

Commonwealth of Virginia

# State Corporation Commission

Division of Information Resources  
P. O. Box 1197, Richmond, Virginia 23218

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[www.scc.virginia.gov](http://www.scc.virginia.gov)

15-01

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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January 7, 2015

### SCC SEEKS COMMENTS ON DULLES GREENWAY TOLL INCREASE REQUEST

**RICHMOND** — The State Corporation Commission (SCC) is seeking comments on a request by the owners of the Dulles Greenway to adjust the tolls charged for traveling the 14-mile roadway that runs between Washington Dulles International Airport and Leesburg. Comments must be received by February 6, 2015.

Toll Road Investors Partnership II (TRIP II) filed its application on December 30, 2014, and is asking for a 2.8% increase.

For a two-axle vehicle, the proposed increase equates to 10 cents, from \$4.20 to \$4.30. During peak morning and afternoon weekday periods, the proposed increase is 15 cents, from \$5.10 to \$5.25.

Written comments on the request must be submitted by February 6, 2015. All correspondence should be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, and refer to case number PUE-2014-00129.

Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so at the SCC's website: [www.scc.virginia.gov/case](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case). Click on the PUBLIC COMMENTS/NOTICES link and then the SUBMIT COMMENTS button for case number PUE-2014-00129.

SCC staff has been directed to investigate the application and file a report on February 6, 2015. The Commission will then issue an order on the company's request.

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**Case PUE-2014-00129** – Application of Toll Road Investors Partnership II, L.P.

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15-02

**SCC NEWS RELEASE**

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January 9, 2015

**SCC RESCHEDULES PUBLIC HEARING ON A PLAN TO IMPROVE HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION GRID IN FAUQUIER AND PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTIES**

**RICHMOND** — The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has rescheduled a February 4 public hearing in Richmond to convene on April 20 regarding an application by Dominion Virginia Power to upgrade and improve various electric transmission facilities located in Fauquier and Prince William counties.

The company’s Warrenton-Wheeler reliability project involves new high-voltage line construction and the rebuilding and conversion of existing lines. In support of its application, the company is preparing revised and additional power flow studies. In order to provide the SCC staff with sufficient time to review and verify the studies, the company and SCC staff have requested a revised procedural schedule.

The public hearing will convene at 10 a.m. on April 20, 2015, in the Commission’s second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building at 1300 East Main Street in downtown Richmond. Any person wishing to comment at this hearing should arrive early and sign in with the SCC bailiff. The hearing will continue on April 21 at 10 a.m. to receive other evidence.

The deadline for written comments on the request has been extended to April 17, 2015. All correspondence should be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, and refer to case number PUE-2014-00025.

Interested persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so at the SCC’s website: [www.scc.virginia.gov/case](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case). Click on the PUBLIC COMMENTS/NOTICES link and then the SUBMIT COMMENTS button for case number PUE-2014-00025.

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**Case Number PUE-2014-00025**

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15-03

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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January 26, 2015

### SCC SETS SCHEDULE TO CONSIDER A PLAN TO BUILD A NEW HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE IN LOUDOUN COUNTY

**RICHMOND** - The State Corporation Commission (SCC) will hold a local public hearing in March regarding an application by Dominion Virginia Power to build a new 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and new substation in eastern Loudoun County.

In its application, the company proposes to construct an overhead 230-kV double circuit transmission line on a new right-of-way by cutting into the existing 230-kV Brambleton-BECO line approximately 100 feet south of where the existing line crosses Waxpool Road. The new transmission line will extend approximately 1.8 miles to a new substation to be constructed in Loudoun County.

Because no existing right-of-way is available, Dominion Virginia Power has submitted a proposed route as well as three alternative routes for the SCC's consideration.

The local public hearing will be held on March 18, 2015. One session begins at 4 p.m. and another at 7 p.m. in the auditorium of Park View High School, 400 West Laurel Avenue in Sterling. The hearing will continue in Richmond on June 9, 2015, at 10 a.m. in the SCC's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building at 1300 East Main Street.

Any person wishing to comment at these hearings should arrive early and sign in with the SCC bailiff.

Written comments on the proposal must be submitted by June 2, 2015. All correspondence should be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, and refer to case number PUE-2014-00115.

Persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so at the SCC's website: [www.scc.virginia.gov/case](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case). Click on the PUBLIC COMMENTS/NOTICES link and then the SUBMIT COMMENTS button for case number PUE-2014-00115.

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Case Number PUE-2014-00115

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15-04

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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February 5, 2015

### SCC NAMES SAMUEL A. NIXON, JR. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has named Samuel A. Nixon, Jr., its chief administrative officer. Nixon joins the Commission on March 16, 2015. He has been the chief information officer of the Commonwealth and the director of the Virginia Information Technologies Agency (VITA) since April of 2010.

SCC Commissioners Mark C. Christie, Judith Williams Jagdmann and James C. Dimitri said, “Sam Nixon’s 30 years of experience in the field of information technology will be a great benefit to the Commission as we embark on a major upgrade and modernization of our computer systems to better serve the public.” In addition, “He will be instrumental in ensuring that our information technology infrastructure is robust and secure while supporting and serving the needs and requirements of the Commission, its workforce, consumers, and the business community.”

Nixon has been responsible for the Commonwealth’s statewide information technology organization. Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe said, “Sam Nixon is a public servant of the highest caliber. As Virginia’s Chief Information Officer, he helped transform Virginia’s information technology regime into a modern and effective system befitting of the taxpayers it serves. I want to thank him for his outstanding performance and wish him well as he begins the next chapter of his career.”

As the SCC’s chief administrative officer, Nixon will oversee the various administrative divisions responsible for the SCC’s budget, personnel, computer technology, data security, business continuity planning, and media and government relations. The Commission is engaged in a multi-year project to substantially enhance the quality and types of services the SCC can provide to the Virginia public electronically through its web site. In addition, the SCC is building an entirely new electronic document management system that will move the agency away from paper, consistent with the best practices in the business community.

Nixon replaces Danny M. Payne who retired at the end of 2014 following more than 40 years of service to the Commonwealth, including eight years as Virginia’s Tax Commissioner (1994-2002). Payne was the SCC’s first chief administrative officer, a position that was created in March 2007.

Established in 1902 by the Constitution of Virginia, the SCC’s jurisdiction includes many businesses which directly impact Virginia consumers. The SCC’s authority encompasses utilities, insurance, state-chartered financial institutions, securities, retail franchising, and railroads. It is the state’s central filing office for corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability companies and Uniform Commercial Code liens.

**ADVISORY:** E-mail distribution of SCC news releases is now available.  
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## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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February 12, 2015

### SCC ENCOURAGES VIRGINIANS TO TALK TO THEIR FINANCIAL PROFESSIONALS ABOUT CYBERSECURITY

**RICHMOND** – With organized cyber-attacks against financial institutions on the rise, the State Corporation Commission (SCC) reminds investors of the importance of protecting the personal information they share with financial professionals.

“The increasing reliance on technology in our daily lives could leave our sensitive financial information more vulnerable to unwanted viewing or theft without proper safeguards in place,” said Ron Thomas, director of the SCC’s Division of Securities and Retail Franchising. “Ask questions to determine a financial firm’s level of cybersecurity preparedness. Talk to your investment professionals about the steps their firms are taking to safeguard personal client information,” he said.

Thomas suggests asking the following questions:

- Has the firm addressed which cybersecurity threats and vulnerabilities may impact its business?
- Does the firm have written policies, procedures, or training programs in place regarding safeguarding clients’ personal information?
- Does the firm maintain insurance coverage for cybersecurity breaches?
- Has the firm engaged an outside consultant to provide cybersecurity services?
- Does the firm have confidentiality agreements with any third-party service providers with access to the firm’s information technology systems?
- Has the firm ever experienced a cybersecurity incident that resulted in theft, loss, unauthorized exposure, use of, or access to customer information? If so, what steps has the firm taken to close any gaps in its cybersecurity infrastructure?
- Does the firm use safeguards such as encryption, antivirus, and anti-malware programs?
- Does the firm contact clients via email or other electronic messaging? If so, does it use secure email and procedures to authenticate client instructions received via email or electronic messaging to reduce the chance of someone impersonating a client?

