grid into a smarter, stronger, and greener grid. The Company envisions the Grid Transformation Plan to proceed in interdependent phases, with each phase building upon the last. During Phase I of the Plan, the Company will focus on seven components of the overall Grid Transformation Plan, many of which are foundational to a transformed grid: (i) smart meters; (ii) customer information platform; (iii) reliability and resilience; (iv) telecommunications infrastructure; (v) cyber and physical security; (vi) predictive analytics; and (vii) emerging technology. Importantly, Mr. Baine described how the various components of the Grid Transformation Plan are critically interdependent.

Finally, Mr. Baine outlines the benefits of the GT Plan, which fall into three primary categories: (i) increased reliability and resiliency; (ii) improved customer experience; and (iii) reduced components of cost of service. Beyond these primary benefits, the GT Plan will likely also lead to other societal benefits, such as reduced emissions, job creation, and economic development. Mr. Baine provides the total proposed investment estimate associated with Phase I of the Grid Transformation Plan. He explains why the proposed investments are reasonable, prudent, and necessary to meet the needs of the Company's customers, both now and for many years to come.

**DIRECT TESTIMONY  
OF  
EDWARD H. BAINE  
ON BEHALF OF  
VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY  
BEFORE THE  
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION OF VIRGINIA  
CASE NO. PUR-2018-00100**

1   **Q.   Please state your name, business address and position of employment.**

2   A.   My name is Edward H. Baine and my business address is 120 Tredegar Street,  
3       Richmond, Virginia 23219. I am Senior Vice President – Distribution for the Power  
4       Delivery Group of Dominion Energy, Inc. (“Dominion Energy”). A statement of my  
5       background and qualifications is attached as Appendix A.

6   **Q.   What are your management responsibilities with respect to Virginia Electric and  
7       Power Company (“Dominion Energy Virginia” or the “Company”)?**

8   A.   I am responsible for all facets of Dominion Energy Virginia’s regulated electric  
9       distribution business that provides electricity to over 2.6 million customer accounts in  
10      Virginia and northeastern North Carolina.

11  **Q.   What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?**

12  A.   The purpose of my testimony is to introduce the Company’s proposed plan to transform  
13      its electric distribution grid (the “Grid Transformation Plan,” the “GT Plan,” or the  
14      “Plan”), and to explain the needs driving the Plan. I will also provide an overview of the  
15      first three years of the Plan (“Phase I”), for which the Company seeks approval through  
16      its petition for approval (the “Petition”) of electric distribution grid transformation  
17      projects filed pursuant to § 56-585.1 A 6 of the Code of Virginia (“Va. Code”). Finally, I  
18      will introduce the Company’s other witnesses in this proceeding.

1 Q. During the course of your testimony, will you introduce an exhibit?

2 A. Yes. Company Exhibit No. \_\_, EHB, consisting of Schedules 1 through 2, was prepared  
3 under my supervision and direction and is accurate and complete to the best of my  
4 knowledge and belief. Schedule 1 shows selected quantifiable projected benefits of the  
5 Grid Transformation Plan. Schedule 2 includes the projected capital and operations and  
6 maintenance (“O&M”) investments for Phase I of the Grid Transformation Plan, as well  
7 as a ten-year forecasted total capital and O&M investments for the full Plan.

8 I. Summary of Need for the Grid Transformation Plan

9 Q. Can you explain why the Company is proposing a Grid Transformation Plan and  
10 seeking approval of Phase I of the Plan in this proceeding?

11 A. Certainly. The essence of the Company’s obligation as a public utility is to provide electric  
12 service to its 2.5 million Virginia customers in a safe, reliable, cost-effective, and  
13 environmentally responsible manner. Meeting evolving customer service needs and  
14 expectations is an important part of this mission as well. Against that backdrop, Dominion  
15 Energy Virginia has consistently made prudent investments in its electric distribution  
16 system and has achieved a strong and improving record of system reliability and customer  
17 service across a spectrum of performance metrics, all at rates that are just and reasonable  
18 and that compare favorably to our peer utilities.

19 What we recognize, though, is that just as our generation system resources have been  
20 expanded and improved—indeed, transformed—over the past decade for the benefit of our  
21 customers (and will continue along this path), so too must we now address the structural  
22 limitations of the Company’s distribution grid in a systematic manner in order to recognize  
23 and accommodate fundamental changes and requirements in our industry. We must meet

1 both system and customer needs and expectations for (1) achieving even higher levels of  
2 reliability and resiliency against natural and man-made threats; (2) leveraging technology  
3 to enhance the customer experience and improve the operation of the system; and (3) safely  
4 and effectively integrating new utility-scale renewable generation and storage as well as  
5 customer-level distributed energy resources (“DER”) such as rooftop solar and battery  
6 storage. The Grid Transformation Plan will enable an electric grid designed originally for  
7 one-way flow of energy from dispatchable generation resources to accommodate a new  
8 world of distributed energy resources and rapidly changing customer preferences for how  
9 they manage their electric usage, along with the changing nature of their demands and  
10 expectations for power.

11 The investments proposed with the GT Plan are also essential to ensure the systems and  
12 infrastructure that power our daily lives and drive the sustainability and growth of our  
13 economy are positioned to adapt to future needs and complexities. As a result of these  
14 investments in the electric grid, a new and versatile energy platform will be enabled  
15 through which Dominion Energy Virginia can deliver increasingly safe and reliable power  
16 to customers, while also remaining adaptive to new innovations and emerging  
17 developments in the energy landscape.

