

# **WARRENTON WHEELER GAINESVILLE 230 kV RELIABILITY PROJECT**

## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP**

### ***DRAFT - MEETING SUMMARY***

**June 6, 2013**

On Thursday, June 6, 2013, the third meeting of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) for the Warrenton Wheeler Gainesville 230 kV Reliability Project (Project) was held. The CAG is co-sponsored by Dominion Virginia Power (Dominion) and Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC) and facilitated by Natural Resource Group, LLC (NRG), an environmental and public affairs consulting firm focused solely on the energy industry. The meeting was held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Beacon Hall, George Mason University, Manassas campus.

#### **Participants**

The following organizations were represented at the third meeting:

- Buckland Preservation Society
- Citizens for Fauquier County
- City of Manassas
- Fauquier Chamber of Commerce
- Fauquier County Economic Development
- Fauquier County Planning Division
- Prince William Chamber of Commerce
- Prince William County Economic Development
- Prince William County Long Range Planning
- Prince William-Fairfax Farm Bureau/Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District
- Southern Fauquier Historical Society, Inc.
- Town of Warrenton

The following organizations were invited but unable to attend the meeting:

- Fauquier County Public Schools
- Fauquier Health
- Prince William County Public Schools

## **Project Team**

### Dominion:

- Chris Behrens, Project Manager
- Liz Harper, Siting and Permitting Specialist
- Carla Picard, Electric Transmission Project Communications Manager
- Deborah Johnson, Manager, Regional State and Local Affairs (Prince William County)
- Tim Sargeant, Manager External Affairs (Fauquier County)
- Le-Ha Anderson, Media Relations Manager

### NOVEC:

- Bob Bisson, Vice President, Electric System Development
- Dave McElhiney, System Engineering and Planning Manager
- Angela Thomas, Manager, Administrative Services
- Mike Curtis, Vice President, Public Relations
- Priscilla Knight, Communications Specialist
- Howard Spinner, Manager, Regulatory Affairs

### NRG:

- Patty Rusten, Facilitator
- Doug Lake, Routing Specialist
- Jon Berkin, Co-facilitator and Permitting

### Cultural Resources Inc.:

- Ellen Brady, Cultural Resources Specialist

## **CAG Meeting Agenda**

The following agenda was used at the second meeting and represents the topics of input and discussion:

Welcome, introductions, agenda and process review  
Outreach update  
Small group map, constraint and opportunity exercise  
Large group discussion and summary  
Next steps and evaluation

*Post meeting availability until 1:30 p.m.*

## **Welcome**

Patty Rusten, facilitator, opened the meeting and Carla Picard introduced State Delegate Scott Lingamfelter. Del. Lingamfelter requested a few minutes to address the CAG about the process and the importance of the work conducted by the members. He applauded Dominion for its efforts in organizing and sponsoring the process, thereby bringing people together to start at the ground level to work to develop options. He described the process as a model that other companies could consider using. He encouraged everyone to listen, provide input and to maintain a positive attitude throughout the meetings. Finally, he stated he would check in with the CAG at a future date.

The meeting officially began by having all CAG member introduce themselves. The facilitator then reviewed the agenda, explained the handouts and information packets provided for each member and reviewed the CAG process making the following points:

- As a result of a great deal of work (reviewing maps, providing local constraint information, participating in meetings, etc.) conducted by the CAG members at and between meetings, it is clear the process is working.
- The purpose of the CAG is to provide community input and perspectives regarding opportunities, constraints as well as local issues and concerns to aid Dominion in developing feasible route options to include in an application for the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC). While the SCC will determine the need for the project and ultimately the final route, the CAG has the unique opportunity to influence the outcome.
- Participation on the CAG is about providing input – - the group is not working towards consensus, not conducting a formal review process nor expected to endorse a specific outcome – and working constructively and collaboratively. Every voice on the CAG needs to be heard.
- We are still in the early stages of the planning process and Dominion and NOVEC are continuing their evaluation throughout the CAG process.

## **Outreach Update**

Carla Picard provided an update on outreach activities that have occurred since the last CAG meeting. Dominion and NOVEC convened an Ad Hoc Information Session on May 16, 2013 for interested members of the CAG to further discuss some of the parking lot items reviewed during the second CAG meeting. Dominion also took the opportunity to review and receive input on draft maps that had previously been sent to all CAG members. A summary of that meeting and the presentation materials were included in the information packet. The information packet also included written answers to the parking lot questions received at the second CAG meeting. All materials were posted on the project website.

Bob Bisson, NOVEC, noted that a small group of CAG members met with members of the NOVEC board of directors and Bob to talk further about the need for the project from the NOVEC perspective. Bob and Carla noted that they are available to make presentations to the CAG member organizations. As an example, Carla recently made a presentation to the City of Manassas at the request of a CAG member.

