



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

**County Board Agenda Item
Meeting of July 10, 2010**

DATE: July 1, 2010

SUBJECT: Resolution in Support of the Dominion Radnor Heights Underground Transmission Line Project

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the attached resolution in support of the Dominion Radnor Heights Underground Transmission Line Project.

ISSUES: To meet the requirements of the state legislative pilot program, Dominion must present a resolution from the governing body of each locality in which the underground line is located that indicates general community support for the line to be placed underground. No issues have been identified.

SUMMARY: This is a resolution (see Attachment A) of support for Dominion Virginia Power to enhance underground transmission facilities in Arlington County. As part of this effort, Arlington County has been invited by Dominion to participate in one of three underground transmission pilots in Virginia. The Arlington pilot will be part of the Dominion Radnor Heights project.

BACKGROUND: Dominion is proposing to construct 3.7 miles of new 230kV underground electric transmission lines and a new electrical substation to be located on the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall to support future growth and continue to provide reliable electricity to customers in Arlington County (see Attachment B). The new transmission line will be placed underneath public roadways and mostly on federal property. The work will not take place on private property.

During its 2008 Session, the Virginia General Assembly passed, and the Governor signed into law, House Bill ("HB") 1319 which established a pilot program to construct a total of four qualifying electric transmission line projects of 230kV or less, in whole or in part, underground.

DISCUSSION: The addition of the proposed underground transmission lines will allow the new substation and existing substations to be networked (interconnected) into the electrical transmission system, thereby increasing reliability and redundancy in the electrical grid. Should

County Manager: MB/GA

County Attorney: SAM MTN

Staff: Shannon Flanagan-Watson, CMO

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service to a station be interrupted from one direction, service will be available from another direction.

The resolution is in support of Arlington's Underground Utility Plan, adopted by the Arlington County Board in March 2002, and Arlington County's Fiber Optic Network Plan.

One of the examples of how Arlington County and Dominion have been working together in this project and others is through the joint-use of trench construction in support of its fiber optics network along the proposed Dominion route. Through this partnership, Arlington County is able to lay its fiber without incurring additional construction costs, and minimizing the construction impacts on the community.

Additionally, Arlington will continue to explore with Dominion ways to achieve energy conservation measures in support of its energy and environmental sustainable efforts.

FISCAL IMPACT: No fiscal impact to the County. By co-locating the County's fiber with Dominion, we anticipate achieving significant cost savings for trenching and laying conduit for this project based on previous underground projects undertaken in partnership with Dominion.

For example on a previous project, the total cost to the County of the Kirkwood/Lee Highway communications fiber project would have been approximately \$1,196,890 based on average cost estimates. By co-locating the County's fiber with Dominion on this project, Arlington County saved \$765,600 in costs for trenching and laying conduit. As a result, the County was able to obtain the underground cabling to Rosslyn for only 36 percent of the total estimated costs.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE RADNOR HEIGHTS 230 KV TRANSMISSION LINES TO BE UNDERGROUNDED

ARLINGTON COUNTY BOARD

July 10, 2010

WHEREAS, during its 2008 Session, the Virginia General Assembly passed, and the Governor signed into law, House Bill (“HB”) 1319 which established a pilot program to construct a total of four qualifying electric transmission line projects of 230kV or less, in whole or in part, underground (“qualifying underground electric transmission project”); and

WHEREAS, HB 1319 allows Virginia Electric and Power Company (“Dominion Virginia Power” or “DVP”) to pursue qualifying underground electric transmission projects that meet certain requirements and conditions; and

WHEREAS, Dominion Virginia Power is obligated to comply with North American Reliability Corporation (NERC) Reliability Standards for transmission facilities; and

WHEREAS, to assure that Dominion Virginia Power can continue to provide reliable electric service to its customers in Arlington County, consistent with mandatory NERC Reliability Standards, DVP proposes to construct in Arlington County two new 230 kV underground lines approximately 2.6 miles long from the Pentagon Military Reservation to a new substation to be located on the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall called “Radnor Heights Substation” and one 230 kV underground line approximately 1.1 miles long from the new Radnor Heights Substation to the existing substation at 3245 Wilson Boulevard.

WHEREAS, the proposed underground project also will support future load growth and improve transmission network reliability in Arlington County; and

WHEREAS, Dominion Virginia Power has conducted public outreach to the community on the proposed underground electric transmission project through direct communication with the 103 adjacent property owners along the proposed route and placed ads in various newspapers regarding the proposed project; and

WHEREAS, Dominion Virginia Power will implement a communications outreach plan regarding the project, pre- and during construction, including but not limited to hosting a community open-house and follow-up visits with civic associations, businesses and individuals as requested and required as part of the applicable County permitting process; and

WHEREAS, Dominion Virginia Power is required to go through the established Arlington County permitting process and meet all applicable County permitting requirements for this project; and

WHEREAS, Dominion Virginia Power will use newer technologies to the extent possible as part of the new 230 kV underground lines being proposed along the route in Arlington; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County prefers the use of new electric lines be placed underground when feasible and the undergrounding of electric lines is in support of the adopted resolution of the Arlington County "Underground Utility Plan" by the Arlington County Board on March 23, 2002; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County intends to pursue underground joint-use trench construction in support of its fiber optics network along the proposed Dominion route and coordinate on other infrastructure projects to achieve efficiencies and minimize construction impacts on the community; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County will continue to explore with Dominion Virginia Power ways to achieve energy conservation measures in support of its energy and environmental sustainable efforts; and

WHEREAS, to meet the requirements of Section 4.3 of the HB 1319 pilot program, Dominion Virginia Power must present a resolution from the governing body of each locality in which the underground lines are located that indicates general community support for the lines to be placed underground; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Arlington County Board finds it is in the public interest with general community support for the line to be placed underground in accordance with the requirements of Section 4.3 of the HB 1319 pilot program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on today's date of July 10, 2010, a copy of this resolution will be permanently included in the official records of Arlington County.

Jay Fiset
Chairman

Radnor Heights Proposed 230 kV Lines & Substation

