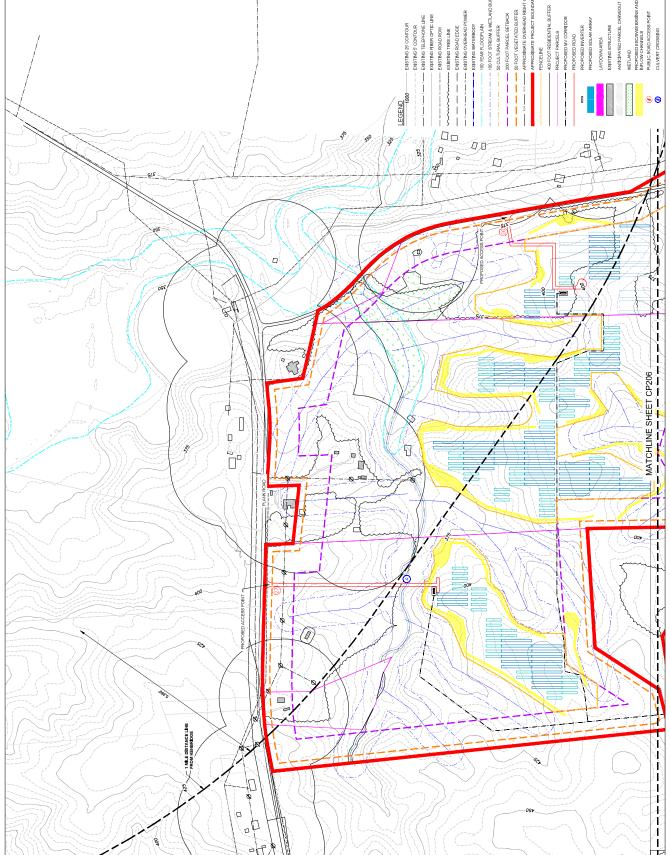




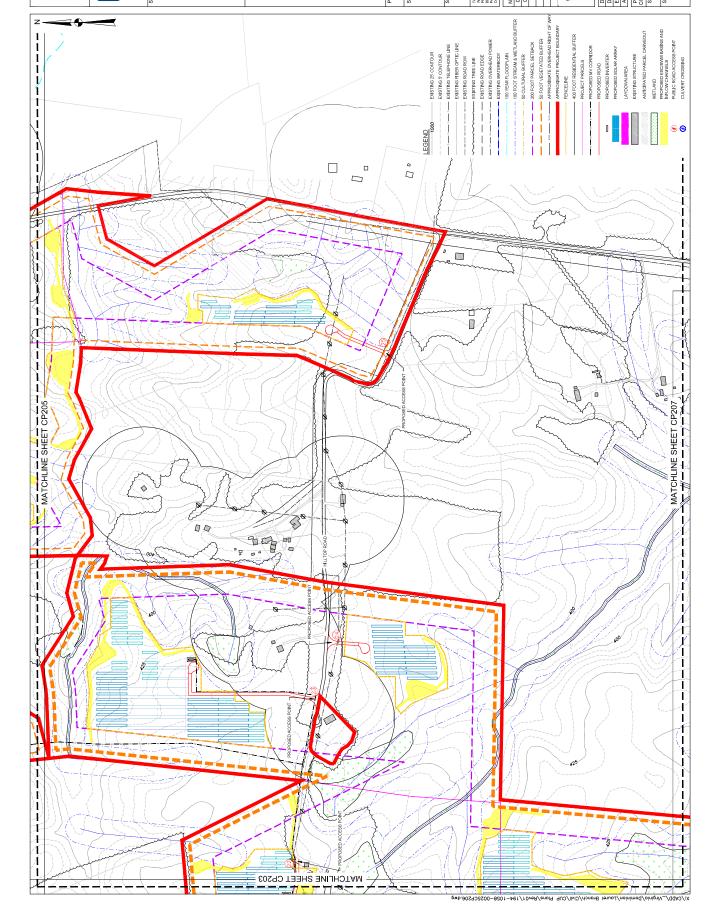
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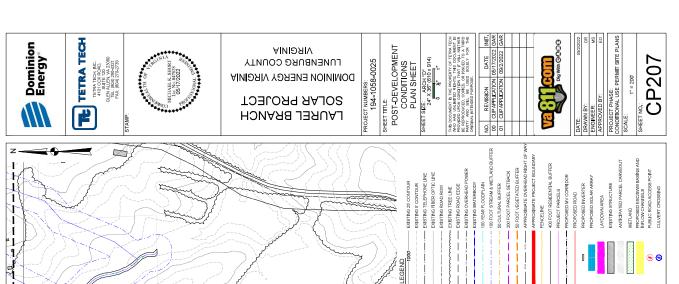


