



To our neighbors in the Northern Neck:

Every water crossing and open pasture has unique qualities. Dominion keeps this in mind when building facilities that ensure our customers have the electricity they need when they want it. We do our best to balance environmental impact, reliability, safety and cost—as we are doing when rebuilding an important electric transmission line crossing the Rappahannock River alongside the Norris Bridge.

This transmission line was built more than 50 years ago and is nearing the end of its expected lifespan. It's time to modernize and rebuild the line to today's standards. Our planners and engineers worked with key environmental authorities and other stakeholders to develop options for the replacement line and its supporting structures.

The current line crosses the river using a combination of 14 connections to the bridge and seven H-frame structures in the water. In rebuilding the line, we considered three alternatives:

1. keeping the line attached to the bridge;
2. placing the section of the line that crosses the river underground, and
3. rebuilding the entire line overhead.

Technical and regulatory requirements and safety concerns ruled out options to reattach any part of the line to the bridge. Burying the lines under the river bed would require complex and disruptive construction that could damage oyster beds and other river habitats that are important to the local economy. We estimate the underground construction work would cost three to five times more than the approximate \$30 million to keep the line above ground.

The only option that meets all the requirements is to place the line over the river and separate from the bridge. It requires increasing the structure height to comply with current federal electrical and Coast Guard navigation clearances. It also results in the least impact to the environment, keeping costs low for our ratepayers and ensuring safety for work crews. And it ensures our customers can count on reliable service for years to come.

In formulating our final and approved plan, we worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Virginia Marine Resource Commission, VDOT and federal navigation authorities and successfully gained the approval of all parties, including the Virginia Legislature, which signed off on this project earlier this year.

We believe that this is the best option for our customers and our ratepayers. It will provide the safest, most cost-effective, and most efficient solution for long-term electric reliability in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott C. Miller".

Scott Miller
Vice President of Electric Transmission

To learn more visit dom.com/NorrisBridge