

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

## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP**

### **MEETING SUMMARY**

**November 20, 2013**

On Wednesday, November 20, 2013, the sixth and final 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 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Stoneridge Event Center in Warrenton.

#### **Participants**

The following organizations were represented at the meeting:

- Buckland Preservation Society
- Citizens for Fauquier County
- City of Manassas
- Fauquier Chamber of Commerce
- Prince William Chamber of Commerce
- Prince William County Planning
- Southern Fauquier Historical Society, Inc.
- Town of Warrenton

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

- Fauquier County Economic Development
- Fauquier County Planning Division
- Fauquier County Public Schools
- Prince William County Economic Development
- Prince William-Fairfax County Farm Bureau and Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District
- Prince William County Public Schools

## **Project Team**

### Dominion:

- Chris Behrens, Project Manager
- Liz Harper, Siting and Permitting Specialist
- Diana Faison, 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)
- Chuck Penn, Media Relations Manager

### NOVEC:

- Angela Thomas, Manager, Administrative Services

### NRG:

- Patty Rusten, Facilitator
- Bill Johnsen, Permitting and Routing

## **CAG Meeting Agenda**

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

Welcome, introductions and review agenda

Route Review

What's New?

Visual simulations

A word from the Sponsors

Discussion and evaluation

Public Comment

Adjourn

## **Welcome**

Patty Rusten, facilitator, opened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. noting that this was the final meeting of the Community Advisory Group. The objectives of the meeting were to preview the changes made to the draft route segments and the new visual simulations prior to the two open houses that will be held over the next two days; discuss next steps and to hear from Kevin Curtis, the Director of Electric Transmission

Planning from Dominion. Kevin attended the first CAG meeting and wanted to be here today to express his appreciation to the CAG members for their dedication and participation in the process.

The facilitator also discussed an evaluation process that would help determine if the CAG met the functions of the purpose statement and provide constructive feedback for Dominion regarding the use of this community input process for future projects.

- 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

### **Route Review (*See maps posted on the project website*)**

#### **Option A: Option A-3 “Variation”**

- Because the routing team anticipates that the SCC will want to see an alternative connecting the Warrenton and Wheeler substations, this variation was developed and basically optimizes the best of the original A-2 and A-3 routes. The result is a route/option called the A-3 Variation. Minor adjustments were made to this route since the last CAG meeting. Also the Dominion routing team has had discussions with representatives at Fauquier County about the various easements the variation crosses and if there is flexibility for the different types of easements. This route option was presented for feedback noting that it will not be a recommended alternative in the SCC application.
- Originally, a total of four overhead options were developed for Option A and none were recommended because a portion of each crossed multiple public or protected lands. An underground alternative, running mostly parallel to an existing natural gas pipeline, was also identified. But at roughly twice the cost of an overhead option, Dominion can still not recommend the route to the SCC at this time.

#### **Discussion Items**

- Dominion and Fauquier County have recently met and talked about the various easements that are crossed by Option A-3 and Option B to determine if the county has flexibility for how or if the easements are crossed. How will the county proceed with a

decision? First, Fauquier County has requested additional information about each potential crossing from Option A and Option B from Dominion. Dominion will provide copies of the original easements for each parcel crossed by the existing Remington-Warrenton line (Option B). Then the county will need to determine who was there first in cases where the existing right-of-way is now within an easement. That answer will determine the need for further analysis. The underground route for Option A would probably not be in conflict with the conservation easements.

- Will the taxpayer need to pay the bill if the County wants the underground option? There was a law passed in 2010 that has not been used or tested yet so the answer is not known. However, with viable overhead options at roughly half the cost, it is very unlikely the SCC would approve an underground route.
- When will the county respond to the inquiry from Dominion? There is no requirement or deadline for their response. Dominion has requested to receive the county's response in written form prior to the SCC application submittal, which is scheduled for February 2014.
- When would construction take place? Construction could begin in 2015 or 2016.