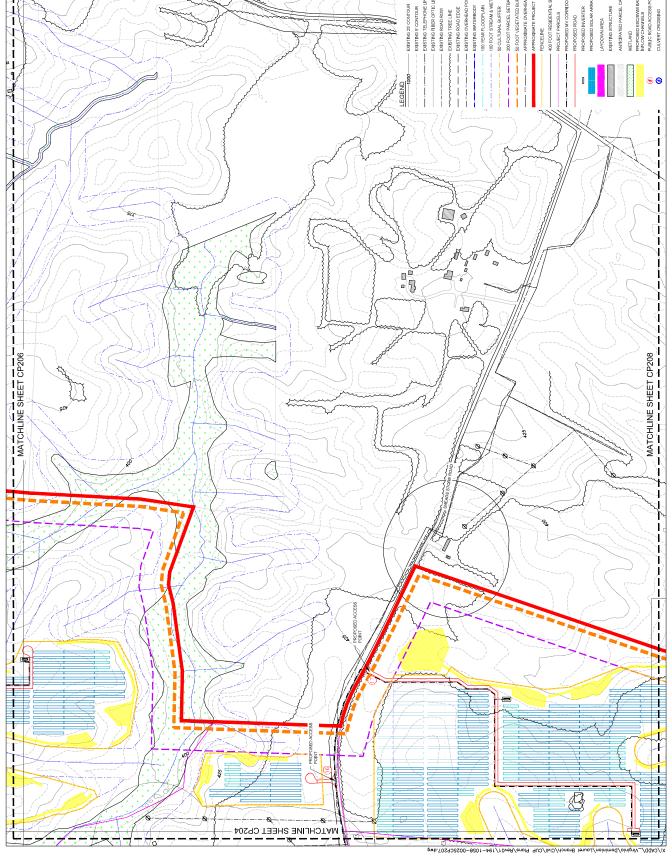


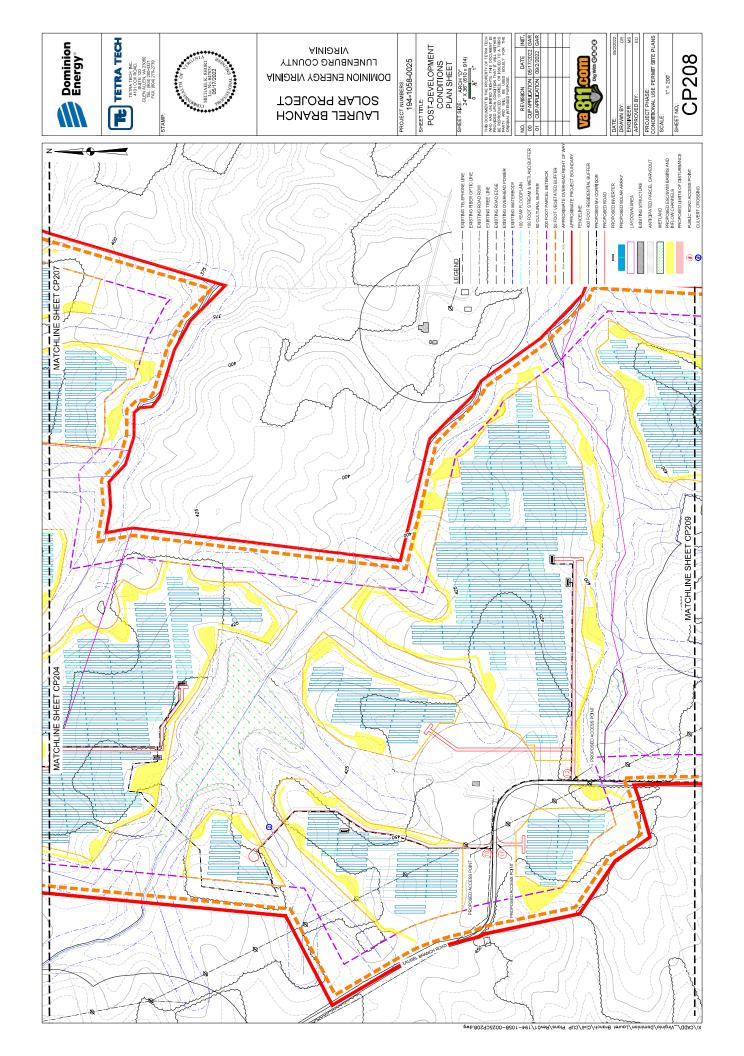


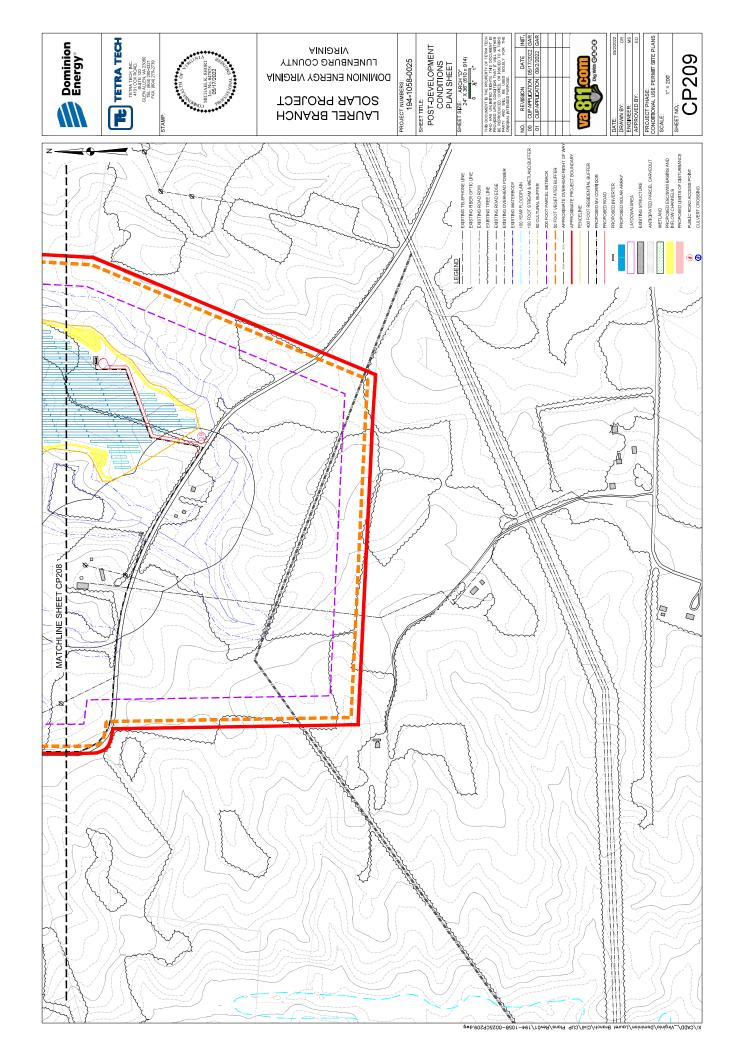
