

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

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APPLICATION OF

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

2024 APR 25 P 12: 21  
CASE NO. PUR-2024-00032

For approval and certification of electric transmission facilities: 500-230 kV Aspen Substation, 500 kV Aspen-Goose Creek Line #5002, 500 kV and 230 kV Aspen-Golden Lines #5001 and #2333, 500-230 kV Golden Substation, and Lines #2081/#2150 Loop

APPLICATION OF

VIRGINIA ELECTRIC AND POWER COMPANY

CASE NO. PUR-2024-00044

For approval and certification of electric transmission facilities: 230 kV Apollo-Twin Creek Lines, and Twin Creeks, Sycolin Creek, Starlight, Lunar, and Apollo Substations

HEARING EXAMINER'S RULING

April 25, 2024

On March 7, 2024, Virginia Electric and Power Company ("Dominion" or "Company") filed an application (the "Aspen-Golden Application") with the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") for a certificate of public convenience and necessity ("CPCN") to construct a new 500-230 kilovolt ("kV") Aspen Substation, a new approximately 0.2-mile 500 kV line between the Company's proposed Aspen Substation and existing Goose Creek Substation, a new approximately 9.4-mile overhead 500 kV single circuit transmission line and a new 230 kV single circuit transmission line, a new 500-230 kV Golden Substation, and a new transmission line loop of the existing Paragon Park-Sterling Park Line #2081 and Paragon Park-Sterling Park Line #2150 into and out of the new future Golden Substation, all located in Loudoun County, Virginia (collectively, the "Aspen-Golden Project").

On March 27, 2024, Dominion filed an application (the "Apollo-Twin Creeks Application") with the Commission for a CPCN to construct a new approximately 1.9-mile double circuit overhead 230 kV transmission line and five new 230-34.5 kV substations (the Twin Creeks, Sycolin Creek, Starlight, Lunar, and Apollo Substations) in Loudoun County, Virginia (collectively, the "Apollo-Twin Creeks Project").

Concurrent with filing the Apollo-Twin Creeks Application, the Company filed a Motion to Consolidate, for procedural and hearing purposes only, Case Nos. PUR-2024-00032 and PUR-2024-00044 ("Motion to Consolidate").

On April 17, 2024, the Commission issued an Order for Notice and Hearing in which, among other things, the Commission docketed both the Aspen-Golden Application (as Case

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No. PUR-2024-00032) and the Apollo-Twin Creeks Application (as Case No. PUR-2024-00044); granted the Motion to Consolidate; appointed a Hearing Examiner to conduct all further proceedings in both cases; and established one procedural schedule for both cases. In addition, the Commission modified 5 VAC 5-20-260 of its Rules of Practice and Procedure<sup>1</sup> to require that “responses and objections to written interrogatories and requests for production of documents shall be served within five (5) calendar days after receipt of the same.”<sup>2</sup>

On April 24, 2024, Dominion filed its Motion for Modification of Ordering Paragraph (23) of the Order for Notice and Hearing Dated April 17, 2024 and for Expedited Consideration (“Motion to Modify”). Therein, the Company requested that parties be allowed five business days, in lieu of five calendar days, to respond to interrogatories and requests for the production of documents. The Company asserted the additional time is needed to “develop[] thorough responses to discovery requests” that “frequently require mobilization of resources in various sectors of the Company to provide analysis and information, and the extremely expedited timeframe may not allow sufficient time for this to occur.”<sup>3</sup>

Additionally, Dominion reported it has received, to date, one set of discovery from Staff for each of the Aspen-Golden Project and the Apollo-Twin Creeks Project, which responses are due April 29, 2024, and for which the Company does not require additional time. Dominion also stated it has received a set of discovery from JK Land Holdings, LLC, which responses are also due April 29, 2024, and for which the Company will require additional time. Dominion explained this set of discovery contains 11 interrogatories, three of which include subparts, with one of the three including 11 subparts. The Company anticipated it will need more than five calendar days to respond to future discovery requests also, since such requests often require technical expertise from personnel who may not be available at all times, particularly on weekends and holidays.<sup>4</sup>

The Company asserted that a five-business-day deadline for responding to discovery, instead of a five-calendar-day deadline, would aid the Company in providing “full and complete responses to all requests,” though additional time may also be required in some instances “based on the volume of the questions in any particular set and the substance of the requests.”<sup>5</sup> The Company argued that its requested revised deadline would help ease the administrative burden for case participants.<sup>6</sup>

Dominion stated it had shared the Motion to Modify with counsel for Staff and respondents, and asked that the Motion to Modify be considered on an expedited basis.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 5 VAC 5-20-10 *et seq.*

<sup>2</sup> Order for Notice and Hearing at 25, ¶23.

<sup>3</sup> Motion to Modify at unnumbered pages 3-4.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at unnumbered page 4.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at unnumbered pages 4-5.

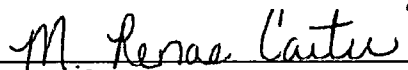
<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at unnumbered page 5.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at unnumbered pages 5-6.

Having considered the foregoing, I conclude that it is appropriate to truncate the time for responses to the Motion to Modify, and any reply thereto. Accordingly,

**IT IS DIRECTED THAT:**

1. On or before April 29, 2024, any respondent and Staff may file a response to the Motion to Modify.
2. On or before May 1, 2024, Dominion may file a reply to any response(s).
3. In keeping with the Commission's Order for Notice and Hearing in the above-captioned dockets, a copy of each filing made with the Commission's Clerk's Office in these dockets shall also be sent electronically to the Office of Hearing Examiners at: [OHEparalegals@scc.virginia.gov](mailto:OHEparalegals@scc.virginia.gov).

  
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M. Renae Carter  
Hearing Examiner

The Clerk of the Commission is requested to send a copy of this Ruling to all persons on the official Service List. The Service List is available from the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, 1300 East Main Street, First Floor, Tyler Building, Richmond, Virginia 23219.