(more)

In September 2014, the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA), of which the SCC is a member, reported that 62 percent of state-registered investment adviser firms participating in a NASAA pilot survey had undergone a cybersecurity risk assessment, and 77 percent had established policies and procedures related to technology or cybersecurity.

For more information, contact the SCC's Division of Securities and Retail Franchising toll-free in Virginia at 1-800-552-7945 or in Richmond at (804) 371-9051 or e-mail the division at [SRF\\_Registration@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:SRF_Registration@scc.virginia.gov). Additional information may also be found on the Securities Division's website at [www.scc.virginia.gov/srf](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/srf) or the NASAA website at [www.nasaa.org](http://www.nasaa.org).

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15-06

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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February 23, 2015

### SCC SETS SCHEDULE TO CONSIDER A PLAN TO BUILD A SOLAR GENERATING FACILITY IN FAUQUIER COUNTY

**RICHMOND** — The State Corporation Commission (SCC) will hold a public hearing in July regarding an application by Dominion Virginia Power to build and operate a 20 megawatt utility-scale solar electric generating facility near Remington in Fauquier County.

The proposed solar facility would be constructed on 280 acres of land owned by the company across from the company's existing natural gas-fired Remington Power Station.

The public hearing will be held on July 16, 2015, at 10 a.m. in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building at 1300 East Main Street in downtown Richmond. Any person wishing to comment at the hearing should arrive early and sign in with the SCC bailiff.

Written comments on the proposal must be submitted by July 9, 2015. All correspondence should be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, and refer to case number PUE-2015-00006.

Persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so at the SCC's website: [www.scc.virginia.gov/case](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case). Click on the PUBLIC COMMENTS/NOTICES link and then the SUBMIT COMMENTS button for case number PUE-2015-00006.

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**Case Number PUE-2015-00006**

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15-07

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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February 27, 2015

### SCC APPROVES DULLES GREENWAY TOLL INCREASE

**RICHMOND** — The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has approved a 2.8 percent increase in the tolls charged for traveling the Dulles Greenway, a 14-mile roadway that runs between Washington Dulles International Airport and Leesburg.

Virginia law states that the SCC shall approve a toll increase request based upon the Consumer Price Index plus one percent (Virginia Code Section § 56-542 I).

Toll Road Investors Partnership II (TRIP II), the operator of the Dulles Greenway, filed its application on December 30, 2014.

For a two-axle vehicle, the increase equates to 10 cents, from \$4.20 to \$4.30. During peak morning and afternoon weekday periods, the increase is 10 cents, from \$5.10 to \$5.20.

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**Case PUE-2014-00129 – Application of Toll Road Investors Partnership II, L.P.**

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15-08

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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March 2, 2015

### SCC OFFERS NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION WEEK REMINDERS

**RICHMOND** – The more you know, the better when it comes to successfully navigating the choices and complexities of everyday life. Whether you are comparing insurance policies, shopping for a mortgage or other loan, understanding your utility bills, or planning for retirement, it is important to know how to protect your interests and where to turn for help if you have a question or complaint.

In conjunction with the 17<sup>th</sup> annual National Consumer Protection Week March 1-7, the State Corporation Commission (SCC) reminds Virginians that it stands ready throughout the year to answer inquiries, handle complaints, and provide information and assistance regarding those industry sectors over which it has regulatory responsibility. Those sectors include insurance, state-chartered financial institutions, securities, franchises, and investor-owned utilities (electric, natural gas, water, sewer, and telecommunications).

The SCC offers numerous consumer guides and other information on a variety of topics. Its specially trained staff can assist Virginians in making informed choices and filing a complaint if they are not satisfied with the responses they receive from regulated industries. Consumers with questions or concerns about a regulated individual or entity can contact SCC representatives or visit its website at [www.scc.virginia.gov](http://www.scc.virginia.gov).

The SCC encourages Virginians to make the most of their money by understanding how to find products and services best suited to their needs and knowing where to turn should a problem arise.

“Protect your financial well-being by learning how to spot fraudulent offers, unnecessary fees, and unsuitable financial products,” said Ron Thomas, director of the SCC’s Division of Securities and Retail Franchising. “The SCC is a valuable resource if you want to better understand your rights and responsibilities and find products that are best suited to your particular needs.”

“Our consumer services operations are an integral part of the SCC’s overall mission,” said E.J. Face, Jr., Virginia Commissioner of Financial Institutions. “We can arm Virginians with information they can use to successfully navigate today’s increasingly complex marketplace.”

Whether for insurance, telephone or electric service, loans, or investments, the SCC encourages Virginians to thoroughly examine any bills or statements they receive. “Consumers should check their bills regularly and question any charges they do not understand,” said William Irby, director of the

(more)

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SCC's Division of Communications. "If your telephone company or other service provider does not explain it to your satisfaction, we can help," he said.

"Should a problem arise, we encourage Virginians to work directly with regulated companies or individuals," said Virginia Insurance Commissioner Jacqueline K. Cunningham. "If you still are not satisfied with the result, contact the appropriate SCC division by phone, mail, or email using our online complaint forms. Take advantage of the many resources the SCC offers including our knowledgeable staff and the wealth of information available through our publications and on our website," she said.

The SCC encourages Virginians to shop around for products and services, and compare prices, terms, and features. It also recommends that consumers thoroughly evaluate any offer, keep written records of all transactions, and verify that an individual or company is licensed or registered with the SCC.

The SCC stands ready to assist consumers who have complaints regarding regulated entities. It encourages consumers to complete a written complaint form relating to their specific area of concern. To access complaint forms and a description of the complaint process, visit the SCC website at [www.scc.virginia.gov](http://www.scc.virginia.gov) and click on the appropriate division.

For more information, call the SCC toll-free in Virginia at 1-800-552-7945 or contact the following divisions:

- Bureau of Insurance – (804) 371-9741
- Bureau of Financial Institutions – (804) 371-9657
- Division of Securities and Retail Franchising – (804) 371-9051
- Division of Energy Regulation – (804) 371-9611
- Division of Communications – (804) 371-9420

Even if the SCC does not have regulatory authority over a particular firm, individual, or product, its staff will assist consumers by referring them to the appropriate local, state, or federal organization for assistance. These may include the Attorney General's Office, a local consumer protection office, Better Business Bureau, or the Federal Trade Commission's toll-free helpline at 1-877-FTC-HELP (382-4357).

For more information about National Consumer Protection Week, visit [www.ncpw.gov/](http://www.ncpw.gov/).

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## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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March 26, 2015

### SCC APPROVES ELECTRIC RATE ADJUSTMENTS FOR DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has issued orders in five cases involving rate reviews and changes requested by Dominion Virginia Power. All of the rate adjustments will be placed into effect on April 1, 2015. The combined impact will decrease the average monthly bill of a typical residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity by \$6.47, from \$115.95 to \$109.48.

In Case Number **PUE-2015-00022**, the SCC established a lower fuel rate for Dominion Virginia Power on an interim basis. The new fuel rate is 2.406 cents per kilowatt-hour (¢/kWh), which represents a decrease of 0.612 ¢/kWh from the current fuel factor of 3.018 ¢/kWh. For the average residential customer, the fuel rate decrease means the monthly bill for 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity will decrease \$6.12.

The fuel rate is the portion of the electric bill that pays for the cost of fuel used to generate electricity and reflects the wholesale purchase and sales of power. Dominion Virginia Power is statutorily entitled to recover its prudently incurred fuel costs. This is a dollar-for-dollar recovery, and the company can make no profit on the recovery of fuel expenses.

