

RESOLUTION OF THE PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUPPORT PROTECTION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY, HISTORICAL RESOURCES, AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS FROM POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF NEW HIGH VOLTAGE OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINES

WHEREAS, Dominion Virginia Power (Dominion) has proposed placing additional high-voltage overhead and/or buried transmission lines through portions of Western Prince William County; and

WHEREAS, Section 56-46.1 of the Code of Virginia requires the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to consider, prior to approving any overhead transmission line, whether the line is consistent with the locality's comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors has directed the County Transportation Department to work with Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to more efficiently utilize infrastructure in the public right-of-way, specifically Interstate 66 right-of-way, consistent with the Community Design Chapter of the Prince William County Comprehensive Plan calling for the "location of utility easements within public rights-of-way, and the collocation of utilities within easements, through County coordination with VDOT and local utility companies;"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors does hereby

1. Declare that Dominion and its regulator -- the State Corporation Commission -- in proposing and reviewing the application for the installation of high-voltage transmission lines in Prince William County, shall give full consideration and respect to the County's Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinances in order to minimize the impact on its residents, businesses, environment, and historical importance; and
2. Declare its intent that any proposal to install new, or to re-fit, high-voltage transmission lines for Dominion's Haymarket 230kV Line and Substation Project shall be supported only if the lines are buried in the right-of-way of Interstate 66 as they pass from its intersection with US-29 through Haymarket and beyond; and
3. Direct County staff to evaluate the Interstate 66 buried alternative, and to coordinate with VDOT, in furtherance of the County's express goal of supporting the installation of buried transmission lines. As required by Section 56-46.1B of the Code of Virginia, the State Corporation Commission must "consider (a) the costs and economic benefits likely to result from requiring the underground placement of the Line and (b) any potential impediments to timely construction of the Line," at the request of the local government, Prince William County; and
4. Recommend that all costs, both direct and incidental, of burying the line be borne by Dominion and not by private property owners who through no fault or choice of their own reside or do business within close proximity to the buried line; and
5. Give notice that it will not enter into agreement with Dominion to assess the costs of line burial under the provisions of Section 15.2-2404F of the Code of Virginia; and
6. Require that any proposal by Dominion to construct a new electric substation shall first

be submitted to the Prince William County Planning Commission for consideration and public hearings, as required by Section 15.2-2232 of the Code of Virginia; and

7. Reaffirm and renew its commitment to LU3.14 of the Long-Range Land Use Plan, which designates the corridors that all future electric utility lines of 150 kilovolts or more should follow, and to contain high-voltage transmission lines to designated corridors as detailed in LU3.14 of the Long-Range Land Use Plan, in order to protect private property and preserve the County's distinctive cultural and historic inheritance, including, but not limited to, the 52 county-registered historic sites; Historic and Prehistoric High-Sensitivity Areas identified in the 2008 Comprehensive Plan and updated subsequently, including those in residential areas; high quality open space, such as existing and planned off-road trails, open space easements, conservation easements, public school open space, and resource protection areas; and both the county's designated Rural Crescent urban growth boundary and unique Historic Overlay District; and

8. Declare its intent to immediately initiate a zoning text amendment to incorporate appropriate zoning requirements for data centers which would address the infrastructure necessary to support such uses and the potential impacts to other properties. This amendment will continue the County's efforts to advance commercial and industrial development; and

9. Direct that this Resolution be forwarded to Dominion Virginia Power, the Virginia State Corporation Commission, State Delegate Robert "Bob" G. Marshall, State Delegate Timothy D. Hugo, State Delegate David I. Ramadan, State Senator Richard H. Black, State Senator Richard H. Stuart, Virginia State Attorney General Mark Herring, Virginia State Governor Terry McAuliffe, US Senator Timothy M. Kaine, US Congresswoman Barbara Comstock, US Senator Mark Warner, US Congressman Rob Wittman, and Haymarket town council representatives: Mayor David Leake, Vice-Mayor Steve Aitken, Matt Caudle, Chris Morris, Joe Pasanello, Pam Swinford, Kurtis Woods.