

Loudoun Reliability Engagement Group

Fourteenth Meeting – Unattributed Summary Report

The fourteenth meeting of the Loudoun Reliability Engagement Group was held on Wednesday, August 21, 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
- Loudoun Coalition of Homeowners and Condominium Association
- NAIOP Northern Virginia
- Loudoun Water
- Bike Loudoun
- Loudoun Chamber of Commerce
- Piedmont Environmental Council
- Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy
- Loudoun County Department of Economic Development

Observers

- Loudoun County Supervisor Saines' Office
- Loudoun County Supervisor Glass' Office
- Loudoun County Board of Supervisors - Michael R. Turner's Office
- Loudoun County Supervisor 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
- Loudoun County Fire & Rescue
- Loudoun Habitat for Humanity
- VA Asian Chamber of Commerce

Dominion Energy Team

- Aisha Khan, Dominion Energy
- Corey Anderson, Dominion Energy
- Kathleen Leonard, Dominion Energy
- Rob Richardson, Dominion Energy
- Yolanda Green, Dominion Energy
- Carter Jones, ERM
- Jake Rosenberg, ERM
- Kristi Moore, ERM

Meeting Summary

1. Welcome and Introductions

Kristi Moore, ERM, opened the meeting with remarks and led the group through introductions and the agenda.

2. Aspen to Golden State Corporation Commission (SCC) Application Update

Rob Richardson, Dominion Energy, presented the Aspen to Golden SCC Application Update. Rob provided background on the Aspen to Golden project and explained its impact on the timing of the SCC application filing.

He led the group through a review of the project's SCC application timeline, detailing the SCC hearing in Loudoun County on September 5 and the evidentiary hearing in Richmond on September 18. Dominion anticipates receiving a final order in October or November 2024.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	ANSWERS
LREG Member: Are the two hearings a part of the regular SCC process?	Rob Richardson: Yes. This is probably the first local hearing for the SCC since COVID.
LREG Member: Wasn't Dominion considering undergrounding a portion of this line?	Rob Richardson: No, that was the Golden to Mars project. Dominion has not submitted an underground route for Aspen to Golden.
LREG Member: Do you have further comments on undergrounding Aspen to Golden?	Rob Richardson: Dominion does not consider undergrounding construction a viable option for the project due to the challenges in meeting the required in-service date and the associated costs.

3. Golden to Mars Update

Rob Richardson, Corey Anderson, Dominion Energy, and Jake Rosenberg, ERM, presented the Golden to Mars Update.

Rob provided an overview of the Golden to Mars project, highlighting that it is likely the most challenging to route among the three reliability projects in Loudoun County. He provided an overview of the current routes under consideration, with a particular focus on the route along Loudoun County Parkway. He noted that opposition to this route led to high attendance at recent community meetings.

Kristi asked those who attended the community meetings to share their feedback with the group. A LREG member commented that the meetings were well-organized but mentioned difficulties contacting the affected homeowner's associations (HOAs) and expressed concerns about opposition to overhead transmission lines near residential areas.

Rob and Kristi discussed the special outreach efforts to the impacted HOAs, emphasizing that these organizations are key stakeholders for the southern portion of the Golden to Mars project.

Rob addressed the potential hybrid route for the project, considering its unique opportunities and constraints. He highlighted the ongoing feasibility study for underground construction and introduced Corey to provide a more detailed explanation of underground transmission lines.

Corey explained the concept and purpose of a transition station. He clarified that the project only studies undergrounding the section south of Broad Run to avoid the need for an expanded right-of-way (ROW) required for horizontal directional drilling (HDD) construction.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	ANSWERS
LREG Member: What's the width of the ROW for Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)?	Corey Anderson: Approximately 700 feet.

Corey covered the specifics of any potential underground route, including the possible use of Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) property, and described Dominion's discussions with both organizations. The two current routes under consideration utilize Old Ox Road and the perimeter of the MWAA property.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	ANSWERS
LREG Member: How many miles would potentially be underground?	Corey Anderson: Approximately 3.7 miles. Corey pointed out that, in terms of total length, circuits, and cable mileage, this project would be the largest underground 500 kV project in the US.
LREG Member: Would this be an exclusive ROW?	Corey Anderson: We have methods to compensate for heat and pressure, but permanent structures cannot be built in the ROW.
LREG Member: What would happen if this project were delayed?	Rob Richardson: You would begin to see violations in the electric grid from the forecasted increased demand.

The group discussed advanced conductors' use, definition, and use throughout the Dominion Service Territory. A LREG member noted that there is an active site plan for the Silver District development, which is located next to the Dulles Greenway and Loudoun County Parkway intersection.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	ANSWERS
LREG Member: What is the required ROW width?	Rob Richardson: Approximately 100 feet wide.

The route along Loudoun County Parkway is the only route unencumbered by County or School District property where eminent domain is not an option.

Jake reviewed the route that utilizes the most collocation with existing transmission lines, noting that it has some of the lowest dwelling counts but crosses school property and runs through the Broad Run riparian area.

4. Morrisville to Wishing Star Update

Rob provided an update on the Morrisville to Wishing Star project, including a brief overview, which had been discussed in previous meetings. The project aims to enhance transmission capacity by adding a new 500 kV line to the existing corridor.

Initially, the plan was to replace the existing lattice structures with taller monopoles to minimize the need for additional ROW. However, after further investigation, Dominion identified conservation easements that restrict the height of new structures. As a result,

Dominion is now considering acquiring additional ROW to accommodate wider, shorter structures.

Rob mentioned that taking both existing 500 kV lines out of service for a wreck and rebuild would place excessive strain on the electric grid. To address this, Dominion is evaluating the feasibility of adding the new 500 kV line without dismantling the current structures.

This project is expected to span three to four years, with the SCC application anticipated in July 2025. Dominion is engaging with stakeholders early to prepare for public outreach.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	ANSWERS
LREG Member: Does this impact the project north of the Wishing Star substation?	Rob Richardson: No, those projects would not be impacted.
LREG Member: Would advance conductors make this project unnecessary?	Rob Richardson: No, they would not. Newer and more advanced conductors help provide more capacity.
LREG Member: The next PJM Interconnection (PJM) open window is soon to be released; what projects will be a part of that for Dominion?	Rob Richardson: Our planning department is in the midst of this process, but none of the proposals have reached Dominion's public engagement/communication stage of development.

5. NextEra and Dominion Energy

Rob initiated the presentation about the NextEra project proposal in Loudoun County. Rob has spoken with the NextEra project team as well as the Dominion project team to better understand how the teams will collaborate. He explained that NextEra's project involves utilizing the existing transmission corridor north of the Goose Creek substation, extending into Maryland and First Energy's service territory, including parts of Loudoun County. Dominion Energy will build a 3-mile portion in Loudoun County connecting to the Goose Creek substation. The project is expected to be filed around mid-2025, with minimal to no need for new ROW. The current corridor contains one 500 kV line and two 230 kV lines.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS	ANSWERS
LREG Member: Who owns the electricity as it crosses service territories?	Corey Anderson: That's the benefit of being a part of PJM, the ability to seamlessly transfer electricity across the grid based on the location of the demand.

6. Azalea Lane to Reeds Farm Introduction

Rob began by outlining the project basics and handed it over to Jake to provide a more detailed review of the potential routing. Jake noted that this delivery point project consists of three components and walked the group through the routing constraints and opportunities. He noted that most potential routes are located on data center property and clarified that Reeds Farm is a NOVEC substation, while Azalea Lane is a Dominion substation.

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

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

8. Adjournment

The LREG meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. No date for the next meeting has been set.