

RESOLUTION

URGING THE UNDERGROUNDING OF THE PROPOSED 500 kV UTILITY

LINE UNDERNEATH THE JAMES RIVER

- WHEREAS, Virginia Electric and Power Company, d/b/a/ Dominion Virginia Power (Dominion), has proposed an alternative route for a new 500 kV electric transmission line, known as the Surry-Skiffes Creek Alternative; and
- WHEREAS, the Surry-Skiffes Creek route travels over approximately 14,500 linear feet of the James River, reaches land in James City County at the BASF property, crosses Route 60, and runs adjacent to the existing Whispering Pines mobile home park; and
- WHEREAS, the James River is part of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, the nation's first all water national historic trail; and
- WHEREAS, the James River is also designated as a Virginia Scenic River and as an "America's Founding River," designations that recognize the importance of the river in the nation's history and as a scenic and tourism resource that should be protected; and
- WHEREAS, the James River is on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI), a listing of river segments that are believed to possess one or more "outstandingly remarkable" natural or cultural values judged to be of more than local or regional significance; and
- WHEREAS, a 1979 Presidential Directive requires all federal agencies to seek to avoid or mitigate actions that would adversely affect one or more NRI segments; and
- WHEREAS, the visual impact of the power lines crossing the James River will be a significant detriment to the visual and historic nature of the river; and
- WHEREAS, putting the electrical transmission lines on towers across the James River will have a detrimental impact on tourism, tourist attractions, existing and proposed transient occupancy along the James River, and property values of nearby waterfront properties; and
- WHEREAS, installing the electrical transmission lines under the James River will not only eliminate the adverse impacts it will also provide a safer and better long-term solution to providing electrical power Dominion customers; and
- WHEREAS, the transmission line in James City County crosses several industrial parcels of economic significance to the County, which access might be adversely affected by the transmission line tower placement and preclude VDOT acceptance of roads to access the industrial parcels; and
- WHEREAS, the visual impact on residential development should be minimized to the extent feasible.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, hereby urges Dominion to place the proposed Surry-Skiffes Creek electrical transmission lines underground for that portion which crosses the James River.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, hereby urges Dominion to locate any transmissions line towers in the County in such a manner to both allow appropriate access to impacted parcels and the ability to have parcel access roads accepted in the VDOT system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors directs the County Administrator and County Attorney to intervene on behalf of James City County in the State Corporation Commission permitting process to all appropriate actions to see that the Dominion 500 kV electric transmission line is built under the James River.


Mary K. Jones
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:


Robert C. Middaugh
Clerk to the Board

SUPERVISOR	VOTE
MCGLENNON	AYE
ICENHOUR	AYE
KALE	AYE
KENNEDY	AYE
JONES	AYE

Adopted by the Board of Supervisors of James City County, Virginia, this 24th day of April, 2012.

500kVEITranLn_res