Chesterfield Energy Reliability Center Public Event 11-16-23

0:00
Thanks again everyone for coming out tonight.

0:03
My name is Sarah Marshall.

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I am the Manager of State Local Affairs for Dominion Energy and I am representing the Chesterfield Energy Reliability Sensor project this evening.

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The way we had a sign outside that kind of had an agenda.

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But just to reiterate how we're going to work tonight is I'm going to give a brief presentation on the project and then to make sure everyone has time to get all their questions answered and hear from our subject matter experts.

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We'll then kind of break up into an open house format.

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We have our full team more than I can imagine back in the back, the sideboards to provide additional information, answer your questions, all of that.

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And we also have a court reporter here up front where if you want to provide comments that way or if you prefer to talk to the court reporter and have us get back to you, we'll be certain to do that as well.

0:57
And then at the sign in table up front when you came in, we also have comment forms.

1:02
So there's various ways for you to provide your questions, provide your comments, but of course, anyone here in the blue shirt will be happy to answer any questions for you tonight while we're here.

1:16
So first to start off, we're going to talk about Dominion Energy Virginia.

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We are a company with 2.7 million customers, over 10,000 employees and contractors and we have lower rates than about 16% of the national average.

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With that.

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We also have our generation, which with this project would be a part of.

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We have transmission that provides that power to then our distribution line which provides power to homes and businesses in Chesterfield.

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We have a very big presence using all of that together.

1:57
We have over 161,000 customers right here in the county with over 1000 of our employees including those in the room tonight that live here in the county.

2:07
We have six major assets including a solar facility that is getting ready to start construction, a battery storage facility that any day now will go operational.

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And we just announced this morning a pilot program for a long term duration battery project with Virginia State University right here in the county.

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So let's get down to the project.

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Simply put, the Chesterfield Energy Reliability Center is an always ready facility that provides power when it's needed most.

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It's going to be a four turbine, each turbine about 250 megawatts, so a total of 1000 megawatts that can serve about 250,000 homes at full output.

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But this project is really intended to run not all the time, but run when it's needed the most so that we can provide power in as little as 10 minutes, run it as needed and then turn it back off and continue to use our other options that we have available.

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It's also a unique in a way that it has multiple abilities to fulfill those requirements of power.

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Our primary source of power will be natural gas.

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We'll also have the ability to use ultra low sulfur fuel oil as a backup.

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We'll have a seven day supply and then we are also permitting this project to allow for the potential future use of a hydrogen blend, which we know will allow us to go from natural gas to an even cleaner fuel source if we're able to do that.

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This project is located right next to our Chesterfield Power Station, which has been a part of the the county for over 70 years and has been providing power to the county for that time.

4:04
Major equipment for the project will include, as I mentioned, the four 250 MW turbines.

4:11
It'll also include emergency generators to ensure we can start it when we need to.

4:16
It'll include a natural gas fired preheater which will help to heat up the gas before we start it so that we can start more efficiently.

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It'll include a fire water pump, the fuel oil storage tank, which again will hold enough to to last for about 7 days supply, and then also circuit Breakers.

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All of these pieces of equipment will make sure that we can run the facility when needed for our customers.

4:47
Going into a little more detail about the fuel for this facility, again we're going to have natural gas as our primary fuel, ultra low sulfur fuel oil for our kind of back of our secondary fuel and then again the potential use of a hydrogen blend.

5:05
This facility we are looking to permit for a maximum operation time of 32140 hours per year per turbine with of that only 750 hours per year being available to use the fuel oil.

5:22
Essentially at maximum use we're looking at about 500 startup and shutdown events per year to help make sure that this is just being used when needed and is not a base load unit.

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So the main thing that we're talking about tonight other than the project in general is the air permit that we're seeking from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

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We're seeking a new stand alone permit for this project while also considering and taking into consideration the existing operations at Chesterfield Power Station.

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We did recently retire units five and six which were coal-fired units, but we do still have gas fired units at the facility.

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Part of this permit will include a the Prevention of Significant Deterioration permit which will be a major modification and then we'll also have a state minor Source permit.

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All of these will require us to install what we call or what's standard called best available control technology.

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And the main reason for reaching out and getting this permit from DEQ is this permit will state if this project can meet all of the state and federal standards that make sure that it will be protective of human health and the environment, including specific sensitive populations.

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Sorry, my fingers are sticking together to go into a little further detail about what emissions will be part of this project.

7:02
We're going to talk a little bit about the best available control technologies as a way to reduce our nitrogen oxide emissions.

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We'll ensure that we have state-of-the-art low NOx combustors using water injection during fuel oil operations and have selected selective catalytic reduction to support the mitigation of emissions such as Co.

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Our Vox and hazardous air pollutants will include good combustion practices which include making sure that the technology is running away to where we're using as little or we're using it as most efficiently as possible.

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It also includes having a third party oversee some of the equipment to make sure not only are we maintaining it, but others are telling us how to maintain it as well.

