

Surry-Skiffes Creek-Whealton Transmission Line Project Proposed by Dominion Virginia Power

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the project?

Dominion Virginia Power has decided to retire its coal-fired power plants in Yorktown, Virginia, and states it needs to compensate for the loss of power with a new project. Dominion's proposed project involves the construction of a new 7.76 mile, 500kV aerial transmission line from Surry (VA) nuclear power plant, crossing the James River east of Jamestown Island, to a proposed Skiffes Creek switching station. The proposed power line would make an approximately 4.1 mile crossing of the James River, requiring placement of 17 towers (up to 295' high) and related infrastructure within and above the river bed. It would also heighten another 27 land-based towers in the immediate area.

Why is the National Park Service opposed to the project?

The project **as proposed** would have unacceptable severe and permanent adverse effects to one of our nation's most iconic landscapes. This is not acceptable for resources designated by Congress to ensure their permanent protection. The National Park Service is urging the Army Corps of Engineers to deny the permit for the proposed overhead line and to encourage Dominion Virginia Power to further examine the many other solutions available that do not impair this nation's natural, cultural, and historic resources.

Since December 2012, the NPS has submitted numerous written comments detailing serious concerns about impacts to nationally significant resources from the project, and recommended alternatives that avoid and minimize impacts to those resources. NPS staff has participated in all four meetings of the consulting parties organized by the US Army Corps of Engineers since their start in September 2014.

What effect will the proposed power line have on historic resources?

The proposed overhead line would introduce a major, modern and industrial element crossing directly through Virginia's "Historic Triangle." Its existence, particularly across the James River, will forever alter the setting of nationally significant historic properties such as Jamestown Island, the Colonial Parkway, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail and others that exist within this historic district. This section of the James River has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as it remains evocative of the 17th century and contains so many related historic properties that depend on the natural setting of the James to help define their historic integrity. Furthermore, as National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis has stated, "It would set a precedent for additional development and cumulative effects."

Where do I find out more about the decision process for the power line proposal?

More information is available at:

<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/SkiffesCreekPowerLine.aspx>