

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
AT RICHMOND, AUGUST 7, 2024

CCC - RECORDS OFFICE
RECORDS MANAGEMENT CENTER

240820131

APPLICATION OF

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VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

CASE NO. PUR-2023-00206

For approval and certification of electric
transmission facilities: 230 kV Germanna Lines and
Germanna Substation

FINAL ORDER

On November 20, 2023, Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Dominion" or the "Company") filed with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") an application ("Application") for approval and certification of electric facilities in Culpeper County, Virginia. Dominion filed the Application pursuant to § 56-46.1 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), and the Utility Facilities Act, Code § 56-265.1 *et seq.*

Through its Application, the Company proposes to complete the following, which is collectively referred to as the "Project":¹

- Construct a new overhead 230 kilovolt ("kV") double circuit transmission line by cutting the Company's 230 kV Cirrus-Gordonsville Line #2199 at Structure #2199/102, resulting in 230 kV Cirrus-Germanna Line #2331 and 230 kV Germanna-Gordonsville Line #2199 ("Germanna Lines"). From the cut-in location, the Germanna Lines will extend approximately 1.8 miles to the proposed Germanna Substation. While the proposed cut-in location is in existing right-of-way, the proposed Germanna Lines will be constructed on entirely new 100-foot-wide right-of-way primarily supported by double circuit weathering steel monopoles utilizing three-phase twin-bundled 768.2 trapezoidal aluminum conductor steel supported (ACSS/TW) type conductor with a summer transfer capability of 1,573 megavolt amperes ("MVA");
- Construct a new 230-34.5 kV substation in Culpeper County, Virginia ("Germanna Substation") on property to be obtained by the Company; and

¹ Ex. 2 (Application) at 2-3.

- Perform relay resets at the Company's existing Gordonsville and Remington Substations.

On December 6, 2023, the Commission issued an Order for Notice and Hearing ("Procedural Order") that, among other things, docketed the Application; required Dominion to provide notice of its Application; directed the Staff to investigate the Application and file testimony and exhibits containing their findings and recommendations thereon; set this matter for hearing on June 4, 2024 to receive testimony from public witnesses and evidence offered by Dominion, respondents and Staff; and appointed a Hearing Examiner to conduct all further proceedings on behalf of the Commission.

Staff requested that the Department of Environmental Quality ("DEQ") coordinate an environmental review of the proposed Project by the appropriate agencies and to provide a report on the review.² On January 19, 2024, DEQ filed its report on Dominion's Application ("DEQ Report"), which includes the Wetland Impact Consultation provided by DEQ's Office of Wetlands and Stream Protection ("DEQ-OWSP").

No notices of participation were filed. The Commission received three public comments on the Company's Application.

On May 7, 2024, Staff filed its testimony, and on May 21, 2024, Dominion filed its rebuttal testimony.

² Letter from Mary Beth Adams, Esquire, State Corporation Commission, dated November 21, 2023, to David L. Davis, Department of Environmental Quality, filed in Case No. PUR-2023-00206; Letter from Mary Beth Adams, Esquire, State Corporation Commission, dated November 21, 2023, to Bettina Rayfield, Department of Environmental Quality, filed in Case No. PUR-2023-00206.

The evidentiary hearing was convened on June 4, 2024, in the Commission's courtroom with counsel for Dominion and Commission Staff in attendance. No public witnesses signed up to provide testimony.³

On June 21, 2024, the Report of Bryan D. Stogdale, Hearing Examiner ("Report"), was issued. In the Report, the Hearing Examiner made the following findings:⁴