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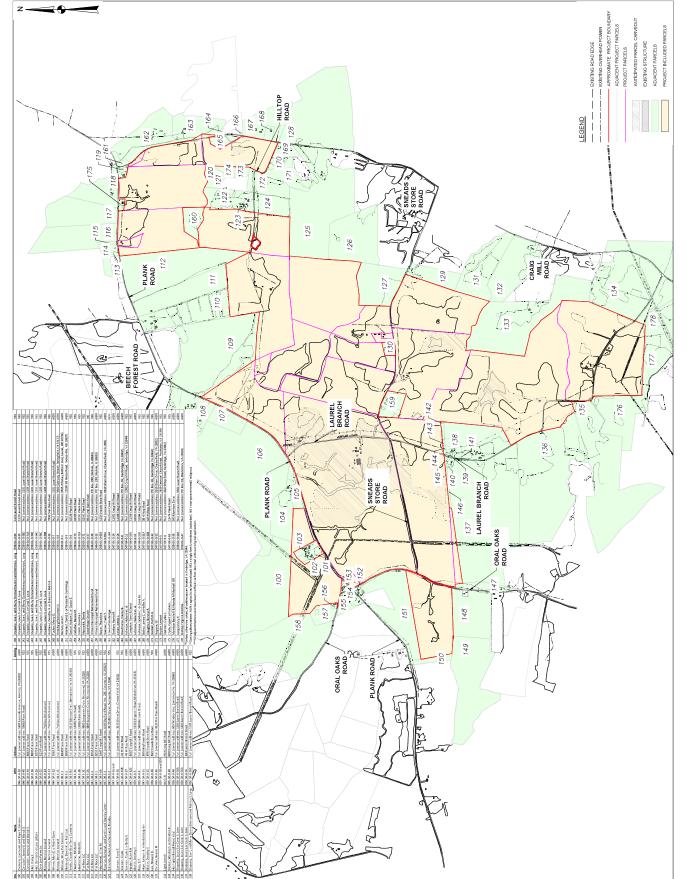