The fuel rate is reviewed annually by the SCC and re-set, as necessary, to reflect actual fuel expenses for the previous year and projected fuel expenses for the coming year.

The SCC also approved annual revisions in four rate adjustment clauses, also called riders:

Case Number **PUE-2014-00042** – Rider W allows the company to recover costs for the development of the Warren County Power Station, a 1,328-megawatt natural gas-fired, combined-cycle electric generating facility near Front Royal.

Case Number **PUE-2014-00050** – Rider B allows the company to recover costs for the conversion of coal-burning generation facilities in Altavista, Hopewell, and Southampton to renewable biomass generation facilities.

Case Number **PUE-2014-00051** – Rider S allows the company to recover costs for the Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center, a 600-megawatt primarily coal-fueled generating plant in Wise County.

(MORE)

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Case Number **PUE-2014-00052** – Rider R allows the company to recover costs for Bear Garden Generating Station, a 580-megawatt natural gas-fired, combined cycle generating facility in Buckingham County.

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15-10

### SCC NEWS RELEASE

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March 31, 2015

#### SCC APPROVES REVISED RULES GOVERNING LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has revised the rules governing long-term care insurance. Effective September 1, 2015, the rule revisions strive to protect consumers and place heightened scrutiny on long-term care insurers seeking to raise premium rates.

Over the past several years, large and frequent long-term care premium rate increases have occurred because of insurers' inability to adequately anticipate future claim costs given the lack of credible experience data that was available when the products were originally designed and priced. The increases have been a financial hardship on policyholders who are faced with difficult choices such as reducing their benefits, if given the option, or allowing their coverage to lapse.

The revisions adopted by the Commission are not expected to eliminate premium increases in the future. Changes to the regulatory framework governing these policies require a balancing of multiple interests, including consumer protection and insurer solvency.

The revised rules do strengthen the rate review process. Insurers will now be required to continuously monitor market experience and insurers will undergo a more deliberate review and justification of any planned premium adjustments. The rules governing notices to policyholders of any rate adjustments have been enhanced. And, consumers are going to be provided greater disclosure regarding premium rate practices as well as the potential for future premium adjustments.

The revised rules, in part, incorporate recent revisions of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' model regulation regarding long-term care premium rate increases.

The majority of the rule revisions apply to all policies. Some rules apply depending on when the policy was issued – prior to October 1, 2003; between October 1, 2003; and August 31, 2015; on or after September 1, 2015. These dates coincide with previous rules governing these products.

For existing policies, future premium increase requests may be less frequent as a result of the new rules. When rate requests are received, they will be subjected to a strengthened review process. For new policies issued on or after September 1, 2015, the rules require insurers to adopt a more conservative approach for the initial pricing of their policies. For all policies, insurers are required to be more active in managing long-term care insurance rates.

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**Case number INS-2013-00238** – SCC proceeding on revising long-term care insurance rules

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15-11

### SCC NEWS RELEASE

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April 1, 2015

#### **APRIL IS NATIONAL SAFE DIGGING MONTH;** **Awareness of Need to Call 811 Before You Dig**

**RICHMOND** - April is National Safe Digging Month – dedicated to bringing attention to the importance of calling 811 before beginning any digging or demolishing project to avoid damaging underground utility lines.

Virginia has thousands of miles of underground utility lines providing residents of communities and businesses with essential public services such as natural gas, electricity, telecommunications, water and sewer. Preventing damage to these utility lines is a responsibility shared by all.

The State Corporation Commission (SCC) is responsible for enforcing Virginia's Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act (Act). SCC Division of Utility and Railroad Safety's Director Massoud Tahamtani said, "When an underground utility line is damaged, there can be far reaching consequences, such as serious injury, environmental damage, property damage, economic loss, and service interruptions." He added, "Damaging an underground utility line may result in civil penalties and liability claims."

Virginia has a nationally recognized damage prevention program and the SCC has been enforcing the Act for 20 years. When the requirements of the Act are properly followed, it can help in preventing damage to underground utility lines. Virginia's program is summed up in the message, "Dig With C.A.R.E. Keep Virginia Safe!" C.A.R.E. means:

**C**all 811 before you dig.

**A**llow the required time for marking.

**R**espect and protect the marks.

**E**xcavate carefully.

Calling 811 connects you to VA811, the state's one-call notification center (formerly Miss Utility) which operates Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding legal state and national holidays. Emergency notification service is available 365 days a year, 24 hours a day.

- more -

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When VA811 receives a call concerning digging or a demolition, trained staff will ask for important information about the planned work and then notify member utility operators that may have underground utility lines in your project area. Utility operators will respond by sending locators to your project area within the time allowed by law to mark the approximate horizontal location on the ground within two feet of the underground utility lines by means of paint, stakes or flags. There is no cost for this service. Once marked, hand digging is required within 24 inches of these marks plus the width of the utility line if known; this area is referred to as the tolerance zone.

Any person excavating or demolishing within the tolerance zone where an underground utility line may be destroyed, damaged, dislocated or disturbed shall take all reasonable steps necessary to properly protect, support and backfill the underground utility lines. In the event that during your excavation or demolition an underground utility line is damaged, dislocated, or disturbed including its appurtenances, covering and coating, immediately notify the operator of the underground utility line.

If the damage, dislocation, or disturbance of the underground utility line creates an emergency, take immediate steps to safeguard life, health and property. In the event that damage to an underground utility line results in the escape of any flammable, toxic, hazardous or corrosive gas or liquid, promptly report the damage to the appropriate authorities by dialing 911.

To learn more about Virginia's damage prevention program, contact the SCC Division of Utility and Railroad Safety at (804) 371-9980, or visit the Division's website at <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/urs>.

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15-12

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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April 1, 2015

### SCC REMINDS VIRGINIANS OF INSURANCE IMPLICATIONS OF DISTRACTED DRIVING

**RICHMOND** – Taking your eyes off the road when driving, even for a moment, can result in injury, property damage, and even death. It can also put a dent in your auto insurance if you get a ticket or cause an accident.

April is Distracted Driving Awareness Month and the State Corporation Commission's (SCC) Bureau of Insurance reminds Virginians to keep their eyes on the road if they want to save lives and property and keep their auto insurance costs down. "Multi-tasking behind the wheel can be hazardous to your health," said Virginia Insurance Commissioner Jacqueline K. Cunningham. "Stay focused on what's ahead when driving if you want to reduce your chances of being in an accident and potentially paying higher auto insurance premiums."

Eight out of 10 traffic accidents in Virginia are related to a distracted driving incident, according to DRIVE SMART Virginia, a non-profit organization charged with raising awareness and changing behavior in order to improve the safety of Virginia's roadways. Motor vehicle crashes caused by distracted drivers result in an estimated 3,000 deaths and 400,000 injuries in the United States annually, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Texting is a major culprit when it comes to distracted driving. When you text and drive, you are 23 times more likely to be in an accident, according to a study by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute. However, anything that takes your eyes or mind off the road can cause distracted driving. Reaching for an object, eating, talking on the phone (hand-held or hands-free), applying makeup, reading, and adjusting clothing are just a few of the many other behaviors that distract drivers and increase their likelihood of being involved in a crash.

The Bureau of Insurance reminds Virginians of the potential insurance consequences if they take their eyes off the road while driving and get a ticket or cause an accident." If you or a member of your family has caused a traffic accident or has been convicted of a traffic violation such as speeding or reckless driving, the price you must pay to obtain auto insurance may be higher," Cunningham said.

Insurance companies may increase your insurance premium for traffic violations or automobile accidents where you, a member of your household, or other customary operator of the vehicle was

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either wholly or partially at fault. This extra charge may be applied for as long as three years. In some cases, an insurance company may refuse to renew your auto insurance policy if you have even one ticket or accident that is your fault. Your driving record can affect not only your insurance, but the insurance policies of other members of your household. Even if they are on a different policy, they can be non-renewed because of your driving record.

