

# Loudoun Reliability Engagement Group

---

## Third Meeting Executive Summary Report

The third meeting of the Loudoun Reliability Engagement Group was held on September 22, 2022, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Founders Hall in Ashburn, VA.

### LREG Members in Attendance

- Black History Committee (Friends of Thomas Balch Library)
- League of Women Voters of Loudoun County
- Loudoun Coalition of Homeowners and Condominium Associations
- Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
- Loudoun County Department of Economic Development
- Loudoun County Department of Equity and Inclusion
- Loudoun County Fire & Rescue Department
- Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy
- Loudoun County Preservation and Conservation Coalition
- NAIOP
- Piedmont Environmental Council
- Rotary Club of Ashburn

### Absent Organizations

- Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce
- Northern Virginia Technology Council
- VA Asian Chamber of Commerce
- NAACP Loudoun Branch

### Dominion Energy Team

- Carla Picard, ERM
- Carrie Rose Pace, Communications Specialist at Dominion Energy
- Carter Jones, ERM
- Christine Conrad, Ph.D., President at C2 Environmental
- Dominic Minor, Sr. Economic Development Market Specialist at Dominion Energy
- Furmose Gomez, Engineer at Dominion Energy
- Greg Vozza, Power Engineer at MPR Associates
- Jake Rosenberg, ERM Routing Specialist
- James Young, Environmental Project Manager at HDR
- John Kascsak, Manager of Substation Projects, Dominion Energy
- Kristi Moore, ERM
- McKenzie Moreno, ERM
- Peggy Fox, Media/Community Relations Manager at Dominion Energy
- Rob Richardson, Communications Consultant at Dominion Energy

## Meeting Summary

### 1. Introductions, Agenda Overview & Open House Recap

Kristi Moore kicked off the meeting just a few minutes after 11 a.m. by welcoming everyone and leading the group through introductions, a recap of the last meeting, and an agenda overview.

Kristi then gave an overview of the project open house on September 8, which included a Spanish interpreter, a court reporter for comments, and seven different subject stations, including maps and digital visualizations. 8,800 invitations were sent to addresses within the project area, and 35 people attended the open house.

The two LREG members who attended the open house provided their feedback:

- One member said that the open house format enables a greater depth of information with the public and that digital maps were helpful to supplement the printed maps.
- One member noted that the event seemed underattended. He also stated that the digital visualizations and GeoVoice were helpful resources.

Common themes discussed at the open house include:

- Proximity to residential housing
- Property values and viewshed impacts
- Impacts on wildlife (including bald eagle nests), biodiversity, tree conservation, linear parks, and greenspace
- Potential health impacts and EMF
- Questions on structures, substations, and construction
- Questions related to co-location, particularly along the creek or near Dulles Airport
- Questions related to Broad Run crossing
- Questions on how comments will be incorporated into SCC filing
- Request from HOAs interested in community presentations

Question	Answer
What languages was the open house invitation available in?	English with a QR code to take Spanish speakers to a Spanish version.
How many people typically attend open houses?	Attendance can vary. I've seen an open house with 5 attendees and open houses with 200 attendees.
What is the deadline for GeoVoice comments?	There isn't a deadline – the tool remains open for feedback throughout the project.
What languages is GeoVoice available in?	GeoVoice is currently available in English.
Does public comment influence decision?	Comments help inform routing options and the SCC process.
Have you targeted any faith-based organizations with your notification mailings?	We don't specifically target any particular group. Dominion Energy notified landowners within 1500 feet of the proposed lines.

## 2. Routing Considerations & Feedback

Jake Rosenberg led a conversation about the six proposed routes. These were identified following discussions with stakeholders and public comments. The layout of the Wishing Star substation has also been modified to accommodate nearby new road construction. The project team met with a landowner near the proposed substation and road expansion in this example. After discussing their concerns, the project team adjusted the route and substation layout to benefit all parties.

Question	Answer
Are three circuits on one structure common?	These structures do exist, but they are incredibly uncommon in our network. Having 3+ circuits on one structure creates system reliability concerns and makes maintenance more difficult. Specifically for this project, we cannot take out the existing 230kV line to build a unified structure.

How many mature trees are impacted by each route? Providing and maintaining shade over the river is essential.	These route changes are so recent that we are just now starting work on those calculations. Other measures can and will be taken to mitigate shade loss to the river.
Is it possible to construct using a lighter touch? Instead of fully flattening everything?	Yes, Dominion uses hand cutting through sensitive areas. Heavy equipment needs to be on mats to prevent ground disturbance. Usually areas are allowed to re-vegetate naturally, but there are additional measures we can take to restore shrub state more quickly. We use the data tables and the weighted values of different resources to select the route with the least impacts.
Are structure counts and visualizations available for each new route?	No, not yet. Both are in the works. James Young: Please remember that fewer structures mean a wider ROW to accommodate the greater swing radius of the lines.
Since some of the structures will be placed on elevated terrain, does that mean fewer trees need to be removed?	Increased line elevation means the potential to impact fewer trees.
How do you select a preferred route?	Depends on the context of the project. It is not an exact science. Community feedback is one of the ways that helps the project team set priorities. The SCC uses the Dominion Energy application and information within to make a final determination.
Is cost a significant impact on route selection? Based on previous projects, has the SCC picked a more expensive route?	There is not much cost difference between the routes, but the SCC does care a lot about cost. The project team prioritizes impacts in the filing but will include cost.

