



VIRGINIA'S COMMITMENT

Virginia's Commitment is a coalition of concerned citizens, homeowners, landowners, consumers and business people who seek 21st century approaches to promote Virginia's growth and prosperity.

Dominion Power plans to purchase electricity from polluting, coal-fired generating plants in the Ohio River Valley; transmit the power across Virginia on industrial-scale towers; sell the bulk of it to customers in New Jersey, New York and other northeast states. We believe the plan is wrong.

We support the innovative and responsible ways that other electric utilities serve the needs of businesses and homes. The people of Virginia need reliable sources of power as our Commonwealth continues to grow. Virginia's Commitment favors modern energy solutions including: upgrading Dominion Power's existing lines to increase capacity; developing cleaner Virginia-based power generation; investing in energy efficiency and conservation; maximizing readily available techniques for load management; burying transmission lines, especially in places of great scenic, historic, environmental and community importance; improving the reliability of Dominion Power's grid.

Our goal is to provide the information necessary for the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to fully analyze and assess the validity of Dominion Power's request. We are urging those who share our concerns to contact the SCC, state legislators and others. Through Virginia's Commitment's efforts, we are making it possible to understand the facts, propose alternatives and speak out on the issue.

Dominion Power wants to spend hundreds of millions of dollars of ratepayers' money on unnecessary and polluting technologies, borrowed from the last century, to serve the needs of customers far north of Virginia. If allowed, the company will cut open an 81-mile corridor that will snake through Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, Blue Ridge Mountains and Piedmont — and into Northern Virginia suburban neighborhoods. The company will string high-voltage lines atop hundreds of concrete-and-steel towers, each as tall as a 12-story office building. Old technology, dirty power.

The worst of it: the whole thing amounts to nothing more than a big extension cord for Dominion Power. It will purchase electricity from out of state and sell most of it outside Virginia.

Thousands of Northern Virginia homeowners will experience decreased property values when their communities are permanently scarred by monster towers. Farmers and landowners will see their properties devalued when the transmission lines degrade a large swath of one of the nation's most beautiful and historic landscapes. We all will pay a price.

Virginia will miss an opportunity. We could be leaders in how states encourage economic growth while remaining good stewards of resources. Instead, the best place in America to live and work will appear backward with its dominant power company relying on antiquated energy practices.

It boils down to this: if Dominion Power's plan becomes a reality, Virginia citizens who do not oppose it now will look back in 20 years and say: "Why didn't we stop it?"