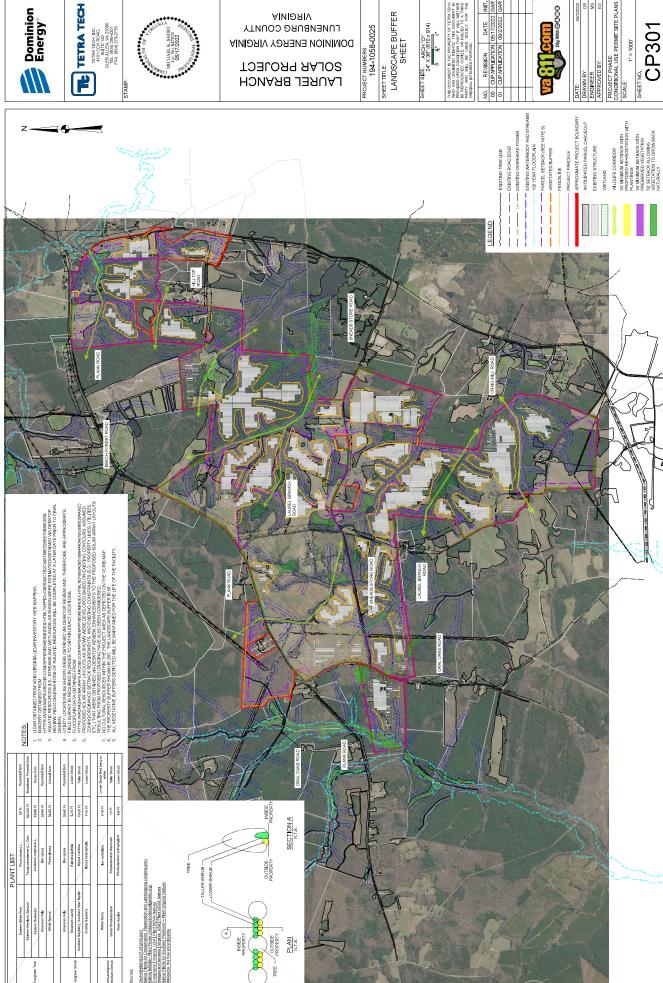




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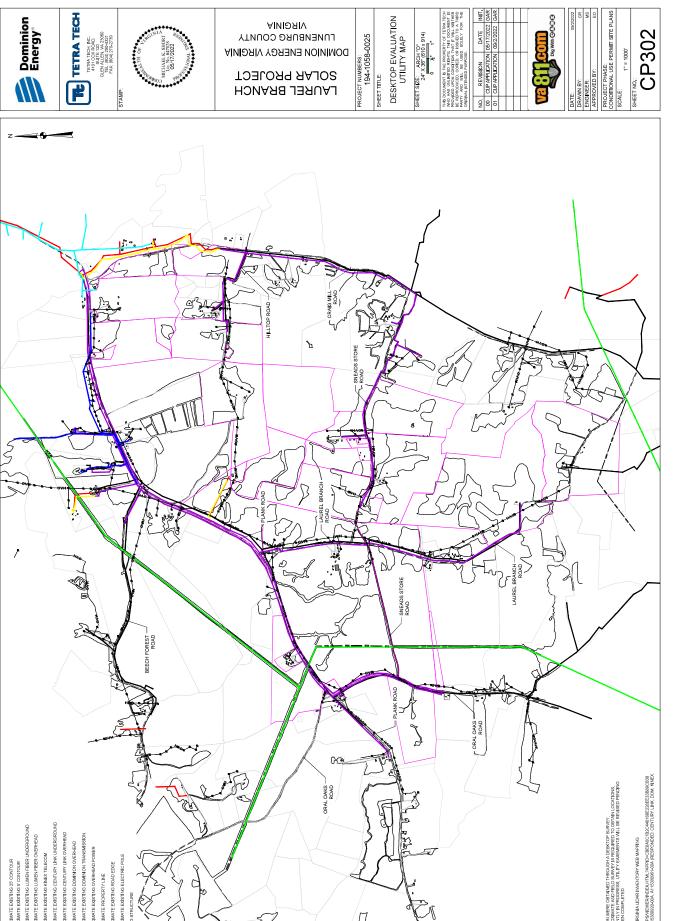
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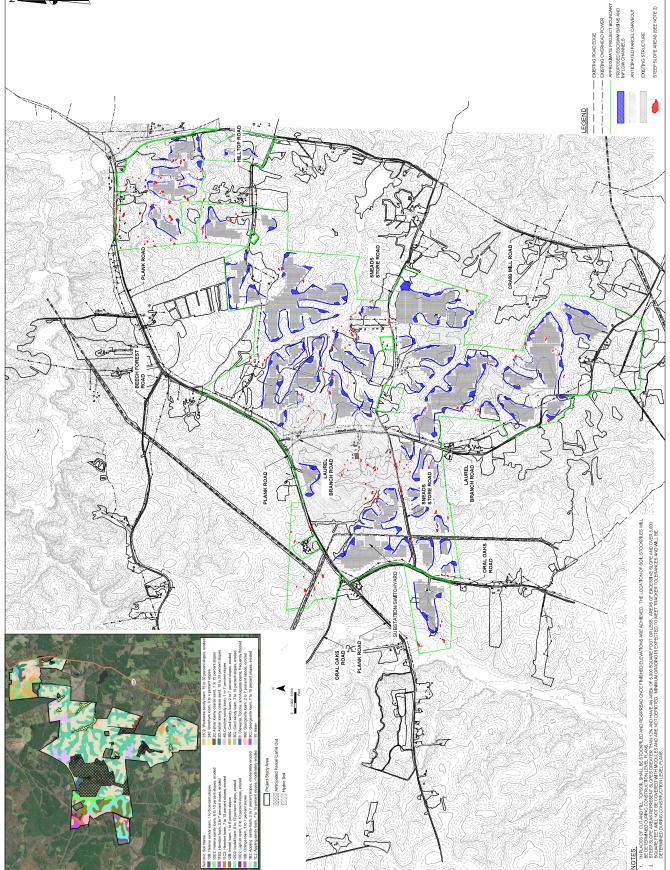