18 In the end, we believe that the public policy underlying the Grid Transformation and  
19 Security Act of 2018 (“GTSA”), which supports qualifying investments as being in the  
20 public interest, is of critical importance to our customers and the Commonwealth overall.  
21 The Company’s GT Plan will adopt a staged approach to deploy interdependent  
22 components that will result in a smarter, stronger, and greener electric distribution grid.

1 The Plan will benefit our customers, will meet their needs today, and will prepare us to  
2 continue to meet those needs in the future.

3 The Company submits that Phase I of the Grid Transformation Plan, and the associated  
4 capital and O&M investments, are reasonable and prudent and asks that the Commission  
5 so find in approving the Petition.

6 **Q. You mentioned fundamental changes in the energy industry, can you elaborate on  
7 those changes?**

8 **A.** Yes. As an initial matter, modern society increasingly relies on electronic and connected  
9 devices for nearly all functions of daily life. In other words, the electric power grid is the  
10 critical foundation for practically every aspect of functioning in today's world. Vital  
11 community resources rely increasingly on electricity, from education and health care  
12 systems to the banking and transportation industries. While service interruptions have  
13 always been an inconvenience, the safe, reliable, and consistent delivery of power has  
14 never been more important than it is today.

15 In the meantime, technology has developed that can provide electric utilities with  
16 increased situational awareness on their systems. For example, intelligent grid devices  
17 can transmit information to the utility that will allow for understanding of the real-time  
18 status of the grid and for identification of at-risk equipment, which can lead to proactive  
19 repairs, minimizing or avoiding service disruptions to customers. We must additionally  
20 be aware that as society grows more dependent on electricity, so too do the threats to this  
21 critical infrastructure. Accordingly, utilities must also make investments in its physical  
22 and cyber security that can meet the evolving nature of the threat landscape.

1 The customer base in our industry has also changed. Customers want access to more  
2 information, and want the flexibility to access that information over different channels of  
3 communications. New technology has made meeting these needs possible. Nearly 80  
4 million smart meters have been deployed across the country, allowing for the collection  
5 of data that can provide customers the ability and control to make informed decisions  
6 about their energy usage. Available customer information systems have evolved that can  
7 leverage data from smart meters. These new customer information systems will enable  
8 integration with technology used by our customers and provide an improved customer  
9 experience.

10 Finally, the demand for electricity generated from renewable energy resources has  
11 increased. Many customers demand it, and many legislative and regulatory  
12 pronouncements encourage it, including here in Virginia. In contrast to conventional  
13 power sources, renewable energy sources can connect directly to the distribution grid. As  
14 I noted earlier, the Company's existing distribution grid was originally designed for one-  
15 way flow of electricity; the grid was not designed with the direct connection of  
16 generation sources in mind. While the Company has worked diligently to adapt its  
17 system to meet these modern needs, the existing system has structural and operational  
18 limitations that the Company must address.

19 **Q. So what are the main drivers behind the Grid Transformation Plan?**

20 **A.** The main drivers behind the Grid Transformation Plan include:

- 21 1) Improving resiliency and reliability: the need to strengthen distribution grid  
22 infrastructure and modernize systems to drive increased reliability and increased  
23 resilience to outages;

- 1           2) Increasing situational awareness: the need to effectively monitor and operate the  
2           evolving and increasingly complex grid infrastructure;
- 3           3) Evolving customer expectations: the need to meet changing customer expectations for  
4           easy and convenient access to more information about their energy use, more choices  
5           for managing and controlling it, and more engagement options;
- 6           4) Increasing physical and cyber security: the need to adapt and respond to emerging risks  
7           and threats to our systems, data, and critical infrastructure, particularly given the  
8           importance of such infrastructure to the Commonwealth and the nation;
- 9           5) Integrating renewable energy resources: the need to facilitate the integration of  
10          renewable energy resources in the context of expanded adoption of DER while  
11          maintaining safe and reliable energy distribution to all customers; and
- 12          6) Preparing for emerging technology: the need for more flexible, modernized  
13          infrastructure that can adapt to known and anticipated new technology and  
14          developments in the energy industry.

15   **Q. Can you explain how the proposed Grid Transformation Plan will meet these needs**  
16   **that have driven its development?**

17   A. Of course. Starting with the need to strengthen and modernize the grid, the Grid  
18   Transformation Plan will enable communication between intelligent grid devices,  
19   automated control systems, and supporting technologies. The Plan also includes grid  
20   hardening activities. Together, these improvements will result in a modernized and  
21   interconnected distribution grid that allows for proactive management of assets and  
22   performance, prevents certain outages, and enables speedier recovery times when outage  
23   events and storms occur. These improvements will also meet the increased need for



1 situational awareness of the grid by improving system controls and automating certain  
2 portions of the system.

3 The Grid Transformation Plan will also meet the need to increase physical and cyber  
4 security in response to emerging risks and threats by executing a comprehensive, multi-  
5 layered physical and cyber security strategy to proactively address the threat landscape  
6 faced by the energy sector. The grid situational awareness enabled by a modernized and  
7 interconnected grid will also help with detection and recovery from cyber and physical  
8 security events if they do occur.

