

July 6, 2017

For guidance purposes, the Commission Staff ("Staff") has identified the following seven categories of transmission line projects for facilities planned for construction in Virginia that, in Staff's view, require a CPCN authorizing such construction.

Any transmission line project 138 kilovolts or greater that:

- (1) proposes construction of a new line more than 0.5 mile long;
- (2) requires the use of new ROW not supplied voluntarily by the requesting customer(s) for which the project is being undertaken;
- (3) includes the replacement of more than three existing structures; or
- (4) requires the replacement of one or more existing structures with a structure that is more than 20% taller than an existing structure being replaced.

Any transmission line project, regardless of voltage, that:

- (5) requires the construction of structures in (and not simply spanning) a navigable waterway;
- (6) proposes construction of an underground line; or
- (7) replaces facilities located within a utility's service territory for a transmission line that received a CPCN after April 8, 1972, and meets the characteristics identified in (2), (3), or (4) above.

Note 1: Any transmission project that requires only re-conductoring, maintenance, or station work or that does not otherwise meet the characteristics identified above does not require a CPCN except as noted below.

Note 2: A transmission line project at exactly 138 kilovolts identified above as needing a CPCN can either (a) obtain a CPCN from the Commission or (b) obtain, if for a new line not previously certificated by the Commission, local approval pursuant to the Code.

Note 3: Transmission line projects that do not meet the parameters identified above, but that have significant costs or significant impacts on scenic assets, historic districts, or the environment, may nonetheless require a CPCN. In such situations, as well as other situations in which clarification or input is deemed necessary, the utility may contact the Staff for consultation.

Note 4: Transmission line relocation projects that meet the parameters identified above, but that are necessary to accommodate a relocation request by the Virginia Department of Transportation or a similarly situated governmental entity may not require a CPCN depending on the scope of the project. In such situations, the utility may contact the Staff for consultation.