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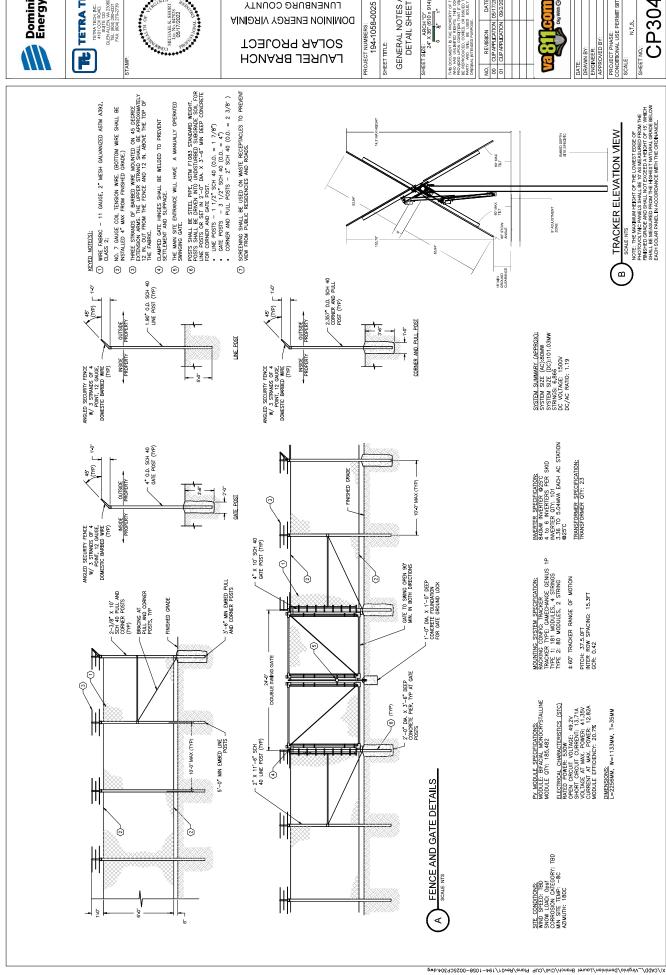
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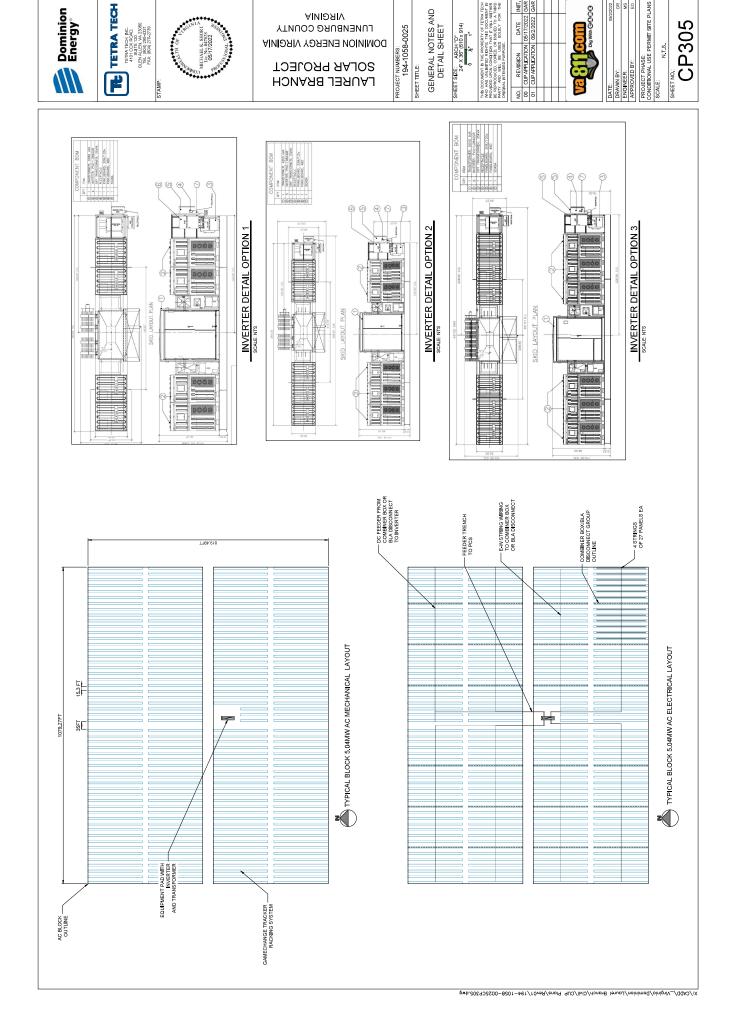
