### **Small Group Map, Constraint and Opportunity Exercise**

The facilitator first explained the seating arrangement for the exercise. The CAG members were assigned seats at one of three tables and the assignments were made to ensure a variety of interests were included at each table to provide for a balanced discussion and review of the maps. Each table was hosted by a project team member: Chris Behrens, Project Manager; Liz Harper, Siting and Permitting Specialist; and Jon Berkin, Permitting Specialist. Other specialists available as resources included Doug Lake, Routing Specialist; and Ellen Brady, a cultural resource consultant from Cultural Resources, Inc.

Each CAG member received a map book that was divided in two sections: Option A and Option B. The maps (previously sent to CAG members for review and listed below) presented different categories of constraints and opportunities for each of the two project options. As requested by members at the previous meeting, the review would begin with Option B. The groups were instructed to review each map, record changes or additions to be made and be prepared to report that information to the large group at the end of the small group session.

Prior to beginning the small group session, Liz Harper provided some key points that could be helpful to the CAG members during the review process:

- The study area for Option A was developed to help Dominion, NOVEC and the CAG focus attention on a possible area that a transmission line could be routed. It was not meant to imply that a transmission line could go anywhere within the boundaries, just provide an area of focus.
- There are locations within the study area, such as easements held by local governments, the State of Virginia or the federal government, that Dominion may not be able to cross. Dominion does not have the right of eminent domain over these governments and would need permission to cross those areas. Dominion views these locations as siting constraints. The options available within the study area are restricted and that affects the review of the maps for Option A.

The following is a summary of some of the issues/questions raised during the small group discussions:

- Is there a location along the Wheeler to Gainesville route outside the existing corridor that could be used for the temporary line?
  - Dominion will review the area to see if this is a possibility.
- Will Dominion ensure archaeological sites (specifically sites related to the Cedar Run area) are included in the analysis? Thunderbird Archaeology did some work on this issue in the 1990s.
  - The DHR data was accessed online and the CAG member was able to confirm that the sites were mapped and that the reports were on file at the DHR.
- The “yellow dots” on the maps indicate architectural resources. How will they be included?
  - Those resources are noted as recorded but unevaluated and the routing team will continue to track and consider them throughout the process to determine if they are still present or have been determined eligible for listing.
- Is modern architecture included in the analysis? There are a few new homes in the area that could be considered architecturally significant.
  - The guidance from the Department of Historic Resources does not include protections for modern architecture.
- When and how will the Section 106 process be employed?

- A formal Section 106 review is triggered only by Federal involvement (agency, land or money) and such a review will likely be conducted for this project because a permit will be required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The DHR has a similar process that is used for SCC projects.
- Are all types of easements shown on the maps?
  - Yes, but it can be difficult to differentiate among them because some areas are protected by more than one type of easement and there is overlap from the different shading used for the various easements on the maps. Interested CAG members could view the various easements (layers) on the computer. Dominion suggested using different types of cross hatching to represent the overlapping easements more clearly.
- What information is available about land ownership of various parcels that could be impacted by the two options?
  - Ownership information was available on the computer and answers were provided to the CAG members to address specific questions.
- All groups were interested in viewing the various existing natural gas pipeline routes located in or near the two options.
  - The existing natural gas pipeline routes were reviewed on the maps and displayed on screen for discussion.
- Where is the project in terms of the overall project schedule?
  - The project is still in the pre-planning stage and the CAG has the opportunity to provide input and influence the outcome.
- What local resource is available to determine endangered species that could be affected by the project?
  - The Department of Conservation and Recreation will be consulted about the project, including the use and review of its site-specific protected species and habitat database.

- The existing Wheeler to Gainesville line in the Option B area crosses the Manassas Reservoir and one of the structures is located very close to the dam. Because of federal requirements, the foundation for the transmission structure was recently reinforced and made part of the dam to withstand current storm standards. This structure should be left in place in the event work needs to be done on the existing NOVEC line.

## Large Group Discussion and Summary

Each group provided a report on the changes, issues or additions that were documented during the review and analysis of the maps. The following is a consolidated list of the results. The status of each item will be prepared and presented to the CAG at the next meeting.