The Bureau reminds Virginians to know what to do if they are involved in an accident. Call the police immediately if someone is injured; obtain information from other affected parties including name, address, registration number, insurance company, and driver's license number; note the time, date, location, road conditions, and make and year of any vehicles involved in the accident; notify your insurance agent or company as soon as possible; obtain names and addresses of all witnesses and individuals involved in the accident; and take reasonable steps to protect your property from further damage.

The Bureau of Insurance stands ready to assist Virginians with their questions regarding auto and many other types of insurance. For more information, call the Bureau toll-free at 1-877-310-6560 or in Richmond at (804) 371-9741 or visit its website at [www.scc.virginia.gov/boi](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/boi).

For more information regarding distracted driving and other driver safety topics, visit the DRIVE SMART Virginia website at [www.drivesmartva.org](http://www.drivesmartva.org).

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## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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April 24, 2015

### SCC ENCOURAGES GREATER AWARENESS ABOUT BROKER-DEALER FEES

**RICHMOND** – Many investors are in the dark when it comes to fees they pay their brokers, other than commissions. In recognition of Financial Literacy Month April 1-30, the State Corporation Commission (SCC) encourages Virginia investors to make sure they understand all of the fees charged by broker-dealer firms for services and maintenance of investment accounts.

“Enhance your financial literacy by arming yourself with information. Understand what services you are paying for and how much you are paying,” said Ron Thomas, director of the SCC’s Division of Securities and Retail Franchising. “Identify resources and know where to turn if a problem arises,” he said.

A recent survey by the North American Securities Administrators Association (NASAA), of which the SCC is a member, reveals that investors are confused about brokerage service and maintenance fees and want clear and easy access to fee information from their broker-dealer firms. This survey found that fees are important to investors, but a general lack of standardization and clarity in their disclosure has left investors unaware of how much their broker-dealer firm charges to service and maintain their investment accounts.

The survey polled 1,072 Americans who said they had brokerage accounts. Of these, 30 percent thought their brokerage firms did not charge annual service and maintenance fees, although most of them do. According to the survey, 52 percent of investors were aware of such fees, but did not know how much they were. A large majority of the respondents indicated that they want fees charged by broker-dealer firms disclosed in a chart or other graphic with language that is uniform and easy to understand, making it easier to compare prices, products and firms.

To enhance investor understanding of broker-dealer fees, the SCC encourages investors to pay special attention to the timing, method and content of fee disclosures.

Fees are typically disclosed when a customer account is opened. Ask for a fee schedule and make sure it is up to date. Do not invest any assets until a current fee schedule is provided. Investors have the right to know the fees in advance.

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Watch for any fee changes. Most broker-dealers disclose fee changes at least 30 days in advance, but they may use different methods to reach investors. Make sure your broker-dealer firm knows how you prefer to be contacted.

The SCC encourages investors to read the fine print when shopping for a broker-dealer. Most such firms disclose fees for certain services on a table, chart or list, while some use a narrative, but it may not list dollar amounts or formulas. If you do not see a section on fees and charges, ask for it. Investors are responsible for reading and understanding all materials provided by a broker-dealer.

Remember that different broker-dealer firms may use different terms for the same service. Make sure you are comparing apples to apples when considering fees charged by various firms. Know what services you plan to use regularly and ask specifically what terminology a firm uses for its services and the associated fees.

For more information, contact the SCC's Division of Securities and Retail Franchising toll-free in Virginia at 1-800-552-7945 or in Richmond at (804) 371-9051 or e-mail the division at [SRF\\_General@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:SRF_General@scc.virginia.gov). Additional information may also be found on the Securities Division's website at [www.scc.virginia.gov/srf](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/srf) or the NASAA website at [www.nasaa.org](http://www.nasaa.org).

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15-14

### SCC NEWS RELEASE

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April 24, 2015

#### SCC SEEKS COMMENTS ON REPORT PREPARED BY THE BUREAU OF INSURANCE REGARDING GHMSI SURPLUS

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) is seeking comments on a recent report prepared by the Bureau of Insurance that studied the impact on Virginia residents of the distribution of the excess surplus of Group Hospitalization and Medical Services Inc. (GHMSI), a Care First Inc. subsidiary.

The SCC had directed the Bureau to prepare the report following a December 30, 2014, order by the District of Columbia Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking that found that, as of December 31, 2011, GHMSI's surplus was excessive and that 21 percent of the company's surplus is attributable to D.C.

Under Virginia law, if another state enacts a law that requires a health services plan operating in Virginia to provide a program or benefits for residents of the other state, the SCC may conduct a proceeding to review and evaluate the impact on the health services plan.

Any person desiring to comment on the report should do so by May 22, 2015. Comments can be submitted in writing or electronically via the SCC website.

To view the report or submit online comments in this case, visit the SCC website at <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case> and follow the instructions for case number INS-2015-00007. Written comments can be sent to the Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, VA 23218. All correspondence must refer to case number INS-2015-00007.

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15-15

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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May 18, 2015

### SCC ENHANCES SEARCH OPTIONS FOR LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE RATE AND FORM FILINGS AND LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE PREMIUM RATE CHANGE FILINGS

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission’s (SCC) Bureau of Insurance has made it easier than ever for individuals to search for insurance policy forms and rate filings submitted by life and health insurance companies doing business in Virginia.

The new, more user-friendly search functionality, available on the Bureau’s website at <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/boi/SERFFInquiry/default.aspx>, will allow individuals to download entire publicly available life and health insurance rate and form filings instead of just a filing summary. Three different options for searching and viewing submissions of life and health insurance products are now available, as follows:

**Option 1:** All submissions of life and health insurance products, including but not limited to, those identified in Options 2 and 3 below, may be searched and viewed through this option.

**Option 2:** Form and rate submissions that are subject to the requirements of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and related Virginia laws are available through this option.

**Option 3:** Submissions of long-term care insurance premium rate changes are available through this option.

While option 1 provides access to all submissions of life and health insurance products, options 2 and 3 provide for a more detailed and narrowed search. Explanations of key terms have also been added. All browsing functionality is accessible through the link “Rate/Policy Form Search” on the Bureau’s website.

For more information or for assistance searching for insurance rate and form filings, call the Bureau of Insurance in Richmond at (804) 371-9741 or toll-free at 1-877-310-6560 or visit its website at [www.scc.virginia.gov/boi](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/boi).

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## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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May 26, 2015

### SCC'S BUREAU OF INSURANCE ENCOURAGES VIRGINIANS TO PREPARE NOW FOR HURRICANE SEASON

**RICHMOND** – With hurricane season upon us, the State Corporation Commission's (SCC) Bureau of Insurance reminds Virginians to consider their insurance options *before* the winds and rains arrive. This includes reviewing the details of your insurance policy to ensure you have the coverage you need.

Hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30 each year. Once a hurricane develops in the Atlantic, it will be difficult to find an insurance company willing to write related coverage until the storm threat passes.

No matter where you live in Virginia, hurricanes and their resulting flooding can threaten lives and property. "It's never too early to plan for hurricanes and other disasters," said Virginia Insurance Commissioner Jacqueline K. Cunningham. "Protect your family, home, and belongings by making sure you have adequate insurance coverage before the first hurricane starts to form. Know what your policy does and does not cover. Contact your insurance agent or company or the Bureau of Insurance if you have questions," she said.

The Bureau of Insurance reminds Virginians that hurricane damage often comes from flooding as well as high winds. Even areas hundreds of miles from the coast are at risk. Homeowners insurance policies issued in Virginia typically do not provide coverage for damage to your home and belongings due to floods, surface water or surges. However, the federal government does sell insurance for direct flood and flood-related damage to homeowners, renters and businesses in eligible communities through its National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). In most cases, there is a 30-day waiting period for a new flood insurance policy to take effect. For more information on this program, contact your insurance agent or the NFIP at 1-888-379-9531 or visit [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov). Be sure to find out whether your flood policy provides coverage for your contents.

