## Virginia State Corporation Commission eFiling CASE Document Cover Sheet

Case Number (if already assigned) PUR-2020-00197

Case Name (if known) Petition of Virginia Electric and Power Company for

approval of broadband capacity pilot projects pursuant

to § 56-585.1:9 of the Code of Virginia, and for approval of a rate adjustment clause, designated,

Rider RBB

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Company's Rural Broadband Program Annual Report

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March 31, 2022

#### BY ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Mr. Bernard Logan, Clerk State Corporation Commission c/o Document Control Center Tyler Building – First Floor 1300 East Main Street Richmond, Virginia 23219

Petition of Virginia Electric and Power Company for approval of broadband capacity pilot projects pursuant to § 56-585.1:9 of the Code of Virginia, and for approval of a rate adjustment clause, designated, Rider RBB under § 56-585.1 A 6 of the Code of Virginia

Case No. PUR-2020-00197

Dear Mr. Logan:

Please find enclosed for electronic filing in the above-captioned proceeding the **public** version of the *Virginia Electric and Power Company's Rural Broadband Program Annual Report*. A confidential version is also being filed under seal under separate cover.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions in regard to the enclosed.

Highest regards,

/s/ Jontille D. Ray

Jontille D. Ray

#### Enclosures

cc: Lisa R. Crabtree, Esq.
Joseph K. Reid, III, Esq.
Dan Bumpus, Esq.
Service List

# RURAL BROADBAND PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT MARCH 31, 2022

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Pursuant to Ordering Paragraph (1) of the June 9, 2021, Final Order of the State Corporation Commission of Virginia ("Commission") issued in Case No. PUR-2020-00197 ("2021 Final Order"), Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Dominion Energy Virginia" or the "Company") hereby files this Annual Report on its Rural Broadband Program ("RBB").

Specifically, Ordering Paragraph (1) of the 2021 Final Order adopts the findings and recommendations of the Hearing Examiner's Report dated March 4, 2021. Paragraph 6 of the Hearing Examiner's Findings and Recommendations states:

The Company should annually provide to Staff the information agreed to in the Stipulation, until such time as administratively relieved by the Director of the Division of Public Utility Regulation. The agreed to information includes:

(i) miles of fiber installed and miles of fiber remaining to be installed; (ii) a tabular breakdown of the number of poles replaced and rationale for replacement (e.g. pole too short, pole has deteriorated, etc.); (iii) a tabular breakdown of customers for each ISP, by the speed offerings, rate of offerings, the number of fiber residential subscribers, wireless residential subscribers, fiber business subscribers, and wireless business subscribers ("ISP Proprietary Information"); (iv) a tabular breakdown of economic benefits resulting from each Pilot Project as suggested by the Company, such as impacts to businesses, educational institutions, health clinic industry, ecotourism industry, and household income; and (v) copies of all pilot related reports given to the counties being served by the Company and its partnering entities. The annual reports will be publicly available subject to the Hearing Examiner's Protective Rulings issued on October 19, 2020, and November 10, 2020, in this proceeding, and the protections of Rule 170 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 5 VAC 5-20-170, which permits confidential commercial information such as ISP Proprietary Information to be withheld from public disclosure.

#### **Scope of the Annual Report**

This Annual Report contains information for the Rural Broadband pilot projects from both the Company and partnering Internet Service Providers ("ISPs") where applicable. Company data for Paragraph 6(i) and 6(ii) are based on projects in a Closed¹ status as of December 31, 2021. ISP data for Paragraph 6(iii) and 6(iv) are based on customer enrollment data for RURALBAND through February 28, 2022. As of the date of this report the partner ISPs for Botetourt, Surry and the Northern Neck have not provided any reports to the counties.

#### **SUMMARY OF RBB DATA**

### 6(i) and (ii) – Miles of fiber installed, miles of fiber remaining to be installed, and number of poles replaced

This section of the Annual Report provides data on the progress of the Rural Broadband Pilot projects based on work requests in a Closed status as of December 31, 2021. The breakdown of miles installed, miles remaining, and poles replaced by project is shown in Table 1 below. Note, the Company attempts to install fiber optic cable on existing overhead infrastructure. Pole replacements are sometimes necessary when adding fiber to existing power lines in order to maintain proper pole attachment spacing or clearances required by the National Electric Safety Code (NESC).

Table 1 – Miles Installed, Miles Remaining and Poles Replaced by Project Area

Location	Miles Installed			Pole Replacements	
	Installed	Remaining	<u>Total</u>	Count	Reason
Surry	35.5	3.8	39.3	4	Spacing, clearance
Botetourt	2.2	29.1	31.3	1	Spacing, clearance
Northern Neck	2.9	208.9	211.8	1	Spacing, clearance

Miles installed and poles replaced based on work requests in a Closed status as of 12/31/21.