### OPTION B - Overview

Map (Number/Name)	
<b>A1:</b> Land ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public-owned land to be differentiated</li> <li>• Federal, state and local easements – make sure all are shown to differentiate overlapping easements</li> <li>• Public reservoir, dam and water treatment facility in Prince William County</li> <li>• Existing poles are located in Lake Manassas and Dominion should consider relocating if the project affects this area.</li> <li>• Lake Manassas (CAG member to provide lake boundary) (city-owned)</li> <li>• Check with FAA regarding potential interference from transmission lines</li> </ul>
<b>A2:</b> Local landmarks and recreational areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add Piney Branch Elementary School on Linton Hall Road</li> <li>• Missing Rte. 2 at Auburn</li> <li>• Missing African American cemetery (on south side of Rte. 619)</li> <li>• Show other public and private schools in the area</li> </ul>
<b>A3:</b> Zoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New subdivisions</li> <li>• Review color choices on map legends (keep colors consistent and able to differentiate on lower quality printer)</li> <li>• Housing density</li> <li>• Add inset of rural/agricultural area in Fauquier County and add to legend</li> </ul>
<b>A4:</b> Conservation lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show non-common open space easements (add and differentiate from Ag/Forestal areas)</li> <li>• Add Lake Manassas buffer</li> <li>• There is a conservation easement (open space easement) near the Warrenton Air Park that may need to be mitigated if impacted</li> </ul>
<b>B1:</b> Environmental features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verify threatened and endangered species and sensitive areas</li> <li>• Show agricultural and forested areas</li> <li>• Large forested areas should be shown on the maps (PWC information)</li> <li>• Check if there is a wetland mitigation bank near Warrenton Air Park</li> <li>• Ensure endangered plants/trees within right-of-way are included in analysis</li> <li>• Check with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation for list of endangered species</li> </ul>

<b>C1:</b> Energy and transportation corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some county-designated scenic byways may be missing on the maps - show all – county, state and federal</li> <li>• Differentiate between rail and trail along Meetze Road near/in Warrenton</li> <li>• Remove structures from Lake Manassas</li> <li>• Show Auburn Road</li> <li>• Identify Rollins Ford Road in Prince William County</li> <li>• Show Opal Bypass</li> </ul>
<b>D1:</b> Landowner parcels and addressed structure locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map legend should identify “subdivisions” instead of “home owners associations”</li> <li>• There may be ways to minimize impact to Linton Hall residences –is it possible to install temporary lines differently?</li> <li>• Show high density population area (in inset)</li> <li>• Consider Vint Hill routing option</li> </ul>
<b>E1:</b> Architectural resources and battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and note potential impacts to Living Tree Legacy Program/Journey Through Hallowed Ground tree-planting program (plantings within 50-feet of road; one tree = one civil war soldier)</li> <li>• Portray Journey Through Hallowed Ground areas</li> <li>• Note: Archaeological sites are not able to be shown on public maps</li> </ul>

### OPTION A – Study Area

<b>A1:</b> Land ownership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and show various (public/private) ownership at Vint Hill</li> <li>• Add road numbers and names to all maps</li> <li>• Federal, state and local easements – make sure all are shown</li> </ul>
<b>A2:</b> Local landmarks and recreational areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vint Hill recreation center</li> <li>• Central Sports Complex (Meetze and Auburn Road)</li> <li>• Trails in Fauquier County</li> <li>• Add churches in (Rte. 29 - Battlefield Baptist, Grays Mill - Covenant Reformed Baptist, Auburn # 605 – Primitive Baptist, two historic churches in Buckland)</li> <li>• One school in Prince William County missing on map</li> <li>• Add private schools</li> <li>• Add C. Hunter Ritchie Elementary School</li> <li>• Check with the FAA about the government-owned facility within the old Vint Hill complex</li> </ul>
<b>A3:</b> Zoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check zoning in Vint Hill area</li> <li>• Review against maps in Fauquier County comprehensive plan</li> <li>• Check county future plans, annexations, rezoning</li> <li>• Consider presenting planned development on a separate map</li> </ul>
<b>A4:</b> Conservation areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check county easements in Buckland area</li> <li>• Differentiate between all types of easements</li> </ul>
<b>B1:</b> Environmental features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show/identify large tracts of undeveloped forested areas in study area</li> <li>• Check with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation for list of endangered species</li> </ul>
<b>C1:</b> Energy and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Differentiate between rail and trail along Meetze Road in/near Warrenton</li> </ul>

transportation corridors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show additional pipeline easements (Transco)</li> <li>• Identify Rogues Road on all maps</li> <li>• Research plans for cultural, historical, agricultural and tourism along Route 15 (Route 15 is the economic engine for tourism)</li> <li>• Show new Vint Hill Parkway along Option A and updated tertiary road layer</li> </ul>
<b>D1:</b> Landowner parcels and addressed structure locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map legend should note “subdivision” rather than “home owners association”</li> <li>• Make sure maps reflect the most recent zoning information in Fauquier County</li> </ul>
<b>E1:</b> Architectural areas and battlefields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vint Hill Farm and Station eligible for national historic register</li> <li>• Federal / state / local ownership</li> <li>• Route 602 seems to be the only area that wouldn’t impact the more densely populated areas</li> <li>• Federal / state/ local ownership along Casanova Road</li> </ul>

The facilitator gave each CAG member a worksheet titled “Routing Constraint Prioritization” and asked members to complete individually the preliminary ranking section by writing in their top four constraints. The constraint prioritization ranking used “1” as the most sensitive. After the meeting, the facilitator compiled the completed forms and the preliminary results are displayed in the chart below.