9 **Q. How will the Grid Transformation Plan meet evolving customer expectations?**

10 A. The Grid Transformation Plan will enable a wide range of capabilities, such as new scalable  
11 rate structures, expanded self-service options, and more customer-centric programs. The  
12 Plan will enable the Company to offer these new capabilities through the deployment of a  
13 modern digital customer information platform. For example, customers will be able to  
14 choose their preferred method of communication, and then receive high usage alerts when  
15 their energy usage exceeds a certain level.

16 **Q. Will the Grid Transformation Plan meet the need to adapt to renewable energy  
17 resources and provide the Company with the flexibility to adapt to new technology?**

18 A. Yes. The increased situational awareness discussed above will enable the Company to  
19 effectively interconnect and operate the grid with DER, ensuring that the intermittent  
20 output from these resources does not pose threats to voltage stability and system operations  
21 and reliability.

1 The investments proposed in the GT Plan will also provide the Company with more options  
2 to integrate a wide range of emerging technologies. For example, electric vehicles continue  
3 to gain popularity. A transformed grid will allow the Company to intelligently manage the  
4 increased demand for electricity needed to charge electric vehicles and incorporate  
5 batteries and microgrids in a manner that benefits all customers.

6 **Q. Please summarize the need for the Grid Transformation Plan.**

7 A. The Company recognizes that customer expectations are quickly evolving and that  
8 significant changes will be required to improve reliability, address resilience, enhance  
9 security, integrate renewable resources, and improve the overall customer experience. The  
10 grid must adapt in order to meet these expectations.

## 11 **II. Context for the Grid Transformation Plan**

12 **Q. Please describe the Company's existing electric distribution grid.**

13 A. The Company's existing distribution grid consists of more than 52,000 circuit miles of  
14 overhead and underground cable, and over 400 substations. The existing infrastructure  
15 was originally designed for one-way delivery of energy to meet customers' demand—  
16 from the generator, through the transmission system, to the distribution grid and the end-  
17 use customer. The existing grid was not designed to effectively integrate the ever-  
18 increasing amount of renewable generation, including customer-level DER that feeds  
19 directly into the distribution system.

20 As of May 2018, approximately 80% of the Company's customers have automated meter  
21 reading ("AMR") meters, approximately 16% of customers have smart meters, and  
22 approximately 4% of customers have manual read meters. The Company installed the

1 AMR meters in the 1997 to 2005 timeframe. The Company collects data from the AMR  
2 meters on a monthly basis primarily by having trucks drive through neighborhoods. In  
3 2009, the Company began to deploy smart meters in a targeted fashion, as further  
4 discussed by Company Witness Brett A. Crable.

5 **Q. Can you describe the current customer information system supporting the**  
6 **distribution services of Dominion Energy Virginia?**

7 A. The Company manages its customer accounts primarily through a customer information  
8 system installed about 22 years ago. Customers that have AMR meters can see their  
9 energy usage information when billed for it after-the-fact. Customers can access certain  
10 information about their accounts online through dominionenergy.com, or can receive  
11 information monthly through the mail. The Company also staffs customer contact  
12 centers. When an outage occurs, customers must notify the Company of the outage.

13 **Q. Does the Company's existing electric distribution grid perform well?**

14 A. Yes. Over the years, Dominion Energy Virginia has consistently made prudent  
15 investments in its electric distribution grid to ensure safe and reliable service to its  
16 customers. The Company has achieved a strong record of system reliability and customer  
17 service across a spectrum of performance metrics, all at rates that are just and reasonable  
18 and that compare favorably to our peer utilities. For example, on a three-year average, the  
19 Company's customer contact center delivered an average speed of answer of 40.17 seconds  
20 for 2015 to 2017. This represents a 19.2% improvement over the previous three-year  
21 average from 2014 to 2016. In 2017 the Company's customer contract center delivered  
22 the lowest overall average speed of answer on record of 27.3 seconds. As another example,  
23 as measured by a three-year rolling average of system average interruption duration index

1 (“SAIDI”) excluding major events, the Company has reduced the time without service for  
2 customers by more than 17% since 2006.

3 To achieve these results, the Company has made full use of its past investments. The  
4 Company has worked diligently to prioritize reliability investments and leverage its  
5 existing systems.

6 **Q. Despite this record of performance, are there limitations to the current grid?**

7 A. Yes. AMR meters provide limited information to the Company and its customers,  
8 requiring field visits for metering and other basic service orders, and limiting the options  
9 for more advanced customer rates. The existing customer information system cannot  
10 accommodate the incremental volume and complexity of customer interactions and options  
11 that a modern digital distribution grid entails.

12 As to the infrastructure itself, the Company has limited situational awareness and visibility  
13 into the grid based on the somewhat limited assets, control systems, and connectivity for  
14 real-time monitoring. More fundamentally, as I previously mentioned, the distribution grid  
15 was originally designed for the one-way flow of power, so it has limitations in adapting to  
16 the two-way power flow created by DER. Supporting the integration of renewables and  
17 other aspects of a customer-focused platform will require new investments to create a step  
18 change in performance.

19 **Q. Why is now an optimal time for a grid transformation plan?**

20 A. For several reasons. Costs for the relevant technologies have decreased as peer utilities  
21 across the country have worked to transform their distribution grids. The Company has  
22 learned from the experiences of our peer utilities and has tested certain components of the

1 GT Plan on a smaller scale. The Company used this knowledge to develop the GT Plan,  
2 ensuring that its investments will be reasonable and prudent.