Some homeowners policies contain a special deductible for wind or hurricane losses. These are applied separately from any other deductible on the homeowners policy. Some insurance companies automatically include a wind or hurricane deductible, while others offer this deductible at the policyholder's option. Wind or hurricane deductibles may be written as a flat amount, such as \$1,000, or they may be applied to the loss as a percentage of the insurance coverage on the dwelling.

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The Bureau of Insurance encourages policyholders to prepare a complete inventory of their personal property ahead of time including serial numbers, photographs and videotapes. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners' free smartphone app – *myHOME Scr.APP.book* – makes creating a home inventory easier than ever. Download the app from iTunes or Google Play. Keep your home inventory in a safe place. If your property is damaged by a hurricane, call your insurance agent or company as soon as possible. Make any necessary emergency repairs and take reasonable steps to prevent further damage to your property. Prepare a list of all damage to your property and include photographs, notes and repair-related receipts.

If you must evacuate, know the name of your insurance company and take your homeowners, auto and other insurance policies and your home inventory with you or make sure you have saved these important documents electronically. The policies will contain your policy numbers and the phone numbers of your insurance companies in case you have questions or need to file a claim.

The Bureau of Insurance offers free consumer guides for homeowners and commercial property owners with information about what to do when a disaster strikes. These and many other consumer insurance guides are available on the Bureau's website at [www.scc.virginia.gov/boi](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/boi).

The Bureau's specially trained staff can assist consumers with their insurance-related questions and concerns. For more information, contact the Consumer Services Section of the Bureau's Property and Casualty Division toll-free at 1-877-310-6560 or in Richmond at (804) 371-9185. The mailing address for the Bureau of Insurance is P.O. Box 1157, Richmond, Virginia 23218.

For additional emergency preparedness information relating to hurricanes and other types of disasters, visit [www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov). This statewide public education effort is designed to prepare Virginians for all kinds of hazards.

###

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15-17

### SCC NEWS RELEASE

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June 4, 2015

#### **SCC ENCOURAGES VIRGINIANS TO DISCUSS INSURANCE BEFORE THEY SAY 'I DO'**

**RICHMOND** – Planning for a wedding involves many decisions, from location, music, and flowers to guest lists and who will officiate at the service. The State Corporation Commission's (SCC) Bureau of Insurance reminds Virginians to review their insurance coverage before they say 'I do.'

If you have just married or will soon, you may face complex insurance decisions as you combine lives and households. The Bureau of Insurance encourages couples to have a pre-wedding discussion regarding auto, home, health and life insurance, as well as whether they need insurance for the wedding itself. Talk to your insurance agent or company to help you avoid surprises and, in some cases, save money.

In the case of auto insurance, discuss driving records. If your soon-to-be spouse has points on his or her driving record for speeding or other traffic offenses and your driving record is spotless, your soon-to-be spouse's record may impact your auto insurance premium. Spouses are automatically covered under the Virginia personal auto policy and cannot be excluded from coverage.

When planning your new home together, remember that location not only affects a home's resale value, it impacts insurance rates, as does your home's construction type and square footage. If you are thinking of buying a fixer-upper, keep in mind that a renovation investment can change a home's replacement value and your insurance needs. Do your homework before crossing the threshold.

In the case of health insurance, consider more than just the lowest premium when deciding between health insurance plans or choosing to stick with individual coverage. Review provisions related to cost-sharing – deductibles, co-pays and coinsurance – and make sure you understand what is not covered by the plan. Most group insurance providers consider marriage a qualifying major event, which means you can make related policy changes outside of the approved open enrollment period. Alert your insurance provider immediately if "I do" also includes stepchildren.

Update beneficiaries on your life insurance policies. To name your new spouse as beneficiary you must contact your Human Resources department or individual life insurance provider. Also review your life insurance to determine if you have enough coverage. To determine the correct amount, consider future income potential, the cost of raising kids and any outstanding mortgage.

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For those preparing to tie the knot, determine whether you need insurance for the wedding itself. Wedding insurance can cover the cost of unexpected and unpreventable disasters that cause the wedding to be rescheduled. It may cover such things as wedding-related deposits, attire for members of the wedding party, jewelry, liability, and gifts.

Your homeowners or renters policy may cover at least a portion of your wedding gifts if they are stolen or damaged. Make sure that your policy limits are high enough to cover these items or consider increasing your property insurance limits or purchasing separate coverage. Keep in mind that your property insurance policy may or may not cover cash gifts received, but many wedding gift policies will. Also make sure your existing property insurance will cover gifts received somewhere other than at your home.

Be sure to check with your agent or company about coverage for jewelry worn by members of the wedding party, as well as wedding and engagement rings. Some of these items may not be covered under wedding insurance and will require separate policies.

Wedding insurance is not one-size-fits all, so the Bureau of Insurance suggests shopping around and comparing prices, policy limits, deductibles and other terms. Avoid purchasing duplicate wedding-related insurance coverage by checking with vendors, location sites and caterers regarding any relevant insurance coverage they may have and ask for copies of those policies. The Bureau recommends having your insurance coverage in place before you make any major deposits on your wedding to ensure that every aspect of your wedding will be eligible for coverage.

For more information, contact the Bureau of Insurance toll-free at 1-877-310-6560 or in Richmond at (804) 371-9741 or visit its website at [www.scc.virginia.gov/boi](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/boi). The Bureau also has specially trained staff who can assist consumers with their general questions or concerns about insurance. For more detailed information regarding your insurance needs, contact your agent or your insurance company.

Additional information also may be found on the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' InsureU website at [www.insureuonline.org](http://www.insureuonline.org).

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15-18

### SCC NEWS RELEASE

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June 18, 2015

#### SCC SETS SCHEDULE TO CONSIDER A PLAN TO BUILD A NEW TRANSMISSION LINE AND SUBSTATION IN LOUDOUN COUNTY

**RICHMOND** - The State Corporation Commission (SCC) will hold a local public hearing in August regarding an application by Dominion Virginia Power to build the proposed Poland Road 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and substation project in Loudoun County. Dominion states the proposed electric facilities are necessary to provide service to a new data center campus in Loudoun County and to maintain reliable electric service to affected customers in the area.

In its application, Dominion proposes to construct a new overhead 230-kV double circuit transmission line approximately four miles long near the U.S. Route 50 corridor between the existing Loudoun-Brambleton line and new substation located east of Poland Road. Dominion states that new right-of-way is required for the entire route of the line. The estimated cost of the project is approximately \$54.5 million. If approved, the electric facilities will be in service by June 2018.

The local public hearing will be held on August 18, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. at the Loudoun County Government Center, Board of Supervisors Board Room, 1 Harrison Street S.E., in Leesburg, Virginia. The public evidentiary hearing will be held on October 27, 2015 at 10 a.m. in the Commission's second floor courtroom location in the Tyler Building at 1300 East Main Street in downtown Richmond. Any person wishing to comment at these hearings should arrive early and sign in with the SCC bailiff.

Written comments on the proposal must be submitted by October 20, 2015. All correspondence should be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, and refer to case number PUE-2015-00053.

Persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so at the SCC's website: [www.scc.virginia.gov/case](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case). Click on the PUBLIC COMMENTS/NOTICES link and then the SUBMIT COMMENTS button for case number PUE-2015-00053.

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**Case number PUE-2015-00053**

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15-19

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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July 20 2015

### SCC ADOPTS REGULATIONS GOVERNING CROWDFUNDING OFFERINGS WITHIN VIRGINIA

**RICHMOND** – Virginia companies have the opportunity to make crowdfunding offerings within the Commonwealth beginning July 31. The State Corporation Commission has adopted regulations for implementing Virginia's new crowdfunding exemption law adopted by the 2015 General Assembly.