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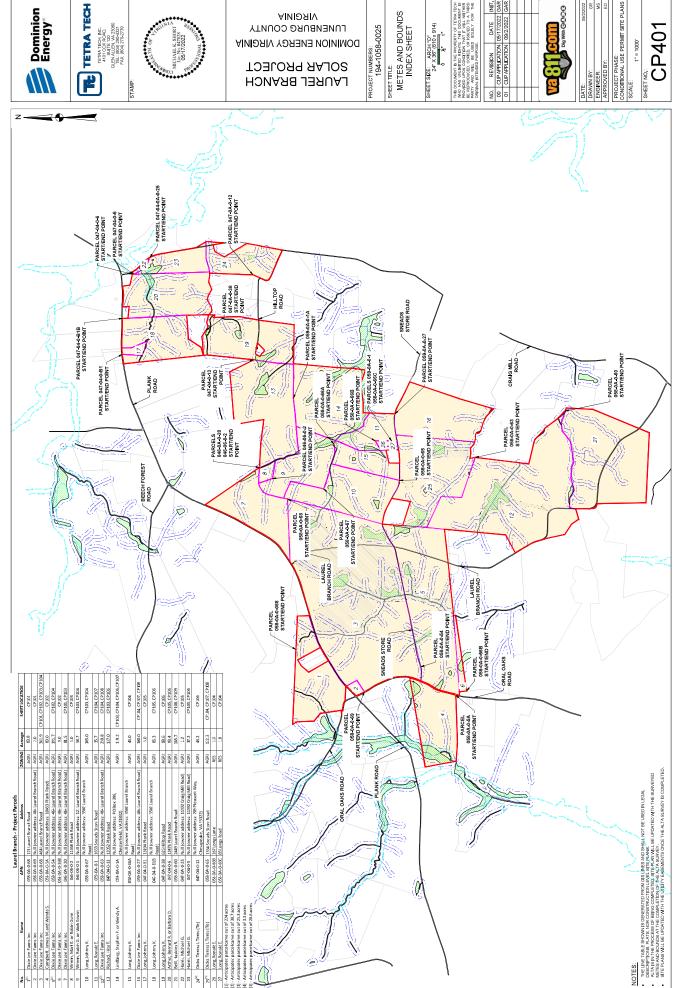
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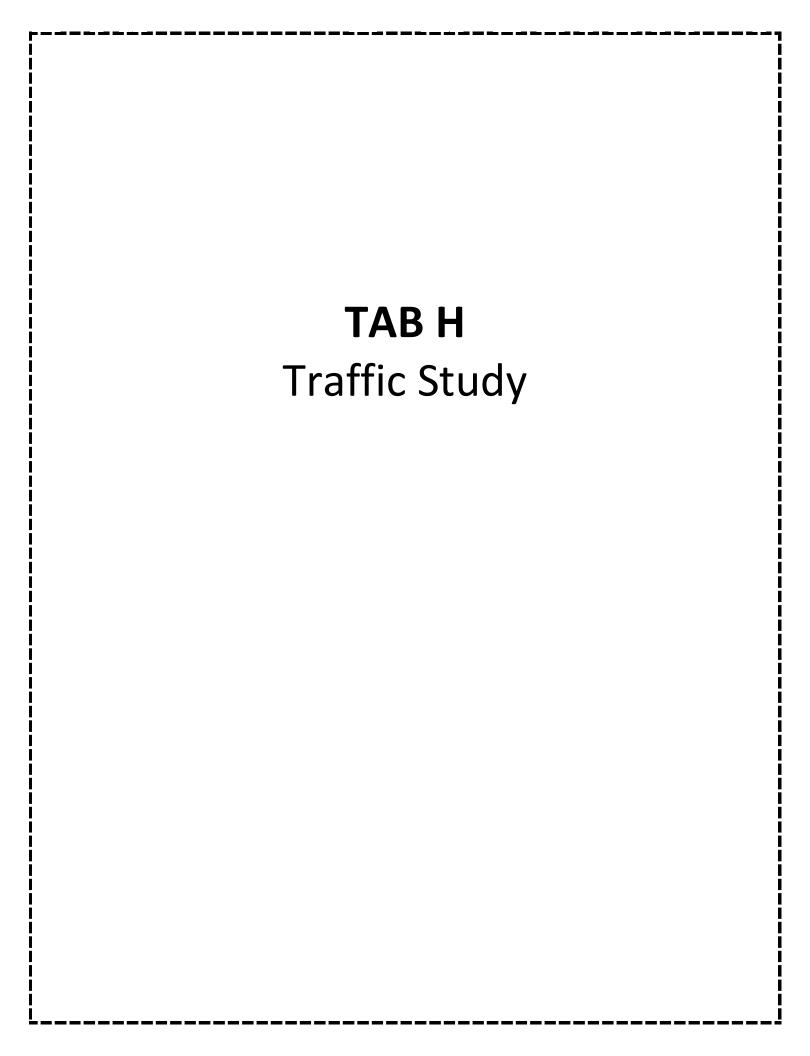
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Transportation Assessment

