

7 FACTS About Dominion's Northern Virginia Transmission Line.

Fact 1: The need for additional electricity supplies for Northern Virginia is undeniable.

Just as the region's rapid and continuing growth has clogged its highways, the electric transmission system serving the area is facing the same problems. The number of households in the region is projected to have grown by 27% between 2000 and 2010. As a result, demand for electricity in Northern Virginia has grown by a staggering 40% over the last 10 years. In fact, PJM Interconnection, which operates the electric transmission grid to which Dominion belongs, says that growth in peak demand in Dominion's territory over the next five years will be like adding more than 1 million houses to the system.

Fact 2: Dominion is working hard to find a route that minimizes the impact of a new line.

Virginia is blessed with many scenic vistas and historical sites – so many that it is practically impossible to build any significant project without being within view of some of them. The initial routes identified by Dominion purposely bypass many scenic and historic sites and avoid all pre-existing conservation easements. The company also is studying three other potential routes: running to the south on existing rights of way, along I-66, and burying the line underground.

Fact 3: Energy conservation is important, but it can't replace the need for a new transmission line.

Dominion has examined all viable alternatives. Even the best energy conservation programs in place in the United States would not come close to reducing demand enough to fill the gap.

Fact 4: The proposed transmission line is being built to ensure a reliable source of electric power for Northern Virginia.

Dominion's purpose in building the new line is to bring power to Northern Virginia, not export it. On days of peak demand, Northern Virginia produces less than half of the electricity it needs. By building the line, there will be better access to Dominion's own generating capacity – including a new wind turbine complex now under development – as well as other sources of energy.

“In just five years, peak demand in the Dominion territory is forecast to grow by 1,756 megawatts. That's like adding more than a million houses to the system.”

– PJM Interconnection

Fact 5: The new transmission line will improve access to low-cost power.

Dominion's ability to operate efficiently and secure low-cost electricity from others is one of the key reasons Virginia's power prices are among the lowest in the nation. That, in turn, has made Virginia one of the nation's best places to live and work.

Fact 6: Adding enough new generation capacity in Northern Virginia is not feasible.

Dominion is working on plans for new generating facilities in the state, but adding enough generation in Northern Virginia to eliminate the need for the new transmission line is not financially or operationally practical.

Fact 7: Without a new transmission line, the prospect of rolling blackouts by 2011 is very real.

The accompanying disruption to homes, schools, businesses and government facilities will be devastating. Building this new transmission line will prevent such a catastrophe. And the delivery of reliable electric power every day – Dominion's obligation to Virginia – will be secured.



Dominion

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