Crowdfunding allows businesses to raise funds by selling shares through public advertising. Many of these general solicitations occur via the Internet.

As an exemption that applies only to offers within Virginia, the regulations establish the criteria by which such offerings are exempt from the more detailed registration requirements of the Virginia Securities Act. Thus, the exemption facilitates low-cost capital formation for small businesses.

The Virginia crowdfunding exemption permits companies to raise up to \$2 million in the aggregate, and up to \$10,000 from each investor. Certain "accredited" investors may contribute more depending on their overall net worth.

The new rules require a company to file with the SCC's Division of Securities and Retail Franchising a "disclosure statement" at least 20 days before starting a crowdfunding offer. This statement must be provided to any potential investor. Once a company raises money through the state exemption, it is required to provide an annual report to investors for a period of three years after the close of the offering.

The SCC's director of the Division of Securities and Retail Franchising Ronald W. Thomas says, "The regulations have a dual purpose. They provide investors with appropriate disclosure and safeguards and provide another valuable tool that small companies can use to raise capital."

The 2015 legislation allows the Commission the flexibility to adjust the regulations depending upon how the financing community is able to use the new exemption. The Securities Division will monitor crowdfunding activity and make recommendations for changes when necessary.

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**Case number SEC-2015-00014**

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15-20

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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July 29, 2015

### SCC SETS ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING WARRENTON-WHEELER TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) will hold a local public hearing in Warrenton on August 10 in order to receive additional public testimony on Dominion Virginia Power's Warrenton-Wheeler reliability project. The project involves new high-voltage transmission line construction and the rebuild and conversion of existing lines including one that extends into Loudoun County.

During the course of this proceeding and since the last local public hearings in August 2014, two alternative options for the project have been presented. Due to continuing comments in opposition and requests for additional community input, another public hearing will be held on August 10, 2015, at 5 p.m. at the Warrenton Community Center, 430 East Shirley Avenue in Warrenton, Virginia.

The additional public hearing does not change the hearing already scheduled for August 4, 2015, at 10 a.m. in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building at 1300 East Main Street in downtown Richmond. Any person wishing to comment at either of these hearings should arrive early and sign in with the SCC bailiff.

The audio of the Richmond hearing will be webcast via the SCC website. Instructions can be found on the SCC website at <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>.

Written comments on the proposal must be submitted by August 14, 2015. All correspondence should be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, and refer to case number PUE-2014-00025.

Persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so at the SCC's website: [www.scc.virginia.gov/case](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case). Click on the PUBLIC COMMENTS/NOTICES link and then the SUBMIT COMMENTS button for case number PUE-2014-00025.

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**Case Number PUE-2014-00025**

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15-21

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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July 30, 2015

### SCC SETS SCHEDULE TO CONSIDER APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT GREENSVILLE COUNTY POWER STATION

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) will hold a public hearing in January regarding an application by Dominion Virginia Power to build and operate a 1,588 megawatt natural gas-fired electric generating facility in Greensville County, Virginia.

The proposed project, which includes transmission interconnection facilities, would be constructed on an approximately 1,140-acre site. In its application, the company estimates the cost of the project is \$1.33 billion, excluding financing costs.

If the project is approved, the company also seeks recovery of its financing costs and funds used during construction through a rate rider that would become effective on April 1, 2016. It is estimated that the proposed Rider GV would increase the monthly bill of a typical residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity by 75 cents.

The public hearing will be held on January 12, 2016, at 10 a.m. in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building at 1300 East Main Street in downtown Richmond. Any person wishing to comment at the hearing should arrive early and sign in with the SCC bailiff.

Written comments on the proposal must be submitted by January 5, 2016. All correspondence should be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, and refer to case number PUE-2015-00075.

Persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so at the SCC's website: [www.scc.virginia.gov/case](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case). Click on the PUBLIC COMMENTS/NOTICES link and then the SUBMIT COMMENTS button for case number PUE-2015-00075.

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**Case Number PUE-2015-00075**

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Commonwealth of Virginia

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15-22

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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August 6, 2015

### SCC POSTPONES LOCAL PUBLIC HEARINGS REGARDING POLAND ROAD TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has postponed until further notice the August local public hearings in Loudoun County regarding the Poland Road transmission line project. Local hearings on Dominion Virginia Power’s proposed project were scheduled for August 18 in Leesburg and August 25 in Chantilly.

The case for this project has been suspended while five alternative options are further analyzed by the company. In late July, respondents in the case, including Loudoun County, filed a joint motion offering five possible options for the SCC to consider.

On August 4, Dominion Virginia Power filed a motion for an extension. The company said the five alternatives are intended to serve as a “starting point for analysis.” The company added that it needed additional time to “give its opinion on whether additional route(s) should be noticed.”

A new procedural schedule will be established by a future ruling of the SCC hearing examiner who is presiding over this case.

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**Case Number PUE-2015-00053**

Commonwealth of Virginia

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15-23

### SCC NEWS RELEASE

Contact: **Katha Treanor**  
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August 11, 2015

#### **AUGUST 11 IS NATIONAL 811 DAY;** **THE SCC REMINDS EVERYONE TO CALL 811 BEFORE DIGGING**

**RICHMOND** – Every year, thousands of underground utility lines are struck or damaged nationwide. The consequences can include disruption of service, property damage, injuries and even deaths.

National 811 Day, observed annually on August 11, highlights the need for homeowners and professional excavators to take the first step to avoid damaging underground utility lines by always calling 811 before beginning any digging or demolition projects.

Calling 811 is simple and free and connects you to VA811 (formally known as Miss Utility of Virginia), which notifies the appropriate utility companies of your intent to dig or demolish. Utility locators come to your project area, in the time allowed by law, to mark the approximate horizontal location of their underground utility lines by means of paint, stakes, or flags. Once marked, hand digging is required within 24 inches of these marks for safe excavation.

“The consequences of damaging an underground utility line range from interruptions in utility services we depend on every day to personal injury or worse,” said SCC Utility and Railroad Safety Division Director Massoud Tahamtani. He notes that “damaging an underground utility line can lead to liability claims and civil penalties against the responsible party.”

VA811 is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding legal state and national holidays. However, emergency notifications can be made 365 days a year, 24 hours a day for excavations involving emergencies as defined in the Virginia Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act.

Virginia's C.A.R.E. message reminds you to call VA811 and avoid damage to underground utility lines. C.A.R.E. means:

- Call 811 before you dig.
- Allow the required time for marking.
- Respect and protect the marks.
- Excavate carefully.

To learn more about “Digging with C.A.R.E.” and Virginia’s damage prevention program, contact the SCC’s Division of Utility and Railroad Safety at (804) 371-9980 or visit <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/urs/mutility/index.aspx>.

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Commonwealth of Virginia

# State Corporation Commission

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15-24

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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September 4, 2015

### SCC CONCLUDES INVESTIGATION OF DULLES GREENWAY TOLL RATES

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has concluded an investigation of the current toll rates charged by the operator of the Dulles Greenway in Loudoun County and finds that proposed new tolls are not required to be substituted for the existing tolls.

In its final order, the SCC stated “Based on the evidence presented by TRIP II (both quantitative and qualitative), we have concluded that the tolls – individually and collectively – meet the statutory requirements under § 56-542 D (of the Code of Virginia).”

The Dulles Greenway is a 14-mile private toll road that runs between Washington Dulles International Airport and Leesburg and is operated by Toll Road Investors Partnership II (TRIP II).

In addition, the SCC did not direct the toll road operator to perform a study of distance-based tolls at this time. However, the Commission directed TRIP II to confer with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on the efficacy of performing such studies. The company will file a report with the SCC in 180 days on the results of its discussions with VDOT.