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We'll have oxidization catalyst and then to help further reduce sulfur dioxide and particulates, we're going to use the low sulfur fuels and again the good combustion practices as we look to continue through the permitting process for the air permit, we're going to be looking at several different pollutants as you can see there on the screen.

8:21
We also have some boards in the back that further show this information and you can also see what we're looking at from a project tons per year and which applicable permit they'll go to.

8:34
So some are going to be part of the PSD or the prevention of significant deterioration permitting and some will be part of the minor source.

8:59
All right, making sure I was on the right slide here.

9:05
So again, a lot of times we've gotten the question.

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This is our third or fourth public open house meeting that we've had on the project.

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And we get the question, what is the need for the project.

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And really there's a lot of ways to answer that.

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But for us, the simple answer is Dominion Energy is in charge of maintaining reliability for our customers.

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We are here to make sure the lights come on when you flip that switch and that you never guess is it going to come on or is it not going to come on.

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What we saw this past December with Winter Storm Elliott, we've had utility neighbors to the West and utility neighbors to the South that could not guarantee that for their customers.

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For us, we were able to do that because we have a diverse fuel mix that allowed us the flexibility to ensure that we had that reliability as our customers were getting ready for the holidays.

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What we did learn too is that though we have a robust mix, we have the second largest solar fleet in the United States that we met our peak demand when the sun hadn't risen yet.

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It was about 4:00 AM.

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What that means is that solar wasn't helping us at that time.

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But the even the better news for that is we were able to use our solar as the sun came up to help ease constraints with this project right here would do is it would allow us to make sure that at 4:00 AM we have the power that we need to provide to our customers and then we could ramp it down as the sun comes up in the morning, that sort of thing.

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We also are seeing increased customer demand.

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Virginia is seeing customers moving into the into the state, into Chesterfield County.

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We're also seeing large economic development growth customers such as Lego and Plenty, if you look at a lot of different factors of how, why they're going to locate somewhere, but all of them also look at reliability of power.

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So just to highlight a few of the project benefits.

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Of course, for us the most important is that continued reliable service.

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We also see this as a way to support our clean energy transition because this project will allow us to make sure that we can keep our power going at 4:00 AM while still bringing on more and more solar and wind and battery storage to run as needed.

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We need something that can fill in those gaps and this project will do that for us.

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In addition, we need to look at the economic benefits as well.

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You know, we talked a lot, we talked a little bit earlier about Chesterfield five and Six retiring.

11:57

And yes, it does take a coal facility offline and helps with a cleaner environment, but it also means a loss of tax revenue to the county and jobs that we moved around to make sure that they had other places.

12:12
That's not going to be the case for any time anyone shuts anything down.

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We're committed to making sure jobs are there, but we also need to think of the other impacts.

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This project will bring in additional tax revenue to help replace that lost tax revenue and still continue to support the local economy.

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And of course with any construction project or any new business, you do see job and local business opportunities.

12:48
So going forward, we're just at the beginning of our permitting and construction process right now.

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We're in the middle of continuing our development activities and we recently in August applied for our DEQ air permit.

13:03
This is our current, this is part of that process for the air permit having this meeting as well as multiple other community meetings going forward coming up.

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We'll also have to apply for a conditional use permit with this county of Chesterfield.

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We will also have to apply for an SCC permit as well.

13:23
What those three will do together is DEQ will decide and ensure that this project is safe for the for the community and for the environment.

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The County will decide if this project is good for Chesterfield County and the SCC will decide if this project is needed and if it's good for the customers.

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And again, we're just in the beginning stages.

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We have submitted our permit.

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Like I said, we're hosting currently right here right now are one of many informational meetings for our air permit and all throughout this entire process for all three permits, we will continue to provide information out such as the mailings you received, have information on our website and have meetings just like this so that our community can come out, ask questions, learn about the project and help make the project better going forward.

14:25
So to wrap up my presentation to allow you to to get to the important part of is asking your questions and hearing from our experts we do.

14:35
I want to highlight our commitments with this project.

14:38
First and foremost, our commitment is ensuring reliability to all of our customers because we all know those who are most vulnerable are the ones that are most impacted when the power goes out.

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We want to make sure that we're keeping our rates affordable not only to support our customers and making sure our customers don't have to choose between paying their electric bill or paying a medical bill, but also to support economic growth.

15:06
We want to deliver increasingly clean energy by deploying renewable and clean energy processes by including battery storage and other storage facilities, while still making sure that we can keep the lights on.

15:20
And we want to make sure that we're giving back to the communities we serve by having jobs and investments in the community and also giving back and being a part of the community.

15:33
And with that, I'll open it up for people to walk around, ask your questions.

15:39
I also have one here, our QR code and our website links.

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I also have one all of our contact information.

15:46
So thank you all for coming this evening.

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And again, reach out to anyone here in blue in the back, ask your questions.

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We also have a court reporter here and we have comment forums outside.

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Thank you.