

Loudoun Reliability Engagement Group

Thirteenth Meeting – Attributed Summary Report

The thirteenth meeting of the Loudoun Reliability Engagement Group was held on June 5, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Founders Hall in Ashburn, VA.

Member Organizations in Attendance

- Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition
- Piedmont Environmental Council
- Loudoun Coalition of Homeowners and Condominium Assoc.
- Loudoun Habitat for Humanity
- Loudoun Water
- Bike Loudoun
- Loudoun Chamber of Commerce
- Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy
- Loudoun County Department of Economic Development

Observers

- Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition, Alternate
- Loudoun County Supervisor Glass's Office
- Loudoun County Supervisors Turner's Office
- Loudoun County Supervisors Letourneau's Office

Absent Organizations

- Black History Committee (Friends of Thomas Balch Library)
- Goose Creek Association
- League of Women Voters of Loudoun County
- Loudoun County Department of Equity & Inclusion
- NAIOP Northern Virginia
- VA Asian Chamber of Commerce

Dominion Energy Team

- Rob Richardson, Dominion Energy
- Deon Wright, Dominion Energy
- Peggy Fox, Dominion Energy
- James Young, Dominion Energy
- Kathleen Leonard, Dominion Energy
- Corey Anderson, Dominion Energy
- Greg Baka, Dominion Energy
- John Mulligan, Dominion Energy
- Carter Jones, ERM
- Kristi Moore, ERM
- Jared Brandell-Douglass, ERM

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kristi Moore, ERM, began the meeting by welcoming the group and facilitating introductions. She then reviewed the meeting agenda and explained the purpose of the LREG. Kristi then reviewed the discussion topics from the previous April 2, 2024, meeting.

2. Mars to Wishing Star Project Update

Deon Wright, Dominion Energy, presented the Mars to Wishing Star Project Update.

Deon provided a comprehensive update on the Mars to Wishing Star project. He informed the group that the site preparation for the substation has commenced, which involves all dirt-related work on the substation site. Deon shared a tentative timeline for the project's construction and county permitting. He discussed several project milestones Dominion expects to complete between May 28, 2024, and mid-year 2026. Deon presented the group with photos of the site preparation and clearing work.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	ANSWERS
LREG Member: When will this be energized? Is that the Wishing Star substation [shown in the photos]?	Deon Wright: December 2025. Yes, the Wishing Star substation is fully permitted, and we are still working on permitting the Mars substation.
A LREG member requested that Dominion provide aerial photos of the site to track progress in site preparation.	

3. Morrisville to Wishing Star Project Update

Rob Richardson, Dominion Energy, presented the Morrisville to Wishing Star Project Update presentation.

Rob started his presentation by reviewing basic project information, including the length of the corridor, the counties crossed, and the structures and electric transmission lines located in the current corridor. He stated that PJM Interconnection approved Dominion's proposal to construct another 500 kV circuit through the corridor.

Rob informed attendees that the Morrisville—Vint Hill—Wishing Star 500 & 230 kV Project is being reevaluated and that Dominion is reassessing the optimal energy solution. He stated that removing the existing 500 kV lines to construct new structures would create undue stress on the power grid.

Dominion is currently investigating the feasibility of acquiring new right of way (ROW) in parts of the project area. The new ROW would be for an additional width of 30 to 60 feet.

Dominion believes obtaining new ROW in some areas will be difficult and will consider demolition and reconstruction as an alternative. Rob said Dominion is committed to identifying the most effective solution that can be constructed quickly with minimal outages and requires the least amount of new ROW.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	ANSWERS
LREG Member: How long will the project be paused?	Rob Richardson: I anticipate that we will propose a new solution by the end of 2024. The project is important, so I know the company is working quickly. We will have multiple in-person and virtual meetings as part of our public outreach.
LREG Member: What lines are in the current ROW? Would they be monopoles?	Rob Richardson: Two 500 kV and two 230 kV lines. Yes, to accommodate the additional line.

4. Aviator to Takeoff Project Update

Rob presented the Aviator to Takeoff Project Update.

Rob reviewed the project basics and background, stating that the Aviator substation has been approved by local permitting authorities and is under construction.

A route across the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) (i.e., Washington Dulles International Airport) property is the most logical choice to minimize impact.

Initially, MWAA was not interested in having lines cross their property, but discussions have resumed. Dominion’s preferred route now crosses the southern portion of the Dulles Airport property. For the next steps, the Project team will evaluate routing costs across MWAA property in comparison to non-MWAA property.

Rob then reviewed the infrastructure requirements necessary to connect the project to the existing grid via the Takeoff substation. He reviewed some drawbacks of the routes that do not utilize MWAA property, including paralleling Route 50 in Fairfax County and crossing riparian areas.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	ANSWERS
LREG Member: Are there concerns about tall transmission structures near the airport?	Jared Brandell-Douglas: We analyze the preliminary designs against FAA regulations and airport flight surfaces. The FAA will analyze each structure to see if there would be any impact. We do not foresee any conflicts.

5. Golden to Mars Routing and Underground Discussion

Kristi reconvened the group after the break to discuss the Golden to Mars project, focusing on preliminary routing plans. Corey Anderson, Dominion Energy, and Jared Brandell-Douglas, ERM, presented the Golden to Mars Routing and Underground Discussion presentation.

Jared introduced the Golden to Mars project, providing context by referencing two related reliability projects: Aspen to Golden and Mars to Wishing Star. He explained that the Golden to Mars project aims to complete a new 500 kV loop through the Ashburn area of Loudoun County.

Jared reviewed several known constraints for the project's routing:

- Existing 230 kV transmission lines
- Proximity to an adjacent airport and associated height restrictions
- Broad Run and other green spaces

He highlighted a significant issue regarding the height of monopole and H-frame structures for 500 kV lines near Dulles Airport. A National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Doppler radar station in the area restricts structure heights to 80 feet within a specific radius, adding to the challenge of constructing an overhead 500 kV transmission line.

Jared shared preliminary overhead routes and discussed the routing process. Key considerations included:

- Adjacent developments
- Existing underground infrastructure
- Existing 230 kV lines

South of the Dulles Greenway, multiple route variants were presented, each with distinct trade-offs. These included impacts on residential developments, riparian areas, FAA height restrictions, and crossing county-owned lands.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	ANSWERS
LREG Member: How deep would an open-cut trench be? How do you evaluate the viability of the different underground routes?	Corey Anderson: Eight feet would be the maximum. All these routes are still under analysis, and we still need to have further conversations to determine feasibility.

It was noted that if an underground option is determined to be feasible and selected by the SCC, it would be the second underground 500 kV line in North America and the first one that Dominion has ever constructed. Dominion is awaiting a full feasibility study for the underground routes. Since this is a PJM reliability project, the required in-service date must also be considered.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	ANSWERS
LREG Member: What is the timeline for this project?	John Mulligan: Filing in November of this year, in-service by 2028.
LREG Member: Have you talked to the County yet?	Kathleen Leonard: Yes, the County is fully briefed.

6. Q&A, Upcoming Meeting(s), and Open House Dates

Kristi ended the meeting by summarizing the information discussed during the meeting.

7. Adjournment

The LREG meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.