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**Case Number PUE-2013-00011**

Commonwealth of Virginia

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15-25

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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September 21, 2015

### SCC SCHEDULES LOCAL HEARINGS FOR POLAND ROAD TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT IN LOUDOUN COUNTY

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has scheduled local hearings in late October regarding an application by Dominion Virginia Power for the proposed Poland Road transmission line project in Loudoun County.

The first local public hearing will be held on October 27, 2015 at 6 p.m. at the Loudoun County Government Center, Board of Supervisors Board Room, 1 Harrison Street S.E. in Leesburg. The second public hearing will be held on October 29, 2015 at 6 p.m. in the Freedom High School Auditorium, 25450 Riding Center Drive in Chantilly.

The hearing will continue in Richmond on February 2, 2016 at 10 a.m. in the Commission's second floor courtroom location in the Tyler Building at 1300 East Main Street in downtown Richmond. Any person wishing to comment at these hearings should arrive early and sign in with the SCC bailiff.

Written comments on the proposal must be submitted by January 6, 2016. All correspondence should be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, and refer to case number PUE-2015-00053. Persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so at the SCC's website: [www.scc.virginia.gov/case](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case). Click on the PUBLIC COMMENTS/NOTICES link and then the SUBMIT COMMENTS button for case number PUE-2015-00053.

The Poland Road transmission line project in Loudoun County includes a proposal for the construction of a new overhead, four-mile long 230-kilovolt double circuit transmission line near Route 50 and a new substation located east of Poland Road. Dominion's application for the transmission line project was first introduced in May. In late July, respondents in the case, including Loudoun County, filed a joint motion offering alternative options for the SCC to consider. The Commission will consider two of the alternative routes proposed by Loudoun County. The in-service date remains June 2018.

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**Case Number PUE-2015-00053**

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## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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October 2, 2015

### SCC'S BUREAU OF INSURANCE OFFERS VIRGINIANS TIPS FOR HURRICANES AND OTHER WEATHER-RELATED DISASTERS

**RICHMOND** – Virginia and much of the East Coast are watching closely as Hurricane Joaquin makes its way up the Atlantic Ocean. The State Corporation Commission's (SCC) Bureau of Insurance encourages Virginians to take steps now to protect their physical and financial well-being should a hurricane or other disaster strike.

The Bureau of Insurance offers the following tips that could make filing an insurance claim easier in the event of a disaster:

- **Know Your Insurance Coverage** – Review your insurance policies before disaster strikes. Make sure you understand what is and is not covered and contact your insurance agent or company if you have questions. Keep in mind that flood damage is not covered by a standard homeowners or renter's insurance policy.
- **Collect Your Insurance Information** – Store copies of your insurance policies and a home inventory of your personal property in a waterproof, fireproof box or safe. The home inventory should include serial numbers, photographs and videotapes.

Make sure you have a copy of your insurance policy, as well as your insurance cards. Make a list that includes your policy numbers and contact information for your insurance company and insurance agent including phone numbers, website addresses and mailing addresses. Take this information with you if you have to evacuate in case you have questions or need to file a claim.

- **Protect Your Property** – To mitigate some of the damage a hurricane or tropical storm might cause, clear your yard of debris, lawn furniture and other loose items that could become projectiles in high winds; trim dead or overhanging branches from trees surrounding your home, and clean gutters. Review your home to make sure doors are latched properly and the roof is secure. Ask your insurance agent or company how you can minimize property damage and, if such damage occurs, how to expedite the processing of claims with your insurer.
- **After the Storm** – If a hurricane damages your property, notify your insurance agent or company and file your insurance claim(s) as quickly as possible. Make any necessary emergency repairs and take reasonable steps to protect your property from further damage.

(more)

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Make a list of all damage to the house and its contents, and include photographs, notes, and repair-related receipts. Do *not* have permanent repairs made until your insurance company has inspected the property and you have reached an agreement on the cost of repairs. If your home is damaged to the extent that you cannot live there, ask your insurance company or insurance agent if you have coverage for additional living expenses.

The Bureau of Insurance offers free consumer guides for homeowners and commercial property owners with information about what to do when a disaster strikes. These and many other consumer insurance guides are available on the Bureau's website at [www.scc.virginia.gov/boi](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/boi).

The Bureau's specially trained staff can assist consumers with their insurance-related questions and concerns. For more information, contact the Consumer Services Section of the Bureau's Property and Casualty Division toll-free at 1-877-310-6560 or in Richmond at (804) 371-9185. The mailing address for the Bureau of Insurance is P.O. Box 1157, Richmond, VA 23218.

For additional emergency preparedness information relating to hurricanes and other types of disasters, visit [www.ReadyVirginia.gov](http://www.ReadyVirginia.gov). This statewide public education effort is designed to prepare Virginians for all types of hazards.

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**SCC NEWS RELEASE**

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October 20, 2015

**SCC DENIES REMINGTON SOLAR FACILITY APPLICATION;  
INVITES DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER TO REFILE AFTER  
SEEKING THIRD-PARTY ALTERNATIVES**

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has determined that Dominion Virginia Power must seek third-party market alternatives before the SCC can grant approval of a proposed solar electric generating facility. Dominion had proposed to build the 20-megawatt facility near the town of Remington in Fauquier County.

Virginia law requires Dominion Virginia Power to demonstrate it has considered alternative options, including third-party market alternatives, during its process for selecting the Remington Solar Facility. Virginia law also requires the Commission to consider the extent to which such a proposed facility is likely to result in unreasonable increases in rates paid by consumers.

In its final order, the Commission said, “As a ‘small renewable’ solar project, the Remington Solar Facility is one type of generation resource that the General Assembly has identified as in the public interest.” The Commission went on to say, “The General Assembly, however, has not declared it to be in the public interest that renewable power can only be obtained from the applicant’s own self-build project, ... or at any price, no matter how burdensome to consumers.”

The Commission cited testimony from the Solar Association, the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition, and the Virginia Sierra Club that a ‘request-for-proposal’ process could have provided evidence as to whether lower-cost alternatives exist to provide this renewable power. The Commission also noted that the Attorney General’s Division of Consumer Counsel asserted that the company had failed to satisfy the statutory requirements necessary for Commission approval.

According to the record established for this case, the estimated cost of the proposed facility would be \$2,350 per kilowatt. Its average annual operating time would be 22 percent (known as capacity factor). The SCC wrote, “The comparatively high cost to consumers and low capacity factor ... underscore that serious and credible efforts, as required by the General Assembly, must be made to determine whether lower cost alternatives for obtaining renewable power are available in the market from third parties.”

Dominion Virginia Power is free to refile an application that meets all statutory requirements, including the requirement regarding third-party market alternatives, and that establishes the reasonableness and prudence of any costs proposed for recovery from consumers.

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**Case number PUE-2015-00006**

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## NEWS RELEASE

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November 23, 2015

### **SCC FINDS EXCESS EARNINGS; DIRECTS \$19.7 MILLION REFUND TO DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER CUSTOMERS**

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has found that Dominion Virginia Power had earnings above its legal limit during 2013 and 2014 and ordered the company to refund \$19.7 million to customers. The findings were made as part of the SCC's regular biennial review of Dominion's earnings. Under legislation enacted in 2015, such proceedings are suspended until 2022.

As a whole, the Commission made numerous findings which "are reasonable for purposes of determining the utility's earned return in this biennial review." As a result of those decisions, a Commission majority concluded that:

- Dominion Virginia Power earned, on average, a return on equity of approximately 10.89 percent on its generation and distribution services. The authorized rate of return is 10 percent, but the company, by law, is permitted to keep additional earnings up to 10.7 percent. Thus, the company retains approximately \$103.9 million of the excess earnings above 10 percent.
- By law, the company is permitted to keep 30 percent of the excess earnings above 10.7 percent which is approximately \$8.5 million.
- By law, the remaining 70 percent, or \$19.7 million, is credited to customers' bills.

