



**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

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[alexandriava.gov](http://alexandriava.gov)

October 2, 2014

**Mr. Scot C. Hathaway**  
Vice President, Transmission  
Dominion Virginia Power  
P.O. Box 26532  
Richmond, VA 23261

**Re: Proposed Dominion Virginia Power (DVP) 230 kV Transmission Line between the Dominion Power Four Mile Run Substation in Arlington and the PEPCO Switching Station in Alexandria**

**Dear Mr. Hathaway:**

**This letter is being provided pursuant to a scoping letter sent by a Dominion Virginia Power (Dominion) consultant dated September 16, 2014, which was intended to serve as official notice of the above referenced project prior to filing an application with the State Corporation Commission (SCC). The scoping letter included a request for comments for Dominion consideration as you prepare your application to the SCC.**

**As you are aware, the City of Alexandria (City) recently formed an Underground Transmission Line and Substation Working Group of representatives from Alexandria neighborhoods, organizations and civic associations that would be impacted by this proposal. The mandate of this working group is to assess the impacts of this proposed project to quality of life, economic, electric reliability, environmental and transportation aspects and make recommendations to staff, the City Manager, and City Council.**

**As Chair of the Working Group, I am writing to notify you that the currently proposed schedule is insufficient to solicit meaningful community input prior to filing an application with the SCC. The City and Working Group members were only recently notified that Dominion intends to file by November 25, 2014 and that you are requesting acknowledgement from the City by October 16, 2014.**

**Compounding this unreasonable request is the seeming unwillingness of DVP to share necessary information with the group to quickly ascertain the need for this project. The lack of information coupled with a compressed timeline does not allow our Working Group the time to assess alternative alignments nor does it allow the community to share its concerns with local elected officials who are seeking our input. Moreover, even if the City can provide comments as soon as**

late November, because Dominion has provided no technical documentation or needs analysis, the City and Working Group responses will be necessarily limited in scope and quality.

In short, the community outreach process ostensibly intended to explore routes and perform an impact analysis prior to a formal SCC filing appears, instead, to be haphazard and unnecessarily short. Given the limitations imposed on the project, the actions and your requests to date call into question Dominion's commitment to legitimate public outreach. In Alexandria, planning and community outreach for a major infrastructure or development of this magnitude typically take many months, if not years.

The City has taken many steps to accelerate its civic engagement process in order to be responsive to Dominion concerns. And while we appreciate Dominion's ongoing discussion of the proposed expansion of infrastructure, neither the City nor the Working Group have been provided items or reports previously requested that would allow us to fully understand the need, alignment alternatives or potential mitigation options to be evaluated.

Dominion's recent scoping letter appears, at best, to unintentionally compress the City's reasonable efforts to provide meaningful civic engagement. At worst, the extremely short response cycle communicates that Dominion does not take seriously the profound impacts we expect this proposed project to have on existing neighborhoods, planned development, businesses, parks, City right-of-way and overall quality of life.

If you have any further questions or need clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me through William Skrabak, Deputy Director, Infrastructure & Environmental Quality, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) at 703.746.4065.

Sincerely,



Jason Nestlerode, Chair  
Alexandria Underground Transmission Line and Substation Working Group