#### 6(iii) - Breakdown of ISP Customers

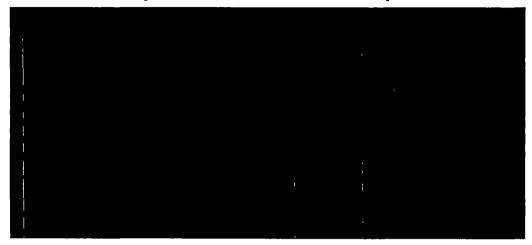
This section of the Annual Report includes enrollment data as provided by RURALBAND for the Surry Project through February 28, 2022. As of the date of this report, there is no enrollment data to report for the Botetourt and Northern Neck pilot projects as both are still in progress and the ISPs have not yet started to enroll customers. Appendix 1 contains letters from BARC Connects and All Points Broadband on the status of each project.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Represents projects with construction complete and that have reached the Accounting Closed status

The summary of current enrollments for the Surry project is shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – ISP Enrollment Detail

#### [BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION]



#### [END CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION]

#### 6(iv) - Summary of the economic benefit

Because the deployment of fiber through the Company's Rural Broadband Program is in its early stages, including the Botetourt and Northern Neck pilot projects still being in progress, the Company is not yet able to report quantifiable economic benefits resulting from the RBB pilot. Additionally, in certain areas the ISPs have not yet started enrolling customers, as stated in Section 6(iii).

It is without dispute that broadband access supports economic development and social equity while simultaneously promoting public health, public safety, employment opportunities, and educational opportunities for citizens of the Commonwealth. The Company will continue to work with Commission Staff on ways to meaningfully report these benefits in future RBB Annual Reports.

#### 6(v) - Copies of pilot related reports

As of the date of this report, the partner ISPs for Botetourt, Surry and the Northern Neck have not provided any reports to the counties.

#### CONCLUSION

Dominion Energy Virginia's Rural Broadband Program is an important investment in the effort to bridge the digital divide across the Commonwealth. Additionally, the investment in infrastructure will provide grid operational benefits since a portion of the fiber assets will also be used for the Company's purposes. As the Rural Broadband Program expands and projects are completed, the Company anticipates continued benefits for local communities and the impacted areas of the Commonwealth that the Company serves.



PO Box 264 Millboro, VA 24460-0264 1 (800) 846-BARC

March 8, 2022

To Whom it May Concern:

BARC Electric Cooperative through its wholly owned broadband subsidiary, BARC Connects, is working in conjunction with Dominion Energy on a fiber-to-the-premise project to serve portions of Botetourt County, Virginia with high-speed internet service that are currently deemed unserved.

As of March 2022, BARC Connects, nor any of its affiliates, are actively providing broadband service to consumers in Botetourt County, Virginia. BARC Connects has agreed to be the last-mile fiber provider for eligible consumers in Botetourt County in partnership with Dominion's middle-mile fiber project. Based upon information by Dominion where portions of their middle-mile project is under construction and / or complete, BARC Connects is in the beginning phases of its construction activity collecting eligible address and fiber network design.

To date, this partnership has allowed BARC and Dominion to collaborate finding solutions to benefit rural Virginians unserved with access to internet. BARC Connects is moving forward with plans to provide broadband internet service in Botetourt County and will continue working with Dominion to meet the needs of those who are currently unserved.

Sincerely,

Chris Botulinski

Chief Operations Officer / Interim CEO

**BARC Electric Cooperative** 



March 29, 2022

#### To Whom It May Concern:

All Points Broadband (All Points) has partnered with Dominion Energy Virginia (Dominion), pursuant to Virginia Code § 56-585.1:9 on fiber-to-the-home projects in King George, Westmoreland, Richmond, and Northumberland counties. These projects have been awarded Virginia Telecommunication Initiative (VATI) grant funding and will connect locations deemed by the Commonwealth of Virginia to be unserved. All Points will serve as the last-mile broadband provider and Dominion will serve as the middle-mile broadband provider, leasing excess fiber-optic broadband capacity to All Points.

Networks in King George, Westmoreland, Richmond, and Northumberland are currently under construction or in advanced stages of the pre-construction phase of deployment. Eligible locations are on track to begin receiving broadband service in the second half of 2022. As Dominion completes work on its middle-mile fiber network, All Points will deploy last-mile fiber to eligible locations.

All Points looks forward to continuing our productive partnership with Dominion that is helping bridge the digital divide once and for all in our partner jurisdictions.

Sincerely,

James G. Carr

Chief Executive Officer

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this 31<sup>st</sup> day of March 2022, a true and accurate copy of the foregoing filed in Case No. PUR-2020-00197 was hand delivered, electronically mailed, and/or mailed first class postage pre-paid to the following:

William H. Harrison, IV, Esq. (Conf) Arlen Bolstad, Esq. (Conf) Andrea B. Macgill, Esq. (Conf) Office of General Counsel State Corporation Commission 1300 E. Main Street, Tyler Bldg., 10<sup>th</sup> Fl. Richmond, VA 23219 C. Meade Browder, Jr., Esq. (Conf) Office of the Attorney General Division of Consumer Counsel 202 N 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Richmond, VA 23219

Louis R. Monacell, Esq. (Conf) Timothy G. McCormick, Esq. (Conf) Peter E. Broadbent, Esq. (Conf) S. Perry Cogburn, Esq. (Public) Christian & Barton, LLP 909 East Main Street, Suite 1200 Richmond, VA 23219 Bobbi Jo Alexis, Esq. (Public) Culpeper County Attorney 306 N. Main Street Culpeper, VA 22701

/s/ Jontille D. Ray