3 Further, the General Assembly recently recognized the importance of investments to  
4 transform the electric distribution grid in the Commonwealth with the passage of the  
5 GTSA, identifying such qualifying investments as being in the public interest. Indeed, the  
6 GTSA *requires* electric utilities to seek Commission approval for a plan for electric  
7 distribution grid transformation projects. Accordingly, the GTSA, as a matter of public  
8 policy, supports the optimal timing of the Company's Grid Transformation Plan.

### 9 **III. The Grid Transformation Plan**

10 **Q. Please provide an overview of the Company's Grid Transformation Plan.**

11 A. Dominion Energy Virginia has developed a ten-year plan to transform its electric  
12 distribution grid into a smarter, stronger, and greener grid. The Company envisions the  
13 Grid Transformation Plan proceeding in integrated phases, with each phase building upon  
14 the last. We also envision adjusting the proposed Plan as needed in future filings based on  
15 results and lessons learned from previous investments.

16 During Phase I of the Plan, the Company will focus on installing the foundational  
17 infrastructure that will enable all other components of the Grid Transformation Plan.  
18 Specifically, the Company will deploy smart meters across its service territory, along with  
19 the telecommunication infrastructure necessary to fully utilize the data generated by these  
20 smart meters. In addition to smart meters, the Company will also install automated control  
21 systems and other intelligent grid devices, such as automatic reclosers, line sensors, voltage  
22 control devices, and digital relays, all of which will also rely on robust telecommunication

1 infrastructure. During this process, the Company will also focus on grid reliability and  
2 resiliency. Specifically, the Company plans to harden mainline circuits, proactively  
3 upgrade equipment, and add more backfeed capabilities for restoration. The Company  
4 plans to invest in both physical and cyber security throughout the Plan, including during  
5 Phase I.

6 At the same time, the Company will begin the transition to a new customer information  
7 platform (“CIP”) through which customers can engage with the Company across multiple  
8 channels of communication. This new platform will provide customers with access to  
9 detailed energy usage information based on data gathered from smart meters. With the  
10 new CIP, customers will be able to select their communications preferences, choose their  
11 bill date, and view their customized detailed energy consumption analysis. This  
12 information will also allow the Company to provide customers with more options, from  
13 expanded self-service options to new rate structures. Throughout the Grid Transformation  
14 Plan, the Company will focus on educating customers on how they can fully utilize the new  
15 capabilities of the transformed distribution grid.

16 As part of the GT Plan, the Company will leverage predictive analytics—that is, the  
17 practice of extracting information from existing and new data sets in order to determine  
18 patterns and predict future outcomes and trends for the ultimate benefit of customers. The  
19 Company has developed a comprehensive strategy for predictive analytics to sustain utility  
20 and customer benefits and unlock current and future grid benefits. This strategy centers on  
21 the creation and operation of the analytics center of excellence, which is comprised of a  
22 data analytics system and supporting organization.

1 The increased situational awareness enabled by this foundational infrastructure will allow  
2 for a greener grid. When deployed with the necessary operational systems, intelligent grid  
3 devices provide visibility into deployed DER within the Company's service area and  
4 support accurate load forecasting, voltage stability and control, and active monitoring of  
5 DER to maintain safe and reliable grid operations. These investments will make the grid  
6 more adaptable to a range of other emerging technologies such as electric vehicles,  
7 microgrids, batteries, and smart streetlights. The GT Plan will also make it easier for  
8 customers with DER, such as rooftop solar, to apply for connection to the grid.

9 **Q. So the various components of the Grid Transformation Plan interrelate?**

10 A. Yes they do. The components of the GT Plan are critically interdependent. The Company  
11 plans to deploy smart meters and intelligent grid devices as part of the GT Plan. These  
12 devices require secure telecommunications infrastructure to transmit the data collected.  
13 Further, the Company and its customers can only realize the benefits of these devices when  
14 used in connection with a resilient, secure, and self-healing distribution grid.

15 The Company must then have the systems in place to use the data collected by smart meters  
16 and intelligent grid devices to further leverage those investments, including the new CIP  
17 that will use the data collected in conjunction with other modern technology to enhance the  
18 customer experience. The analytics center of excellence will also use the data collected to  
19 assist the Company in making prudent investment decisions in the future creating  
20 additional customer benefits.

21 As mentioned, the infrastructure envisioned in the proposed GT Plan will make the  
22 distribution grid adaptive to the integration of renewable energy sources. For instance, the

1 intelligent grid devices and smart meters will enable the Company to remotely monitor  
2 voltage levels—which tend to fluctuate with the variable output from renewable energy  
3 sources—to ensure grid stability. Smart meters will allow customers who wish to install  
4 renewable energy sources on their premises to take advantage of a variety of customer  
5 programs.

6 In other words, all components of the Grid Transformation Plan are interrelated,  
7 interdependent on one another, and necessary to achieve the maximum benefit from the  
8 proposed investments.

