The Transmission Line Approval Process

Virginia’s State Corporation Commission (SCC) has regulatory authority over all electric utilities and requires that all transmission facilities at or above 138 kV be certified by the SCC. The SCC determines the need for a proposed line and the route. Among other elements considered, the SCC must determine that the selected route reasonably minimizes the impact on scenic assets, historic districts, and the environment.

**Dominion Project Initiation**

**Development of Route Study Area**

**Begin Environmental Agency Review**

**Community Outreach**
- Local/County officials
- Mail: property owner notification
- Newspaper: advertisements
- Website: project details available
- Local Open House informational meetings

**Refine Routes/Study Area; Finalize Impact Analysis**

**Submit Application to SCC**

**Application to SCC**
- Application available for review on the SCC website
  www.scc.virginia.gov

**Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Review & Report**
- DEQ coordinates multiple agency review*

**SCC Issues Order**
- SCC Review Schedule is set

**Public Notice**
- Dominion is responsible for notifying local government officials, affected landowners and the public about the project

**Discovery Begins**
- Environmental review begins
- SCC Staff begins review
- SCC may have outside consultants review the case

**Public Comments**
- Comments can be submitted to the SCC electronically or in writing, www.scc.virginia.gov
- Respondents may participate in the case by filing a notice of participation with the Commission Clerk

**Respondent Testimony**
- Case participants may submit testimony responding to Dominion’s application

**SCC Staff Report Issued**

**Dominion Response**
- Dominion may submit rebuttal testimony responding to Staff Report, DEQ Report and Respondent testimony

**Public Hearing**
- The SCC may conduct public hearings in different areas that may be affected by the project

**Formal Evidentiary Hearing**
- The SCC may conduct a formal evidentiary hearing in Richmond
- Testimony is submitted and subject to cross examination by Dominion, participants, and SCC Staff
- A Hearing Examiner usually acts as judge for these proceedings

**Hearing Examiner Report**
- After hearing the case at formal evidentiary hearing and reviewing all testimony, the Hearing Examiner issues recommendations to the Commission

**Comments**
- Dominion, participants, and SCC Staff may respond to the Hearing Examiner’s Report

**SCC Issues Final Order**
- If approved, the Commission will issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing Dominion to construct the needed facilities

*DEQ coordinated agency review includes: Virginia Marine Resources Commission, Department of Conservation & Recreation, Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, Department of Historic Resources and others.

**Average SCC Process:** One year to 2+ years

This is a conceptual diagram to illustrate the certification process and is not intended to be a legal description.