The refund will come in the form of a rate credit shown on bills spread over a period of six months. For a typical residential customer using an average of 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month, the total refund will range between \$4 and \$5 based on each customer's usage during years 2013 and 2014. The credit will appear on bills beginning no later than the February 2016 billing cycle.

A Commission majority also determined that, unlike prior financial reviews, under the 2015 legislation the Commission cannot now determine the fair rate of return that will be used for the purposes of the company's next biennial review in 2022. The new law states that the return on equity for Dominion's next biennial review will be determined in a proceeding in 2019.

Commissioner Dimitri concurred in part and dissented in part.

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**Case number: PUE-2015-00027**

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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November 24, 2015

### SCC SETS WORKERS' COMPENSATION PREMIUM LEVEL ADJUSTMENTS

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has approved revisions to the premium levels charged for workers' compensation insurance in Virginia.

Workers' compensation insurance provides medical care and wage replacement benefits to injured workers. Almost all Virginia employers are required to provide the coverage to their employees.

The National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) sought the revisions. The changes approved by the SCC will increase the overall premium level for the industrial, surface and underground coal mine classifications in the voluntary market and the assigned risk plan. The industrial classes include manufacturing, office and clerical, goods and services, contracting and miscellaneous industry groups. The changes will decrease the overall premium level for the federal classifications, which fall under the federal Longshore and Harbor Workers Compensation Act, in the voluntary market and assigned risk plan.

The changes will become effective April 1, 2016, for new and renewal workers' compensation policies, as follows:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Voluntary Market Loss Costs</u>	<u>Assigned Risk Rates</u>
Industrial	+3.4%	+2.3%
"F" (Federal)	-1.2%	-1.7%
Coal Mines (Surface)	+13.3%	+11.3%
Coal Mines (Underground)	+12.0%	+9.9%

NCCI, a Florida-based rate service organization, represents insurance companies licensed to write workers' compensation insurance in Virginia.

Virginia's workers' compensation rates remain among the lowest in the country.

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**Case number INS-2015-00064**

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Commonwealth of Virginia

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15-30

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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December 1, 2015

### SCC SCHEDULES HEARING FOR VIRGINIA-AMERICAN WATER RATE REQUEST

**RICHMOND** - The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has scheduled a June 2016 hearing on a request by Virginia-American Water Company to increase its rates. The company is asking for authority to increase rates for water service to produce \$8.69 million in water revenues.

In its application, Virginia-American Water states the increase in water revenues will be divided between its various operating districts including Alexandria, Hopewell and Prince William County.

By law, the requested increase may take effect April 1, 2016 on an interim basis, subject to refund, following a final determination by the Commission.

Virginia-American Water is also proposing the approval and implementation of an annual Infrastructure Charge rider to be added to customer bills. The company states this is needed to recover costs of investments in its water and wastewater systems.

The public hearing will be held on June 21, 2016 at 10 a.m. in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building at 1300 East Main Street in downtown Richmond. Any person wishing to comment at the hearing should arrive early and sign in with the SCC bailiff.

Written comments on the proposal must be submitted by June 7, 2016. All correspondence should be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, and refer to case number PUE-2015-00097.

Persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so at the SCC's website: <http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case>. Click on the PUBLIC COMMENTS/NOTICES link and then the SUBMIT COMMENTS button for case number PUE-2015-00097.

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Case number PUE-2015-00097

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Commonwealth of Virginia

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15-31

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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December 11, 2015

### SCC DIRECTS DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER TO SEEK COMMISSION APPROVAL BEFORE BUILDING TRANSMISSION LINE ACROSS RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER

**RICHMOND** — The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has found that Dominion Virginia Power is required to seek prior Commission approval before constructing a proposed transmission rebuild project across the Rappahannock River between Lancaster and Middlesex counties.

The SCC found that the proposed Rappahannock River transmission line crossing was not an ordinary extension or improvement in the usual course of business. As such, Commission approval is required.

The proposed 1.9-mile transmission rebuild would be Dominion's longest 115-kilovolt river crossing in Virginia, with 10 steel H-frame structures ranging from 102 to 173 feet tall, and would have certain attributes related to a higher voltage line. The proposed project also requires new right-of-way.

The SCC ruling follows a petition for declaratory judgment and declaratory relief filed by William C. Barnhardt of Lancaster County on October 9, 2015. On October 19, 2015, the SCC issued a preliminary order enjoining Dominion from constructing the proposed transmission line until it was determined whether a Commission review was needed.

The SCC made no ruling approving or rejecting any proposed Rappahannock River crossing. The SCC's order does not address the need, location, design, or appropriate voltage for any subsequent application from Dominion, as those issues will be the subject of the approval proceeding.

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**Case Number PUE-2015-00109 –**

**Petition of William C. Barnhardt for a Declaratory Judgment and Injunctive Relief**

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## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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December 11, 2015

### **SCC SETS SCHEDULE TO CONSIDER HAYMARKET TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT; FOUR LOCAL HEARINGS WILL OCCUR OVER TWO DAYS**

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) has scheduled local hearings in late February and early March regarding an application by Dominion Virginia Power for the proposed Haymarket transmission line project in Prince William County.

Dominion Virginia Power filed an application on November 6, 2015, that proposes to convert an existing 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission line located in Prince William and Loudoun Counties to 230 kV. The company also plans to construct in Prince William County and the Town of Haymarket a new 230 kV transmission line to run approximately five miles from an existing Gainesville substation to a newly constructed substation near Haymarket.

According to the company, the proposed electric facilities are necessary to provide service requested by a retail electric service customer for a new data center campus in Prince William County and to maintain reliable electric service to all customers in the area.

The local public hearings will be held at the Battlefield High School auditorium on February 24 and March 14, 2016. The high school is located at 15000 Graduation Drive in Haymarket. There are two hearing start times each day. The first is at 4:30 p.m. The second is at 7:00 p.m.

Any person wishing to comment at these hearings should arrive early and sign in with the SCC bailiff. A public witness only needs to testify once as all comments are made part of the case record.

The hearing will continue in Richmond on May 10, 2016 at 10 a.m. in the Commission's second floor courtroom location in the Tyler Building at 1300 East Main Street in downtown Richmond.

Written comments on the proposal must be submitted by May 3, 2016. All correspondence should be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, and refer to case number PUE-2015-00107.

Persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so at the SCC's website: [www.scc.virginia.gov/case](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case). Click on the PUBLIC COMMENTS/NOTICES link and then the SUBMIT COMMENTS button for case number PUE-2015-00107.

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**Case number PUE-2015-00107** - Haymarket 230 kV double circuit transmission line

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15-33

## SCC NEWS RELEASE

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December 23, 2015

### SCC SCHEDULES HEARING ON A PROPOSAL TO BUILD 340-MW ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY IN HANOVER COUNTY

**RICHMOND** – The State Corporation Commission (SCC) will hold a hearing in Richmond on April 20, 2016, to receive public and evidentiary testimony on an application by Doswell Limited Partnership to build a 340-megawatt generating facility in Hanover County.

The company proposes to build the power plant on the grounds of the existing Doswell Energy Center. According to the application, the project involves the addition of two units capable of firing both natural gas and ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel.

The public hearing will be held in Richmond on Wednesday, April 20, 2016, at 10 a.m. in the Commission's second floor courtroom located in the Tyler Building at 1300 East Main Street. Any person wishing to comment on the proposal at the hearing should arrive early and sign in with the SCC bailiff.

Written comments on the proposal must be submitted by April 13, 2016. All correspondence should be sent to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118, and refer to case number PUE-2015-00127.

Persons desiring to submit comments electronically may do so at the SCC's website: [www.scc.virginia.gov/case](http://www.scc.virginia.gov/case). Click on the PUBLIC COMMENTS/NOTICES link and then the SUBMIT COMMENTS button for case number PUE-2015-00127.

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**Case Number PUE-2015-00127 – Application of Doswell Limited Partnership for approval and certification of a 340-MW electric generating facility in Hanover County**

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