9 **Q. Is the Company’s Grid Transformation Plan generally consistent with similar plans**  
10 **from peer utilities?**

11 A. Yes. A recent survey conducted by BRIDGE Energy Group indicated that 73% of utilities  
12 are either implementing or developing grid modernization plans, up from 52% in 2017.  
13 For example, according to a November 2017 study, Commonwealth Edison (“ComEd”)  
14 has deployed 2,600 smart switches and 4 million smart meters, and has been able to avoid  
15 over 4.8 million customer interruptions since 2012. Regionally, Baltimore Gas & Electric  
16 and Pepco have completed the majority of their smart meter deployment projects and are  
17 moving forward with other advanced grid modernization investments. As another  
18 example, Florida Power and Light reported a 60% improvement in average days out per  
19 customer following Hurricane Irma in 2017 compared to Hurricane Wilma in 2005,  
20 attributing the improvements to the significant investments made in grid hardening.

21 The Company has monitored these and other grid transformation efforts undertaken by  
22 peer utilities, which has informed the development of our own GT Plan.



1       IV.    Standard for Approval, Customer Benefits, and Projected Costs of the Plan

2    Q.    What is the standard for approval of the Company's Grid Transformation Plan?

3    A.    The standard for approval of the Plan is contained in Va. Code § 56-585.1 A 6, which  
4       provides in pertinent part:

5           A utility shall, without regard for whether it has petitioned for any rate  
6       adjustment clause pursuant to clause (vi), petition the Commission, not  
7       more than once annually, for approval of a plan for electric distribution grid  
8       transformation projects. Any plan for electric distribution grid  
9       transformation projects shall include both measures to facilitate integration  
10      of distributed energy resources and measures to enhance physical electric  
11      distribution grid reliability and security. In ruling upon such a petition, the  
12      Commission shall consider whether the utility's plan for such projects, and  
13      the projected costs associated therewith, are reasonable and prudent. Such  
14      petition shall be considered on a stand-alone basis without regard to the  
15      other costs, revenues, investments, or earnings of the utility; without regard  
16      to whether the costs associated with such projects will be recovered through  
17      a rate adjustment clause under this subdivision or through the utility's rates  
18      for generation and distribution services; and without regard to whether such  
19      costs will be the subject of a customer credit offset, as applicable, pursuant  
20      to subdivision 8 d.

21   Q.    What is the Company's position as to how the Commission should evaluate whether  
22       the Plan and its associated costs are "reasonable and prudent"?

23   A.    I am neither a lawyer nor an accountant, so I will defer on those aspects of the question.  
24       But I can certainly speak to it from a perspective based on my more than twenty years of  
25       experience as an engineer at the Company and based on my current role overseeing  
26       Dominion Energy Virginia's regulated electric distribution business.

27   Q.    Please continue.

28   A.    The Company's electric distribution grid is an essential component of our ability to meet  
29       both our statutory public service obligations and our customers' needs and desires for safe,  
30       reliable, cost-effective, environmentally responsible, and customer-friendly electric

1 service. We have always made investments that in our professional judgment, guided by  
2 experience and informed by many sources, are deemed reasonably necessary to meet those  
3 goals. These include investments to maintain the distribution grid and to upgrade the  
4 system as appropriate based on the physical needs of the grid and reasonable customer  
5 expectations. The distribution grid is a complex, interdependent network of field  
6 equipment, hardware, software, other infrastructure, and human support systems. The  
7 Company constantly analyzes these systems—on both a macro- and micro-level—to  
8 evaluate what investments should prudently be made for the benefit of our customers.

9 **Q. You mentioned customer expectations. What role do they play in determining what**  
10 **reasonable and prudent investment decisions the Company makes for its distribution**  
11 **system?**

12 **A.** The customer experience is paramount in my view. While Dominion Energy Virginia is  
13 the exclusive provider of electric distribution services within our service territory, that does  
14 not in any way diminish our focus on excelling at meeting reasonable customer  
15 expectations for reliable and customer-friendly service. Doing so is integral not only to  
16 our obligation as a public utility, but also to the physical and economic well-being of those  
17 individuals, families, businesses, and other organizations we serve, and of the  
18 Commonwealth as a whole. That focus has only grown sharper amidst the historic changes  
19 in our industry and rapidly evolving customer needs and desires that I discussed earlier.

1 Q. Does cost play a role in whether a proposed investment is deemed reasonable and  
2 prudent by the Company?

3 A. Of course it does. We evaluate investments based on many criteria, including cost. Our  
4 goal is to achieve the optimal level of investment, balancing system needs, customer  
5 expectations, and the goal of just, reasonable, and competitive rates for electric service.

6 Q. Is there a precise formula for determining what is reasonable and prudent?

7 A. I wish there was, but no. We have to be guided by an intimate and studied understanding  
8 of the state of technology, the operational aspects and constraints of the current system,  
9 various externalities, objective measures of customer sentiment, feedback from external  
10 parties, and our informed judgment as utility operators. We look to any number of criteria  
11 in making investment decisions, such as: what does experience teach us about the historic  
12 performance and vulnerabilities of the system; what constitutes a proven technology; what  
13 are the various options, and their respective costs and benefits to customers, to address the  
14 system needs; what are the experiences of our peer utilities; what new threats does the  
15 system face, from both individuals and nation states; and so forth. In the end, our ultimate  
16 goal is to answer this question with respect to these investments: "What would a prudent  
17 utility operator do, under the same or similar circumstances?"

