

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION  
AT RICHMOND, OCTOBER 23, 2023

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APPLICATION OF

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

CASE NO. PUR-2023-00049

For approval and certification of electric  
transmission facilities: Line #2011 230 kV  
Partial Rebuild Project

FINAL ORDER

On March 31, 2023, Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Dominion" or "Company") filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") an application ("Application") for approval and certification of electric transmission facilities in the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park and the Counties of Prince William and Fairfax, Virginia. Dominion filed its Application pursuant to § 56-46.1 of the Code of Virginia ("Code") and the Utility Facilities Act, Code § 56-265.1 *et seq.*

Through its Application, the Company proposes to complete the following, which is collectively referred to as the "Project":

- Rebuild approximately 7.25 miles of the existing overhead 230 kilovolt ("kV") Cannon Branch-Clifton Line #2011 from existing Structure #2011/68, which is located one span outside of the Company's existing Cannon Branch Substation and is not being replaced, to the Clifton Substation.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, the Company proposes to replace the existing Line #2011 1590 ACSR (45/7)

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<sup>1</sup> Dominion represents that "Structure #2011/68, which is located one span outside of the Company's existing Cannon Branch Substation, is not being replaced. In a recent case before the Commission, the Company received approval to remove approximately 0.06 mile of the existing 230 kV Line #2011 between the Cannon Branch Substation and Structure #2011/68. *Application of Virginia Electric and Power Company, For approval and certification of electric transmission facilities: Line #2011 Extension from Cannon Branch to Winters Branch*, Case No. PUR-2021-00291, Doc. Con. Cen. No. 220640203, Final Order (June 24, 2022). That project will be in service before the Company anticipates construction to begin on the proposed Partial Rebuild Project. Therefore, while Line #2011 is currently the Cannon Branch-Clifton Line #2011, once the project approved in Case No. PUR-2021-00291 is complete, Line #2011 will run from the Clifton Substation to the Winters Branch Substation and be renamed Clifton-Winters Branch Line #2011. For ease of reference in the Application, the Company is referring to the line segment for this Partial Rebuild Project simply as 'Line #2011.'" Application at 2 n.1.

conductor from Structure #2011/68 to Clifton Substation with three-phase twin-bundled 768.2 ACSS/TW type conductor, designed for a maximum operating temperature of 250 degrees Celsius and a minimum summer transfer capacity of 1,573 megavolt amperes. In order to accommodate the higher capacity of the uprated conductor, the Company additionally proposes to replace the existing single circuit 230 kV monopoles, which are primarily weathering steel monopoles, with single circuit 230 kV weathering steel monopoles capable of supporting the proposed conductor.<sup>2</sup>

- Replace all substation equipment at the Clifton Substation that is associated with Line #2011 and not currently rated for 4000 ampere ("A") to provide a 4000A single breaker rating.
- Uprate the Company's line switches to 4000A at the Prince William Delivery Point ("DP") and Battery Heights DP, both of which are the City of Manassas's DPs tapped from Line #2011.<sup>3</sup>

On April 25, 2023, the Commission issued an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed Dominion to provide notice of its Application; established a procedural schedule, including the opportunity for interested persons to file comments, notices of participation, and requests for hearing; directed the Commission's Staff ("Staff") to investigate the Application and file a report summarizing Staff's investigation; and appointed a Hearing Examiner to conduct all further proceedings in this matter on behalf of the Commission and to file a report.

Staff requested that the Department of Environmental Quality ("DEQ") coordinate an environmental review of the Project by the appropriate agencies and to provide a report on the

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<sup>2</sup> According to the Company, it determined that reconductoring the existing Line #2011 steel poles with the Company's standard 3-phase twin bundled 768.2 ACSS conductor was not an option for this Partial Rebuild Project. Application Appendix at 17. The Application further states that this is because when installing the proposed conductor at a tension that achieved required clearances, the existing poles experienced shaft failures, as they were only designed for single 1590 ACSR. *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Application at 2-3.

review.<sup>4</sup> On June 13, 2023, DEQ filed its report on Dominion's Application ("DEQ Report"), which includes the Wetland Impact Consultation provided by DEQ's Office of Wetlands and Stream Protection.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors filed a Notice of Participation. No public comments or hearing requests on the Application were filed with the Commission.

On August 8, 2023, Staff filed its report, and on August 18, 2023, the Company filed its rebuttal testimony.

On September 21, 2023, the Hearing Examiner issued the Report of M. Renae Carter, Hearing Examiner ("Report"). In the Report, the Hearing Examiner made the following findings:<sup>5</sup>

- (1) The Project is needed so the Company can continue to provide reliable service in the Project area and to comply with North American Electric Reliability Corporation Reliability Standards and the Company's transmission planning criteria.
- (2) Anticipated load reductions from demand-side management will not obviate the need for the Project.
- (3) The Project will support economic development in the Project area.
- (4) The Company has considered the feasibility of locating Project facilities on existing rights-of-way as required by law.
- (5) The Project avoids or reasonably minimizes adverse impact to the greatest extent reasonably practicable on the scenic assets, historic resources recorded with the Department of Historic Resources, and the environment of the area concerned.

