



Dominion Tentatively Withdraws Support for Route 50 Power Lines, Backs Loudoun Alternative 6

Dear Friends:

I have some very encouraging news to share. In rebuttal testimony filed last night to the State Corporation Commission (SCC), Dominion announced that it is withdrawing support for its Proposed Route, as well as Alternative Route A and Alternative route B, and is instead prepared to support Loudoun County Alternative Route 6, pending certain conditions.

Dominion's proposed routes and alternatives were along Route 50 between Northstar Boulevard and the Poland Road data center site. These routes threatened development between Northstar and Loudoun County Parkway, including StoneSprings Hospital Center, the Avonlea Town Center project, Arcola Center, and the future phases of Dulles Landing.

From the beginning, I have been working closely with Loudoun County Attorney Leo Rogers, staff and the Blue Ridge District Supervisors to develop alternatives to Dominion's routes. These alternatives have continued to be refined as we worked with individual landowners, developers and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. These efforts



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culminated in Loudoun County Alternative 6, which would begin at the Yardley Ridge data center project at the intersection of Evergreen Mills Road and Route 606, and travel south on 606 to Route 50, thus avoiding Route 50 between Northstar and 606.

Along the way, the County also worked to protect our rights to build a future interchange for Route 50 and 606, which would also be threatened by Dominion's proposed routes.

The County and the stakeholder group filed testimony with the SCC outlining our opposition to Dominion's routes. In response, Dominion's project manager filed the following testimony yesterday:

"We cannot continue to advocate for or keep the Proposed Route, Alternate Route A, or Alternate Route B under active Commission consideration. ...Those routes appear to no longer be viable due to Loudoun County's acquisition, on April 5, 2016, of certain property located immediately south of the intersection of Routes 50 and 606.

"...In sum, given that the County has indicated its resistance and conditions to granting an easement for the construction of overhead transmission lines through the necessary parcels, the Company is no longer advocating for the selection of its Proposed Route, Alternative Route A, or Alternate Route B for the Poland Road Project.

"...Based on the discussions with the Property Owner and NOVEC, and subject to receiving County and VDOT approvals discussed above, the Company [Dominion] can support the County Alternative 6 alignment as it crosses the Yardley Ridge Property."

I would also note that Dominion's rebuttal testimony includes a cost estimate that demonstrates that even using Dominion's land value calculations, which the County disputes for Dominion's original proposed routes, County Alternative 6 is the least expensive route option for Dominion.

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I want to caution that this is by no means a done deal yet. Dominion set forth a number of conditions for private parties and the County to meet, which we are working on immediately. Thus, it is not yet time to declare victory.

However, if we are able to resolve all outstanding issues, then it may be possible for the County and Dominion to submit stipulations to the Hearing Examiner on June 29th, which would eliminate the need for an evidentiary hearing. Stay tuned on that front.

In the meantime, this news marks major progress in our efforts. I would like to thank all of you--who number in the thousands--for making your voices heard in this process. The No Towers on 50 coalition, led by Val Walters, Mike Rhodes, and Denise Harrover of Van Metre, played an extremely important role in organizing grassroots opposition to Dominion's plans.

I would also like to thank our Loudoun County Attorney, Leo Rogers, who has done a masterful job leading our legal efforts and keeping a strong coalition of landowners and HOA's together. Deputy County Administrator Charles Yudd and Director of Economic Development Buddy Rizer also deserve special recognition for their work on this case.

Finally, I appreciate the support of my colleagues, past and present, on the Board of Supervisors. That especially includes Blue Ridge District Supervisor Tony Buffington, who shares some of the Route 50 corridor and has been working closely with us on this issue.

Tony shared the following statement regarding Dominion's decision:

"This is great news for the future of our community and the route 50 corridor, otherwise known as the Gateway to Loudoun County! I commend Supervisor Letourneau, the County Attorney's Office and the many

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residents and businesses who have worked hard to get us here. We'll keep working over the next few weeks to ensure the right outcome."

If you wish to read Dominion's filings for yourself, you can access them at www.scc.virginia.gov, then click on case information and then docket search. Enter case number PUE-2015-00054 and click on daily filings. The filings will come up in chronological order.

A map of County Alternative 6 is below.



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