18 Q. What role has the GTSA played in the Company's development of a Grid  
19 Transformation Plan?

20 A. Obviously this is an important public policy pronouncement by the General Assembly of  
21 Virginia representing the various interests of our customers throughout the  
22 Commonwealth, and it certainly informs—and in fact requires—our development of a grid  
23 transformation plan. I read it very simply as recognizing that there are needed investments

1 to our system in order for our customers' needs and those of the Commonwealth to be met  
2 going forward, and that utilities should act responsibly to develop a reasonable plan to do  
3 so for this Commission's consideration.

4 **Q. Can this Plan be evaluated utilizing a formal cost-benefit analysis?**

5 A. Not entirely, and I do not believe it would be appropriate to impose such a requirement for  
6 its approval.

7 **Q. Why not?**

8 A. In some cases, we do have objective, accepted measures of quantifiable benefits associated  
9 with investments proposed in the Plan. For example, it is clear that the type of targeted  
10 grid hardening activities proposed and the deployment of intelligent grid devices and  
11 automated control systems will result in improved reliability performance, which can be  
12 measured through the SAIDI and SAIFI metrics. These improvements directly translate  
13 into cost savings associated with avoided lost economic output using accepted  
14 methodologies such as the Department of Energy's Interruption Cost Estimate ("ICE").  
15 Those savings alone amount to an estimated \$2.0 billion for customers over a 20-year  
16 period. Likewise, we know that installing smart meters and associated infrastructure will  
17 reduce components of our customers' cost of service due to eliminated field visits and  
18 related activities. There are several hundred million dollars of easily quantifiable benefits  
19 along those lines as well. Schedule 1 shows a snapshot of selected quantifiable benefits  
20 over a 20-year period.

21 However, by no means should these benefits be assumed or judged to be the only customer  
22 benefits of the Plan. What are the benefits, for example, of intelligent grid devices, control

1 systems, and hardening activities designed to reduce, eliminate, or quickly recover from  
2 the prospects of a cyber or physical attack on the system? The benefits of avoiding or  
3 minimizing such threats—which could result in catastrophic consequence—are substantial,  
4 but they cannot be quantified. Similarly, can we put a dollar figure on the value to a  
5 customer, through smart metering and a new customer information system, of being able  
6 to receive real-time high usage alerts? Obviously there is great customer satisfaction value  
7 and potential savings resulting from such an enhanced feature, and it will enable decision-  
8 making that may also reduce customer energy usage. But such benefits are not easily or  
9 reliably converted to a dollar figure. Similarly, facilitating the incorporation of more  
10 renewable energy to the electric power grid also results in societal benefits that are difficult  
11 to quantify in traditional cost-benefit analysis.

12 In short, in addition to quantitative benefits, there are many qualitative or otherwise  
13 unquantifiable benefits to the GT Plan components, and the Plan as a whole. In addition,  
14 some of the proposed investments are foundational to others, and eliminating one  
15 component based on a traditional cost-benefit analysis will affect other components.  
16 Accordingly, I would urge the Commission to consider this full inventory of customer  
17 benefits as it evaluates whether the Company's proposed Grid Transformation Plan and the  
18 associated costs are in fact reasonable and prudent.

19 **Q. Are these considerations unique to the GT Plan?**

20 **A.** No they are not. They are inherent in many decisions surrounding distribution system  
21 maintenance and improvements that are made and that have been made for decades by  
22 public utilities. If we were to subject each such investment to a stricter cost-benefit

1 analysis, we could not do our job as utility operators and we would not meet reasonable  
2 customer expectations.

3 **Q. So generally, what are the categories of benefits of the Grid Transformation Plan?**

4 A. The benefits of the Grid Transformation Plan fall into three primary categories:  
5 (i) increased reliability and resiliency; (ii) improved customer experience; and (iii) reduced  
6 components of cost of service.

7 The GT Plan will increase reliability and resiliency of the electric distribution grid. The  
8 proposed investments will eliminate outage events, reduce the number of customers  
9 affected, and allow for faster restoration. Improved grid reliability equates to improved  
10 grid availability to receive and transmit the output of DER. Increased cyber and physical  
11 security will also reduce the likelihood of a successful cyber and physical attack, avoiding  
12 possibly harmful consequences.

13 The Grid Transformation Plan will also improve the customer experience. Customers will  
14 be able to select from an expanded set of digital communication channels. The digital  
15 communication channels will enable secure, streamlined, and convenient interactions  
16 between the customers and the Company. The new channels will also simplify transactions  
17 such as bill payment, rate and program selections, and program enrollment and de-  
18 enrollment. The GT Plan will also enable the Company to offer customers new scalable  
19 rate structures, expanded self-service options, and more customer-centric programs.

20 The GT Plan will reduce components of cost of service. Operational benefits include items  
21 such as field labor savings, reduction in number of events that require response, and better  
22 management of energy diversion.

1 Beyond these primary benefits, the GT Plan will likely lead to other societal benefits, such  
2 as reduced emissions, job creation, and economic development.

3 Other witnesses will provide greater detail on benefits of the various components of the  
4 GT Plan.

5 **Q. Does the Company intend to establish performance metrics to track the success of the**  
6 **GT Plan?**

7 A. Yes. The Company has developed a list of possible performance metrics, which the other  
8 witnesses in this case will discuss. The Company intends to work with Staff and other  
9 parties to refine this list and determine the ultimate performance metrics that the Company  
10 will use to track the GT Plan's success.

