


# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: MAY 9, 2016

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: MARK B. JINKS, CITY MANAGER 

SUBJECT: 14-5021 Resolution Regarding 230 kV Transmission Line

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The purpose of this memo is to update City Council on the meeting held Thursday May 05, 2016 with the Underground Transmission Line Working Group (UTLWG).

Based upon the feedback obtained from the working group, City staff is recommending to revise the resolution to oppose any above ground transmission lines connecting Dominion Virginia Power's Glebe Substation and Pepco's Station C Potomac River Substation.

The proposed minor edits include revising the language regarding safety concerns in and out of Reagan National Airport and an additional recital to emphasize the increased density within Potomac Yard and potential decrease of property values associated with an installation of an overhead line.

Attachment 2: 14-5021 Resolution  
Attachment 2a: 14-5021 Resolution Track Changes

cc: Emily A. Baker, Deputy City Manager  
Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_****RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE ANY ABOVE GROUND TRANSMISSION LINES CONNECTING DOMINION VIRGINIA POWER'S GLEBE SUBSTATION LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF SOUTH GLEBE ROAD AND SOUTH EADS STREET, AND PEPCO'S STATION C POTOMAC RIVER SUBSTATION AT THE INTERSECTION OF SLATERS LANE AND EAST ABINGDON DRIVE**

**WHEREAS**, since 1971, §5-3-3, of the Code of the City of Alexandria, as amended, requires transmission, distribution and main lines to be placed underground for all new installation or relocation of poles, towers, wires, lines, cables, conduits, pipes, mains and appurtenances used or intended to be used to transmit or distribute any service such as electric current, telephone, telegraph, cable television, traffic control, fire alarm, police communication, gas, water, steam or petroleum, whether or not on the streets, alleys, or other public places of the City and consequently such installation or relocation shall, after October 15, 1971, be installed below the surface of the ground or below the surface in the case of bridges and elevated highways; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Alexandria ("City") strongly opposes all overhead transmission line options proposed by Dominion Virginia Power ("DVP") and the City will not allow City rights-of-way to be used for overhead utility lines; and

**WHEREAS**, all new utilities serving Coordinated Development District #2009-0001(Potomac Yard North), whether located within or outside of the CDD, shall be placed underground at the applicant's expense, excluding the aerial 230 kV lines currently in existence as of June 12, 2010. All utilities with the exception of those having a franchise agreement with the City shall be located outside the public rights-of-way; however, no transformers or switch gears shall be placed in the public rights-of-way; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Section III (C) – Electrical Line Extensions of the Dominion Franchise Agreement; within any development for which underground electrical service has been installed, only electric underground service will be provided by the company (DVP). All utilities serving Coordinated Development District #2012-0004 (Potomac Yard South) have been installed underground; and

**WHEREAS**, DVP has already invested and built a 230kV transmission line located along the Route 1 corridor that was installed underground. Any new above ground transmission lines would be inconsistent with these earlier investments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan calls for undergrounding the transmission lines along Four Mile Run. A new above ground 230kV transmission line is inconsistent with and in direct conflict with the goals of the Four Mile Run Restoration Master Plan; and



**WHEREAS**, the City supports the CSX underground installation route, along with the CSX/DRCA Alternative underground installation route as the most preferred alternative alignment, and requests that DVP make every effort to limit its consideration to this Least Objectionable Alignment in its submission to the Virginia State Corporation Commission ("SCC"), or at a minimum, support this CSX routing and the CSX/DRCA Alternative routing as the only feasible options for the routing of transmission lines connecting DVP's Glebe substation and Pepco's Station C Potomac River substation; and

**WHEREAS**, there are currently 700-800 flights per day to and from Reagan National Airport, using a general aviation flight path over Potomac Yard, and other air operations involving the use of helicopters, meaning therefore the installation of any above ground transmission line ~~would~~ may create an unacceptable safety risk to our community; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been a significant investment into the Potomac Avenue development and particularly the Potomac Yard Rail Park. The eighty-foot right of way needed for an above ground transmission line would require the removal of hundreds of trees in the park. As millions have been invested and the park only recently opened, requiring the unnecessary elimination of trees in Potomac Avenue would be financially and aesthetically devastating; and

**WHEREAS**, the installation of overhead transmission lines will adversely affect the existing densely populated residential communities and commercial development and will impact future development in the City, including the several thousand new residents since the project was proposed and future residents pursuant to the Potomac Yard and North Potomac Yard Plans. Moreover, installation of overhead transmission lines will adversely affect the property values of the residential communities and may raise health concerns for residents adjacent to the overhead lines.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia that:

The Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia:

1. Is opposed to any above ground transmission lines connecting Dominion's Glebe Substation located at the intersection of South Glebe Road and South Eads Street, and Pepco's Station C Potomac River Substation at the intersection of Slater's Lane and East Abingdon Drive.
2. Authorizes the City Manager and the City Attorney to take any and all action necessary to prevent the construction of an above ground transmission line.

Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

ALLISON SILBERBERG MAYOR

ATTEST:

Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC  
City Clerk and Clerk of Council