Each member is to share their preliminary ranking with their respective organizations. The ranking could be changed following that consultation.

Constraint	Red - 1 (most sensitive)	Yellow - 2	Green - 3	Blue - 4
County-owned lands				
Recreational areas				
Planning / existing residential developments		3	1	
Proximity to residences	3		3	
Conservation easements		1	1	2
Economics			1	
Streams Water bodies Wetlands Resource Protection Areas (RPAs)	1	2	1	1
Protected species habitat		1		1
Visually sensitive	1	2	1	1

landscapes				
Scenic byways				
Schools			1	
Agriculture				
Historic resources (battlefields, VDHR easements, architectural sites)	5	1	1	1
Churches				
Cemeteries		1		1
Forested areas			1	1

## Summary

- The facilitator asked for comment from the members of the public who were attending and observing the meeting.
  - Please include all highway and road names/numbers on all maps.
  - The room set up for the large group discussion made it harder to hear from people facing away from the observers
- The CAG members were asked to provide verbal feedback about the meeting and in general, members had positive comments about their participation in the small and large group discussion.
- The facilitator asked Dominion and NOVEC for feedback about their participation and information they learned/received from the CAG members during the discussions. Chris Behrens noted that Dominion appreciated the input and dedication shown by the CAG members during the process. He stated that Dominion and NOVEC continue to evaluate options throughout this process and he highlighted one option that has re-surfaced during that review, specifically through continued cost analysis. The cost of the Wheeler to Vint Hill scenario (Alternative #4 presented at the first CAG meeting) now appears to be more competitive with the cost of Option B, due to the difficulties in constructing Option B from Wheeler to Gainesville. At this point, the feasibility of that option is unknown. What is known is that the option would involve about five or six miles of new right-of-way and would require acquisition of additional land near Vint Hill Road to construct a switching station. Dominion and NOVEC will continue to study and analyze the Vint Hill option as well as all of the other possible options and will have more information ready for the next CAG meeting.

## “Parking Lot” Items

<b>Parking Lot Item</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Discuss the real estate acquisition and construction costs for route options.	Dominion and NOVEC
What are the decision points in determining which options should be included or not included?	Dominion and NOVEC
Analyze the possibility of building temporary line within the existing easement (thereby negating the need to obtain an additional 20 feet of new right-of-way).	Dominion and NOVEC
Please provide aerial photo maps of Option A (study area) and the Wheeler to Vint Hill option (if deemed a feasible option) to the next CAG meeting.	Dominion, NOVEC, NRG
What is the timing to acquire a conservation easement for a property?	TBD

### **Meeting Evaluation**

At the conclusion of the CAG meeting, participants were asked to complete a meeting evaluation form in which they were asked the following questions: (Responses in italics)

- **What do you feel worked well for this meeting?**
  - *Small working groups provided for better input.*
  - *Pre-divided/assigned work groups by interest groups facilitated by team leaders.*
  - *The small group meetings.*
  - *The review of the map books.*
  - *Facilitators, small groups, food.*
- **What would you do differently?**
  - *Nothing really. It went very well.*
  - *Separate the know 'detail' gurus for brevity of reports/comments*
  - *A second break right after lunch.*
- **Do you have suggestions on discussion items for the next meeting?**

- *Agree with Wheeler-Vint Hill option for possible discussion.*
- *Stick to the facilitated format and existing leaders.*
- *Detailed study report on the Vint Hill to Wheeler option to either make it clear regarding costs or options. Cost factor: Option A vs. modified Option B (Vint Hill).*
- *Costs to implement Option A & B.*
- *Define an architectural resource better.*
- *[Define] the “What’s in and out” policy.*
- *Start showing route options.*

### **Next Steps**

- The meeting summary will be drafted and sent to CAG members for review.
- Dominion will determine if there is a need to develop a study area for the Vint Hill option and to create a set of constraint maps. If so, this information will be sent to the CAG members for review and comment prior to the next meeting.
- The list of constraints will be updated and sent to CAG members.
- The facilitator will document the ranking results and return the prioritization worksheets to CAG members for further review and refinement with additional input from their respective organizations.
- Dominion and NOVEC will prepare preliminary route options for review by the CAG at the next meeting. Aerial maps will be created AFTER preliminary routes have been identified.
- Dominion and NOVEC will continue their evaluation of the Vint Hill option and others and present the findings at the next meeting.
- The next meeting will be held in mid- to late-July. A Doodle Poll will be used to schedule the next meeting.
- An email confirming the date, time and location of the fourth meeting will be sent to CAG members and citizens who are on the “observe and attend” list.