Laurel Branch Solar Project

September 1, 2022

Prepared for



Prepared by



4101 Cox Road, Suite 120 Glen Allen, VA 23060

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

3D three-dimensional

ADT average daily traffic

BABS Blackstone Area Bus System

CUP Conditional Use Permit

GIS geographic information system

GPS global positioning system

MWac megawatts (alternating current)
O&M operations and maintenance

Project Area The 2,378± acres of privately-owned land where the proposed Project is

located

Project Laurel Branch Solar Project

STAA Surface Transportation Assistance Act

VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

vpd vehicles per day

1.0 OVERVIEW

Tetra Tech has prepared the following transportation assessment for the proposed Laurel Branch Solar project (the "Project") to be located on Routes 635 (Oral Oaks Road), 646 (Laurel Branch Road), 647 (Sneads Store Road), 655 (Plank Road) and 637 (Craig Mill Road) and Hilltop Road in Lunenburg County, Virginia. The project site is comprised of approximately 2,378 acres (based on the current project boundary) and currently supports agricultural land with several single-family homes. Access to the site parcels is currently provided via several driveways and agricultural access ways. The proposed project calls for the redevelopment of existing agricultural land to support the construction of an 80 megawatt (MWac) solar photovoltaic power generation facility. Some of the existing single-family homes and several agricultural buildings on-site will be removed. As part of the project, 29 driveways will be constructed on the adjacent roadway system to provide temporary construction access and permanent operations and maintenance (O&M) access to the site.

As part of this assessment, Tetra Tech developed vehicle trip generation estimates associated with the proposed project's anticipated peak construction workforce levels (estimated at up to 150 construction workers). Tetra Tech also reviewed existing traffic volumes and public transportation in the vicinity of the project site. Potential truck haul routes were also identified between the site parcels and the regional highway system to reduce construction-related traffic impacts.