### 3. Structure Types

Furmore Gomez reviewed the three types of structures being considered for this project: H-frames, lattice towers, and three poles. Three pole structures are used as angle structures to change the direction of the transmission line, while H-frame and lattice structures carry the transmission line across straight line distances. All the structures for this project will require approximately a 150' wide right of way.

He also reviewed the three different structure material options: shiny galvanized, dulled galvanized, and Corten steel.

Question	Answer
Do the structures need to be lit on top?	Only if required by the FAA
Can you collocate with other utilities?	Yes, but it is not preferred because the transmission line and the other utility would need to be shut down for maintenance.
Who decides on the final structure material?	Community input is a major deciding factor for the final structure material.
How are the 3-pole structures not pulled over in the direction of the line?	Each structure is designed for the exact loading conditions.
What are the advantages of lattice towers?	Since there are four foundations, they do not need to be as deep as compared with H-Frames. Lattice structures are also less expensive compared with their counterparts.
Is there any security installed on the structures?	The structures include anti-climbing features, and Dominion conducts regular in-person and drone inspections.

What is the clearance required for a 500 kV line?	It depends. I can only remember 230kV. For example, for a 230kV, the line's maximum operating (inaudible) is 25 ½. 500 kV is a little more than that. 500kV also has another clearance called the million rule, which is 37, but I could be wrong.
---	--

#### 4. SCC & Next Steps

Rob Richardson reiterated the basics of the State Corporation Commission (SCC) application process. The SCC has regulatory authority over all 230kV & greater transmission lines in Virginia, while local governing bodies have regulatory jurisdiction over substations. In reviewing a proposed project, the SCC must consider whether potential impacts on scenic assets, historic districts, and the environment have been reasonably minimized. The purpose of the SCC is to reduce the effects.

Throughout the SCC process, there are opportunities for the public to comment on Dominion's application.

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
Is the SCC application concurrent with the other required permitting?	Typically, these projects wait until the SCC issues a final order, but with this project being expedited, the other required permitting might be sooner.
How does the SCC select a final route?	The SCC typically selects one of the routes submitted in the application but not necessarily the preferred route. The SCC also can create a route that was not a part of the application, but this is less common.
Can you explain the internal SCC review process? Do they try to do an independent assessment of the need?	The SCC directs a multi-agency coordinated review. They have their experts who will start with the need and validate all of Dominion's analysis. Multiple state agencies will weigh in on various impacts. Wishing Star and Mars will both require Special Exception permits from the County. This process takes a year or more. We plan to start this process as soon as possible.
Are there two separate application processes for the two substations, or are they the same?	There will be two separate processes.
What is the timeline for the local permitting required for the substations?	The land use permit will be concurrent with the SCC application due to the time required to receive the final order.
When you submit, will you brief the LREG participants? It would really be helpful.	This was our last planned meeting before filing. We do have the intention to discuss the next steps.

#### 5. Future Projects

Greg Vozza facilitated an LREG member-led discussion session about future Loudoun Reliability projects. In coordination with PJM, Dominion is currently determining which projects are needed to address the transmission constraint in Loudoun County. Dominion anticipates up to three more projects requiring SCC filings while working to determine which project will address the transmission constraint as quickly as possible while being the least disruptive.

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>
Looking at the areas for future projects, can we assume there are new substations at each end?	Yes, generally, there will be a substation, existing or new, and we will need to connect those points. We are still trying to figure out which section to work on next, looking at demand forecasts, and shifting some load, to get us the biggest bang for the buck.

If these projects are needed to close the current energy transmission needs gap, then if there is more growth in the county, will more projects be required?	We are in the process of evaluating that now.
Which project is next? What is the timeframe?	All of these projects are about getting the additional capacity to the existing network.
Will these current projects go away if county growth stops?	No, these projects are to meet current demand.
Which project(s) are next?	We are currently targeting projects along the existing 230kV line corridors and looking to increase those corridors' load capacity.
Are the other 3 projects coming online in 2027? Will they sustain data center growth?	All of these projects will ultimately be interconnected. The northern piece may come online about a year later.
In terms of timing, the process is compact in terms of public engagement. Will future project processes be different, with more time for public feedback?	Yes.
Do you share info with the County Board of Supervisors? Is there a way to inform them of their process? Has it already happened?	We've shared this with county and regional stakeholders.
There has been a lack of land use planning, especially for this project. How do we avoid it next time?	In addition to our outreach, we work with additional companies that help us w/ environmental issues and government relations functions that help as well. They speak to the Loudoun supervisors on many projects.

## 6. Takeaways

- A lot of work has been done in a short time
- Helpful understanding SCC process and multiple opportunities to provide input before and after the application is filed
- Request to receive study area map(s) before next meeting; ideally in a GeoVoice type link, so members can manipulate, zoom in, look at different layers
- Request to send a link to the SCC filing, with a brief synopsis or user guide to finding relevant info