### **Option B**

- Rebuilding the existing lines will be tricky in several places where communities have been developed adjacent to the existing right-of-way. Two new planned developments were identified between Remington and Warrenton and incorporated in the route planning process and added to the list of constraints. Additional temporary space will be needed to install temporary lines to enable dismantling the existing line and building the new, double-circuit line in its place. There is one section of the route between Remington and Warrenton that is close to a private airstrip. Dominion has been in contact with the owner and is looking at various options including using lower-height H-structures. This option remains unchanged from previous discussions and presentations.

## Options C-1 and C-2

- **Option C-1, Broad Run Trail Variation and Lonesome Road Variation:** The Broad Run Trail Variation was developed as a result of feedback from a prior CAG meeting in which important information was provided about the trail and potential impact to the original variation. To make this change, Dominion would have to put the route on either City of Manassas water treatment facility property and/or Prince William County park property. Dominion has met with both the City and the County on October 23 and November 4 respectively. The three parties will continue to meet to help determine a solution that best meets the needs of the community and the project. At this time, the route between the two properties has not been finalized.

The Lonesome Road Variation has been incorporated into the C-1 route.

- **Option C-2, Kettle Run Variation and Rogues Road Variation:** The routing team continues to evaluate the Kettle Run Variation and the Rogues Road Variation has been incorporated into the route.

### **Discussion Items**

- Since the last CAG meeting, Dominion's Planning group has indicated that they continue to get inquiries from large electrical load users. In light of these continuing requests, they have determined that it would minimize future impacts to plan double circuit construction for this line now, though only one electrical circuit would be installed for this project. This structure would be a taller single pole (approximately 110 feet) and have three arms installed on one side of the structure.
- Will the right-of-way width need to change to accommodate the double-circuit structures? No, the right-of-way width for C-1 or C-2 would remain 100' -- the same as it would have been for the single-circuit structures.
- How will we know when Dominion plans to change the single-circuit structures to double-circuit structures (add "arms" to the poles)? To add a new 230 kV line – even on existing structures – Dominion would have to obtain approval through the SCC process.
- Both C options are presented on the maps as equal standing, is there a recommendation or a preference at this time? No. Until Dominion receives information and confirmation

from Prince William County and the City of Manassas, the options remain equal. If a route can be designed and agreed upon by the County and City, then C-1 has advantages because it has fewer impacts and a lower total cost.

- What are the cost estimates for Option C-1 and C-2? The exact numbers are not available but Option C-1 is shorter and requires less new right-of-way and therefore will be less expensive.

### **What's New?**

- **Option C:** Since the last CAG meeting, the Dominion planning group has determined that planning today for double-circuit construction of this line would minimize future impacts. Only one of the two electrical circuits would be installed for this project. The structures would be a taller single pole (approximately 110 feet) and have three arms installed on one side of the structure. Having this future capability improves the long term benefits of this option, making it more robust than the original A option.
- **Option C-1, Pioneer Drive Variation:** Following the last CAG meeting, one member requested that Dominion look at a variation for C-1 that would run on the north side of Vint Hill Road. This variation was named the Pioneer Drive Variation and would move the route outside the Rural Crescent. The routing team reviewed possibilities and consulted with Prince William County which provided important information about planned developments (re-zoning is already in process) within the area of the potential variation. It was determined that implementing this variation created more impacts than the original route so it will be included in the routing study but not as a recommended route in the application.
- The team also noted that they are responding to inquiries and requests for minor route variations and all routing constraint and impact analysis will be used to determine the outcome of the requests.

## **Visual Simulations**

Carla Picard, Dominion, explained the process for determining viewpoints for the visual simulations. The purpose of creating the simulations is to provide stakeholders and property owners an opportunity to see before-and-after photos of the proposed structures/lines in real settings along the proposed route segments. The CAG previewed the visual simulations which included images at the Oakdale Baptist Church (Option A and C), Bridlewood (Option B, Wheeler to Gainesville), Rollins Ford (Option C1) and Morris Farm (Option C1). The simulations are posted on the project website.

