

RESOLUTION NO. 2728

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 opposes any transmission lines through the City of Alexandria, but if the demand is substantiated, 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, a general aviation flight path over Potomac Yard, and other air operations involving the use of helicopters, therefore the installation of any above ground transmission line 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: May 10, 2016


ALLISON SILBERBERG MAYOR

ATTEST:


Jacqueline M. Henderson, MMC City Clerk