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What IS the Morrisville to Wishing Star 500 & 230 kV Upgrade?

www.dominionenergy.com/projects-and-facilities/electric-projects/power-line-projects/morrisville-to-wishing-star

This transmission line is considered a superhighway of power transmission, feeding primarily Loudoun County – yes: Data Center Alley – with some redirection into Prince William County.

In 2022 the upgrade from Morrisville to Wishing Star was first proposed to meet a growing demand primarily due to Data Center growth. At the time, Dominion Energy's future load (power) forecast was 8,000 megawatts (enough power for TWO MILLION homes)

In the original plan to bring more power to the Morrisville to Wishing Star transmission corridor, the intent was to take the current towers down and rebuild with NEW upgraded towers that would carry the additional power they need to feed Data Centers.

Fast forward to the NEW updated 12/2024 Dominion Energy power forecast of 40,000 megawatts required for this area (enough power for TEN MILLION homes). With this new forecast, still caused by Data Center growth, it is no longer possible to perform the process of a tear down and rebuild. Dominion's 2025 plan for this corridor is now to take MORE private property to add new lines.

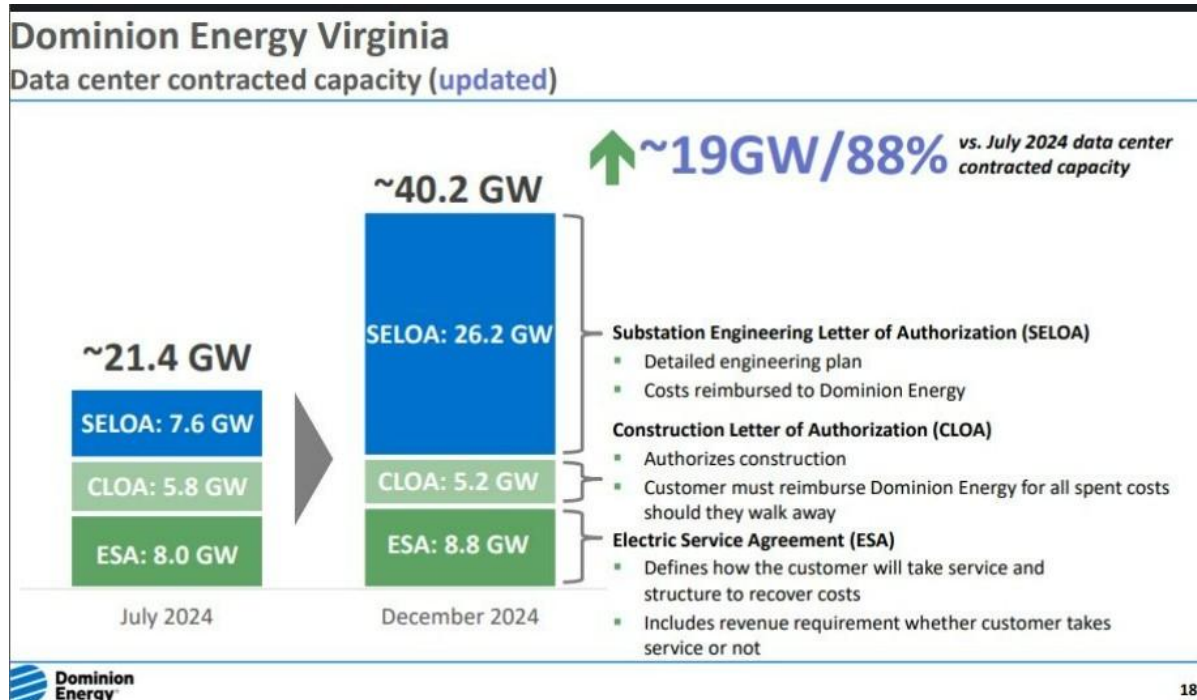
Why?

Imagine this Morrisville to Wishing Star transmission line corridor is Interstate 95, and you need to build another highway on top of the old one. During construction, you must shut down the road and redirect all the traffic to less traveled feeder roads.

But UH OH!! All those feeder roads are ALSO CONGESTED! You cannot 'safely' and 'reliably' shut down the interstate because there is nowhere to redirect traffic. The only car traffic solution is to build a new separate highway. THAT is the best way to describe the pickle, Dominion and therefore ALL of us, are in right now. There is no way to shut down enough pieces of this transmission line for a rebuild without the risk of causing a blackout or some other reliability issue.

However, don't forget, the number of 'cars' you planned for this upgrade has now TRIPLED, so this new 'added highway' is NOT going to be enough to accommodate all this new 'traffic' growth.

In the power load demand world, this analogy is represented by the following chart from Dominion Energy:



In meetings with the Prince William Energy Engagement Group, Dominion Energy acknowledged that the Morrisville to Wishing Star line was primarily driven to meet the stratospheric power demands of AI (artificial intelligence) and the unconstrained Data Center growth. When asked if this line, traversing the Digital Gateway project (currently in litigation) requiring a minimum of 3,000 megawatts of power itself, will have enough juice left over to provide power to that project, their answer was “NO.” They told us it would have less than 100 megawatts of remaining capacity for anything new.

What is a way out of this dilemma? What is a ‘reasonable’ option to meet the power needs of the Data Centers?? An industry’s power need that takes YOUR property, takes YOUR ratepayer money, and is ruining the future of YOUR communities?

There is another solution. We want to know why new technology to ‘RECONDUCTOR’ the existing transmission lines is not being used. Advanced Overhead Conductors (AOHC) – adding more power without taking more private property. From the Department of Energy: “...Because securing approvals to build a new transmission line is often very difficult, reconductoring existing transmission lines with AOHCs can double the capacity while using the existing transmission towers and established ROWs. A reconductoring project may cost up to half as much as a new transmission line and can be completed in a significantly shorter amount of time.”

We want to know WHY Dominion continues to sign even more contracts to meet an energy demand that is already threatening the quality of life for much of Virginia – INCLUDING the buildout of the gas, coal, and nuclear generation which will be required - to meet this UNCONSTRAINED Data Center growth.

Don’t permit the Dominion representatives to redirect the conversation: There wouldn’t be a “reliability” issue if not for all the DATA CENTERS being built.

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