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<sup>4</sup> Letter from Michael J. Zielinski, Esquire, State Corporation Commission, dated April 17, 2023, to David L. Davis, Department of Environmental Quality, filed in Case No. PUR-2023-00049; Letter from Michael J. Zielinski, Esquire, State Corporation Commission, dated April 17, 2023, to Bettina Rayfield, Department of Environmental Quality, filed in Case No. PUR-2023-00049.

<sup>5</sup> Report at 27-28.

- (6) The Company should be required to comply with the uncontested recommendations included in the DEQ Report's "Summary of Findings and Recommendations."
- (7) The recommendation that the Company verify the property boundary for Blooms Park is unwarranted, and the Company should coordinate with the City of Manassas Park if the Company requires a temporary construction access easement to conduct work outside the existing rights-of-way.
- (8) The recommendation for a pre-construction inventory for rare plants associated with diabase glades is unnecessary, and the Company should educate its construction personnel regarding the plant species prior to the commencement of construction activities and coordinate with the Department of Conservation and Recreation if the species is found within the Project area.
- (9) The recommendation that the Company further evaluate eight petroleum release sites is unnecessary based on Dominion's representation that such evaluation has already occurred.
- (10) Given the Company's existing Environmental Management System Manual and the Commission's prior rejection of a comparable recommendation, the Commission should reject the DEQ's recommendation for the Company to consider developing an effective Environmental Management System.
- (11) The Company should continue coordinating with Fairfax County to address its Project-related concerns, as the Company has committed to do.
- (12) There are no feasible alternatives to the Project.
- (13) The Project does not represent a hazard to public health or safety.
- (14) The Company has reasonably addressed the impact of the Project on aviation resources.
- (15) The Company reasonably considered the requirements of the Virginia Environmental Justice Act in its Application.

On September 29, 2023, Dominion filed comments on the Report.

NOW THE COMMISSION, upon consideration of this matter, is of the opinion and finds as follows.

### Hearing Examiner's Report

After analyzing the law and weighing the evidence – and providing a thorough and detailed analysis thereof – the Hearing Examiner made the following recommendations:<sup>6</sup>

Accordingly, I RECOMMEND the Commission enter an Order:

- (1) *ADOPTING* the findings in this Report;
- (2) *GRANTING* the Company's Application to construct the Project;
- (3) *ISSUING* a certificate of public convenience and necessity to the Company to construct and operate the Project; and
- (4) *DISMISSING* this case from the Commission's docket of active cases.

Upon consideration of this matter, the Commission concludes that the Hearing Examiner's findings and recommendations are supported by law and evidence, have a rational basis, and are adopted herein. The Commission finds that the public convenience and necessity requires the construction of the Project and that certificates of public convenience and necessity ("CPCNs") authorizing the Project should be issued subject to the recommended findings and conditions contained in the Report.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) The Commission adopts the Hearing Examiner's findings and recommendations.
- (2) The Hearing Examiner's recommendations, set forth herein, are hereby ordered.
- (3) Dominion is authorized to construct and operate the Project as proposed in its Application, subject to the findings and conditions imposed herein.

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<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 28-29.

(4) Pursuant to §§ 56-46.1, 56-265.2, and related provisions of Title 56 of the Code, the Company's request for approval of the necessary CPCNs to construct and operate the Project is granted as provided for herein.

(5) Pursuant to the Utility Facilities Act, § 56-265.1 *et seq.* of the Code, the Commission issues the following CPCNs to Dominion:

Certificate No. ET-DEV-NVA-2023-A, which authorizes Virginia Electric and Power Company under the Utility Facilities Act to operate certificated transmission lines and facilities in the Counties of Arlington and Fairfax and the Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Falls Church, all as shown on the map attached to the certificate, and to construct and operate facilities as authorized in Case No. PUR-2023-00049, cancels Certificate No. ET-ET-DEV-NVA-2021-A, issued to Virginia Electric and Power Company in Case No. PUR-2020-00198 on June 24, 2021.

Certificate No. ET-DEV-PRW-2023-B, which authorizes Virginia Electric and Power Company under the Utility Facilities Act to operate certificated transmission lines and facilities in Prince William County and the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park, all as shown on the map attached to the certificate, and to construct and operate facilities as authorized in Case No. PUR-2023-00049, cancels Certificate No. ET-DEV-PRW-2023-A, issued to Virginia Electric and Power Company in Case No. PUR-2022-00123 on April 24, 2023.

(6) Within thirty (30) days from the date of this Final Order, the Company shall provide to the Commission's Division of Public Utility Regulation an electronic map for each Certificate Number that shows the routing of the transmission line approved herein. Maps shall be submitted to Michael Cizenski, Deputy Director, Division of Public Utility Regulation, [mike.cizenski@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:mike.cizenski@scc.virginia.gov).

(7) Upon receiving the maps directed in Ordering Paragraph (6), the Commission's Division of Public Utility Regulation forthwith shall provide the Company copies of the CPCNs issued in Ordering Paragraph (5) with the maps attached.

(8) The Project approved herein must be constructed and in service by December 31, 2025. No later than ninety (90) days before the in-service date approved herein, for good cause shown, the Company is granted leave to apply, and to provide the basis, for any extension requested.

(9) This matter is dismissed.

Commissioner James C. Dimitri participated in this matter.

A COPY hereof shall be sent electronically by the Clerk of the Commission to all persons on the official Service List in this matter. The Service List is available from the Clerk of the Commission.