11 **Q. What is the proposed level of investment associated with the Grid Transformation**  
12 **Plan?**

13 A. The forecasted total proposed investment estimate associated with Phase I of the Grid  
14 Transformation Plan is approximately \$816.3 million in capital investment and  
15 approximately \$101.5 million in O&M investment. The forecasted total proposed  
16 investment estimate associated with the ten-year GT Plan is approximately \$3,082.4  
17 million in capital investment and approximately \$429.0 million in O&M investment. My  
18 Schedule 2 provides a breakdown of projected cost by component of the GT Plan for Phase  
19 I and for the ten-year Plan. The other witnesses will provide further detail on these costs,  
20 and will describe how the Company forecasted these numbers.

1 **Q. Is the Company seeking approval in the Petition beyond the proposed Phase I**  
2 **investments?**

3 A. No. Although the Company has included the forecasted ten-year total cost for the Grid  
4 Transformation Plan to provide context, the Petition seeks approval only of the first three  
5 years of the Plan. The Company will update the forecasted costs for the later years of the  
6 Plan and will address the prudence of such costs in future filings.

7 **Q. Does Phase I of Grid Transformation Plan “include both measures to facilitate**  
8 **integration of distributed energy resources and measures to enhance physical electric**  
9 **distribution grid reliability and security” as required by Va. Code § 56-585.1 A 6?**

10 A. Yes it does. The measures proposed during Phase I of the GT Plan will enhance the  
11 reliability and security of the electric distribution grid. The infrastructure the Company  
12 proposes to put in place will also facilitate the integration of distributed energy resources.

13 **Q. Are the grid transformation projects associated with Phase I of the Grid**  
14 **Transformation Plan, and the projected costs associated therewith, reasonable and**  
15 **prudent?**

16 A. Yes. The proposed investments are reasonable, prudent, and necessary to meet the needs  
17 of the Company’s customers, both now and for many years to come.

18 **Q. Please introduce the other Company witnesses in this proceeding.**

19 A. The Company is presenting the following additional witnesses:

20 • Brett A. Crable, Director of New Technology and Energy Conservation, provides  
21 details on the Company’s plan to deploy smart meters across its service territory.  
22 Company Witness Crable will also discuss the emerging technology projects  
23 included in the GT Plan, and will introduce the current emerging technologies that  
24 the Company will continue to monitor for possible inclusion in future GT Plan  
25 filings.



- 1           • Franklin M. Hinckle, Jr., Director of Customer Account Management, describes the  
2           customer information platform that the Company plans to deploy to transform the  
3           customer experience.
- 4           • Robert S. Wright, Jr., Director of Distribution Planning, Reliability and GIS  
5           Services, explains the grid hardening activities that the Company has planned  
6           during Phase I of the GT Plan, as well as the intelligent grid devices and related  
7           operations and automated control systems that the Company plans to deploy.  
8           Company Witness Wright also explains the proposed investment in enhanced  
9           physical security at certain substations.
- 10          • Joseph A. Walker, Director of IT Business Accounts, describes the development  
11          and proposed execution of new telecommunications infrastructure that will ensure  
12          secure, reliable, available, and robust communications between the field and the  
13          back office, enabling the functionality of the other components of the GT Plan.
- 14          • Finally, Mark A. Engels, Senior Enterprise Security Advisor, describes the cyber  
15          and physical security controls that the Company plans to deploy as part of the GT  
16          Plan. He also explains how the Company will create and operate an analytics center  
17          of excellence to leverage predictive analytics across departments.

18   **Q.     Does this conclude your pre-filed direct testimony?**

19   **A.     Yes it does.**

**BACKGROUND AND QUALIFICATIONS  
OF  
EDWARD H. BAINE**

Edward H. Baine is Senior Vice President – Distribution for the Power Delivery Group of Dominion Energy, Inc. (“Dominion Energy”). He is responsible for all facets of Dominion Energy’s regulated electric distribution business that provides electricity to about 2.6 million customer accounts in Virginia and northeastern North Carolina.

Mr. Baine joined Dominion Energy in 1995 as an associate engineer and has held numerous engineering, operational, and management positions within the Company. In 2006, he was named Director – Electric Distribution Operations Centers. He was promoted to Vice President – Shared Services, effective July 1, 2009, and was named Vice President – Fossil & Hydro Merchant Operations in January 2012. He was named Vice President – Power Generation System Operations in July 2013 and Senior Vice President – Transmission & Customer Service in June 2015. He assumed his current post in February 2016.

Mr. Baine is a member of the boards of directors of the Dominion Energy Credit Union; Chamber RVA, Venture Richmond, and the Capital Region Collaborative. He is also a member of the Board of Visitors of Virginia Tech. Mr. Baine also serves on the board of the Chesterfield Public Education Foundation and is a member of the Executive Advisory Council of the Robins School of Business at the University of Richmond. In addition, Mr. Baine serves on the boards of directors of SEE, the Virginia Tech Athletic Fund, MEGA Mentors, the American Association of Blacks in Energy, and the Valentine Museum, as well as the EEI National Response and AEIC Power Delivery executive committees.

Mr. Baine earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Virginia Tech and completed the advanced management program at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. He is a registered professional engineer in Virginia.