## **A Word from the CAG Sponsors**

Chris Behrens, Project Manager, opened this portion of the meeting by expressing his thanks to the CAG members for their participation and input. For example, because of the CAG members' diligence and assistance in helping define constraints, Dominion and the routing team could completely eliminate some routes for Option A and then went on to develop the A-3 Variation. The CAG members also encouraged Dominion to re-examine previous options that were identified and set aside for various reasons. The routing team included one previous option in their analysis that was the baseline for Option C. CAG members also provided valuable input on the draft route segments. Chris stated that he was impressed by the depth of the work conducted by the CAG and that it provided valuable insight to the routing team.

Kevin Curtis, Director of Transmission Planning for Dominion, also expressed his appreciation for the work conducted by the CAG. Kevin stated that Dominion does not always use advisory groups, such as this one, for projects as they are considered a new approach to early public engagement. The approach seems to have worked quite well for this project because the quality and depth of the feedback from the CAG will help Dominion develop a more complete SCC application that reflects significant input from the community. The process can be messy. The process requires transparency from Dominion and NOVEC and the members are part of the planning process. The planning process is iterative -- continually changing when new information is received -- and the CAG gets a flavor for the flexibility that is inherent in the

planning process. Kevin thanked the group for going through the process and wanted the members to know that Dominion management and the project team truly appreciate the time and effort spent by everyone. This is the final meeting of the CAG and we hope you will take a bit more of your time to provide the company with feedback about the process, information exchanged, maps and materials, etc. This feedback can help Dominion refine the way community engagement and advisory groups are conducted in the future.

### **Discussion and Evaluation**

- Dominion is planning to file the application with the SCC in February 2014. The detailed routing report will be a part of the appendix and will include all of the routes that have been considered. Only the preferred and alternate(s) routes will be included in the application for further review. The names of the routes used in the application will be the same as presented to the CAG so that everyone can track the history of the routes that were studied.
- The Community Advisory Group process will be summarized for the application.
- Dominion and NOVEC team members will continue to be available to meet with communities, organizations and others. If interested in a meeting or presentation about the project and the CAG process, please contact Carla Picard at Dominion.
- The project website will continue to be updated: [www.dom.com](http://www.dom.com), search WWG
- Two additional open house events have been publicized over the last few weeks. The first event is scheduled for Wednesday, Nov. 20, at the Auburn Middle School in Warrenton and the second event is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 21, at Beacon Hall, George Mason University Campus in Manassas. Both events run from 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Dominion and NOVEC team members will be in attendance.
- The CAG members typically completed a meeting evaluation form at the conclusion of each meeting. The members will not need to complete an evaluation for the final meeting but were provided copies of an in-depth questionnaire that evaluates the entire process. The facilitator will provide each member with an electronic version of the form and members can either complete the form or return via email or the

facilitator can conduct a telephone interview to gather the results. The results will be consolidated into a report and comments will be anonymous. The draft report will be shared with the CAG members to ensure their comments are accurately represented. The final draft of the report will be used by Dominion to help determine the effectiveness of the process and how it could be customized for future use.

- The CAG members discussed their communication needs for the future which include:
  - Notification at the time the application is filed. The notification should include a link to the application, identify the preferred and alternative route(s), note areas in the application that describe any new revelations, and note the section in the application that includes a discussion regarding the response from Fauquier County about their easements. CAG members requested to see the response if the Fauquier County information is received prior to the application filing date.
  - CAG members also requested separate email notifications to inform them of the SCC public hearings (available from the SCC after they issue the Order of Notice) and when the final decision is made.

### **Public Comment**

No comments were received.

### **Adjourn**

The facilitator also extended her appreciation and admiration for the dedication of time and effort the Community Advisory Group members provided to the process. The members provided a great service to their organizations, the community and to Dominion and NOVEC. As part of the follow up, the facilitator will send out the draft meeting summary for review, the draft evaluation comments and an email when all the materials have been loaded on the project website. Finally, the members were invited to attend one or both of the upcoming open houses.

The meeting was adjourned.