- (1) The Company established the need for the Project consisting of constructing a new approximately 1.8-mile 230 kV overhead double circuit transmission line on new right-of-way from the Company's existing Line #2199 to a newly constructed 230-34.5 kV Germanna Substation; constructing the Germanna Substation in Culpeper County, Virginia; and performing relay resets at the Company's existing Gordonsville and Remington Substations.
- (2) The Project will assure reliable electric power delivery, thereby supporting economic development in the Project area.
- (3) The Proposed Route constitutes the preferred routing alternative for the transmission line component of the Project.
- (4) The Company reasonably demonstrated the Project avoids or reasonably minimizes impacts on scenic, historic, and environmental resources to the greatest extent practicable, provided that the Company is required to comply with the conditions specified herein.
- (5) The Company reasonably considered the requirements of the Virginia Environmental Justice Act in its Application.
- (6) The Project does not represent a hazard to public health or safety.
- (7) The uncontested recommendations in the DEQ Summary of Findings and Recommendations should be adopted by the Commission as conditions of the Project's approval.
- (8) As additional conditions of approval, the Commission should require the Company to coordinate with appropriate state agencies to ensure compliance with threatened and endangered species requirements during the permitting process.

³ Tr. 7.

⁴ Report at 25.

Dominion and Staff filed comments on the Hearing Examiner's Report on July 11, 2024, and July 12, 2024, respectively.

NOW THE COMMISSION, upon consideration of this matter, is of the opinion and finds as follows.

Hearing Examiner's Report

After analyzing the law and weighing the evidence – and providing a thorough and detailed analysis thereof – the Hearing Examiner recommended the Commission enter an Order:⁵

- (1) *ADOPTING* the findings in this Report;
- (2) *GRANTING* the Company's Application to construct the proposed Project as specified above;
- (3) *APPROVING* the Company's request for a certificate of public convenience and necessity ("CPCN") to authorize construction of the proposed Project as specified; and
- (4) *DISMISSING* this case from the Commission's docket of active cases.

Upon consideration of this matter, the Commission concludes that the Hearing Examiner's findings and recommendations are supported by law and evidence, have a rational basis, and are adopted herein.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

- (1) The Commission adopts the Hearing Examiner's findings and recommendations.
- (2) The Hearing Examiner's recommendations, set forth herein, are hereby ordered.
- (3) Dominion is authorized to construct and operate the Project as proposed in its Application, subject to the findings and conditions imposed herein.

⁵ Report at 25-26.

(4) Pursuant to §§ 56-46.1, 56-265.2, and related provisions of Title 56 of the Code, the Company's request for approval of the necessary CPCN to construct and operate the Project is granted as provided for herein.

(5) Pursuant to the Utility Facilities Act, § 56-265.1 *et seq.* of the Code, the Commission issues the following CPCN to Dominion:

Certificate No. ET-DEV-CUL-2024-A, which authorizes Virginia Electric and Power Company under the Utility Facilities Act to operate certificated transmission lines and facilities in Culpeper County, all as shown on the map attached to the certificate, and to construct and operate facilities as authorized in Case No. PUR-2023-00206, cancels Certificate No. ET-DEV-CUL-2023-A, issued to Virginia Electric and Power Company in Case No. PUR-2022-00198 on October 23, 2023.

(6) Within thirty (30) days from the date of this Final Order, the Company shall provide to the Commission's Division of Public Utility Regulation an electronic map for the Certificate Number that shows the routing of the transmission line approved herein. The map shall be submitted to Michael Cizenski, Deputy Director, Division of Public Utility Regulation, mike.cizenski@scc.virginia.gov.

(7) Upon receiving the map directed in Ordering Paragraph (6), the Commission's Division of Public Utility Regulation forthwith shall provide the Company copies of the CPCN issued in Ordering Paragraph (5) with the map attached.

(8) The Project approved herein must be constructed and in service by April 16, 2026. No later than ninety (90) days before the in-service date approved herein, for good cause shown, the Company is granted leave to apply, and to provide the basis, for any extension requested.

(9) This matter is dismissed.

A COPY hereof shall be sent electronically by the Clerk of the Commission to all persons on the official Service List in this matter. The Service List is available from the Clerk of the Commission.