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Company Exhibit No. \_\_\_ EHB  
 Schedule 1

Selected Quantifiable Projected Benefits\*

Data: Forecasted	\$ in Millions
Description	20 Yr. Total
<b>Smart Meters - Reduced Cost of Service</b>	
Reduction of Field Metering Expenses from AMI	\$256.5
Better Management of Energy Diversion from AMI Data	\$99.5
Reduction of Bad Debt from Automated Work Orders through AMI	\$85.1
<b>SELECTED QUANTIFIABLE SMART METERS BENEFITS</b>	
<b>\$441.1</b>	
<b>Reliability and Resiliency - Operational Efficiencies</b>	
Reduction in OT, contract labor, and other efficiencies through hardening and analysis	\$146.9
<b>Reliability and Resiliency - Increase Reliability</b>	
Reduced Outages - ICE Methodology - Better SAIDI	\$2029.5
<b>SELECTED QUANTIFIABLE RELIABILITY AND RESILIENCY BENEFITS</b>	
<b>\$2176.3</b>	
<b>Telecommunications Infrastructure</b>	
Total Reduction in O&M from Reduction or Avoided Leased Service Costs	\$120.0
<b>SELECTED QUANTIFIABLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE BENEFITS</b>	
<b>\$120.0</b>	

\* Excludes non-quantifiable, qualitative, and other societal benefits.

Company Exhibit No. EHB  
 Schedule 2  
 Projected Capital and O&M Investment

Data: Forecasted	Description	2019		2020		2021		Total 3 Years		Total 10 Years	
		Capital	O&M	Capital	O&M	Capital	O&M	Capital	O&M	Capital	O&M
	<b>Smart Meters Deployment</b>	\$60.4	\$6.2	\$129.3	\$11.1	\$124.2	\$10.3	\$314.0	\$27.6	\$478.0	\$70.6
	<b>SMART METERS - TOTAL</b>	\$60.4	\$6.2	\$129.3	\$11.1	\$124.2	\$10.3	\$314.0	\$27.6	\$478.0	\$70.6
	<b>Customer Information Platform CIP Implementation Cost</b>	\$5.1	\$5.1	\$36.2	\$5.6	\$41.2	\$14.6	\$82.5	\$25.3	\$185.0	\$129.3
	<b>CUSTOMER INFORMATION PLATFORM - TOTAL</b>	\$5.1	\$5.1	\$36.2	\$5.6	\$41.2	\$14.6	\$82.5	\$25.3	\$185.0	\$129.3
	<b>Reliability and Resiliency</b>	\$6.9	\$0	\$19.9	\$1	\$26.7	\$5	\$53.6	\$6	\$305.6	\$39.9
	Intelligent Grid Devices Deployment Cost										
	Operations and Control Systems	\$13.1	\$1.8	\$9.8	\$2.2	\$4.8	\$3.0	\$27.7	\$6.9	\$51.7	\$41.7
	Grid Hardening	\$29.3	\$11.2	\$69.7	\$12.2	\$132.8	\$12.4	\$231.9	\$35.8	\$1,525.6	\$71.3
	<b>RELIABILITY AND RESILIENCY - TOTAL</b>	\$49.4	\$13.0	\$99.4	\$14.5	\$164.3	\$15.8	\$313.1	\$49.4	\$1,883.0	\$146.9
	<b>Telecommunications Infrastructure</b>	\$6.6	\$1.2	\$13.6	\$1	\$49.7	\$6	\$69.9	\$1.9	\$442.7	\$60.1
	<b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE - TOTAL</b>	\$6.6	\$1.2	\$13.6	\$1	\$49.7	\$6	\$69.9	\$1.9	\$442.7	\$60.1
	<b>IT OT Security</b>	\$2.2	\$1	\$3.2	\$7	\$3.5	\$8	\$8.9	\$1.6	\$13.3	\$7.3
	Cyber Security Implementation Costs										
	Substation Physical Security Enhancement Cost	\$3.6	\$1	\$3.8	\$3	\$5	\$5	\$7.9	\$9	\$27.0	\$8.3
	<b>IT OT SECURITY - TOTAL</b>	\$5.8	\$2	\$7.1	\$10	\$4.0	\$13	\$16.8	\$2.5	\$40.3	\$15.6
	<b>Predictive Analytics</b>	\$1.9	\$1	\$3.8	\$2	\$7.2	\$5.5	\$12.9	\$8	\$25.3	\$6.0
	<b>PREDICTIVE ANALYTICS - TOTAL</b>	\$1.9	\$1	\$3.8	\$2	\$7.2	\$5.5	\$12.9	\$8	\$25.3	\$6.0
	<b>Emerging Technology</b>	\$2.4	\$0	\$2.4	\$0	\$2.4	\$0	\$7.1	\$0	\$28.0	\$0
	Smart Lighting NIC Card Deployment Costs										
	Net-Metering Application Streamlining Cost	\$1	\$0	\$0	\$1	\$0	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$5
	<b>EMERGING TECHNOLOGY - TOTAL</b>	\$2.5	\$0	\$2.4	\$1	\$2.4	\$1	\$7.2	\$1	\$28.1	\$5
	<b>OVERALL TOTAL COST</b>	\$131.6	\$25.7	\$291.8	\$32.7	\$392.9	\$43.1	\$816.3	\$101.5	\$3082.4	\$429.0

Pending required approvals