The project is anticipated to generate approximately 486 vehicle trips on a typical weekday day with 149 vehicle trips occurring during the weekday morning and weekday evening commuter peak hours. This equates to approximately two to three new vehicle trips per minute during peak commuting hours. These estimates conservatively assume that all construction workers would arrive within the same hour and depart within the same hour. Additionally, there are several routes connecting the site to the regional roadway system thereby reducing impacts to any single roadway segment or intersection. Peak construction activities are currently anticipated to occur for a period of approximately two to three months. The remainder of the construction period is anticipated to generate fewer vehicle trips. The adjacent roadways are anticipated to have ample capacity to accommodate the temporary increase in daily and peak hour traffic. These trip generation estimates assume 50 daily delivery trips and six delivery trips during each of the peak hours during the peak two to three months of construction activity.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project calls for the construction of a proposed 80 MWac solar photovoltaic power generation facility to be located on Routes 635 (Oral Oaks Road), 646 (Laurel Branch Road), 647 (Sneads Store Road), 655 (Plank Road) and 637 (Craig Mill Road) and Hilltop Road in Lunenburg County, Virginia. The project site location in the context of the surrounding area roadways is shown in Figure 1. The project site currently supports agricultural fields and several single-family homes. Access to the site parcels is currently provided via several driveways and agricultural access ways.

The proposed project calls for the redevelopment of existing agricultural land to support the construction of an 80 MWac solar photovoltaic power generation facility. Some of the existing single-

family homes and agricultural buildings on-site will be removed. As part of the project, 29 driveways will be constructed on the adjacent roadway system to provide temporary construction access and permanent O&M access to the site including three driveways on Oral Oaks Road, seven driveways on Laurel Branch Road, three driveways on Plank Road, nine driveways on Sneads Store Road, one driveway on Craig Mill Road and six driveways on Hilltop Road.

2.1 Existing Traffic Volumes

The site parcels are accessed by Routes 635 (Oral Oaks Road), 646 (Laurel Branch Road), 647 (Sneads Store Road), 655 (Plank Road) and 637 (Craig Mill Road) and Hilltop Road. These primary roadways serving the site are under Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) ownership and allow for two-way travel.

The estimated Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volume estimates for the study area roadways are summarized in Table 1 based on the most recent publicly available data from VDOT. VDOT traffic volume data is provided in Appendix A.

Table 1 Estimated Average Daily Traffic (ADT) Volumes

Roadway	ADT (vehicles per day)	
Route 637 (east of Route 655)	1,100	
Route 655	540	
Route 637 (south of Route 655)	580	
Route 635 (south of Route 655)	440	
Route 635 (north of Route 655)	310	
Sneads Store Road (east of Route 646)	100	
Route 646	70	
Route 647	20	
Hilltop Road	40	

Source: VDOT

2.2 Vehicle Trip Generation

The project will consist of three phases: construction, O&M, and decommissioning. The highest volume of site-related trips will occur during the peak construction phase of the project. Therefore, the trip generation for the peak construction phase workforce levels were estimated for this assessment.

Vehicle trip generation estimates for the project were developed based on anticipated construction operations for the project. Construction of the proposed solar facility is expected to include grading, panel installation, inspections, and equipment deliveries. It is anticipated that, at peak operations, the site could experience construction workforce levels of up to 150 construction workers at one time. Construction hours of operation are assumed to generally be 7 AM to 5 PM with construction workers arriving prior to 7 AM and departing after 5 PM. Since the peak hours of the adjacent street traffic are expected to occur sometime during the peak commuting periods of 7 AM to 9 AM and 4 PM to 6 PM, it is expected that the majority of construction workers would be arriving and departing the site outside of the typical weekday morning and weekday evening commuter peak hours of the adjacent street.

However, to present a conservative assessment of potential traffic increases associated with the project, it is assumed that all the construction workers would arrive during the weekday morning peak hour and depart during the weekday evening peak hour. The supporting trip generation calculations and assumptions for the proposed project's peak construction workforce levels are provided in Appendix B.

The Blackstone Area Bus System (BABS) operates public transit service in nearby Lunenburg County. BABS operates the Town and Country bus service on Route 637 which travels from Kenbridge to Victoria. The site is approximately 2 miles southwest of this public transportation service with the closest stop located at the W.7th Avenue and Broad Street intersection in Kenbridge. For the purposes of this assessment, it was assumed that no construction workers would use public transit to access the site. Public transportation information is provided in Appendix C.

It is anticipated that some construction workers would arrive and depart the site together (carpooling). For purposes of this assessment, it was assumed that 10 percent of the construction workers will carpool to travel to/from the site with two workers per vehicle. Table 1 presents a summary of the trip generation estimates for the project's peak construction workforce activities.

Table 2 Trip Generation Summary – Peak Construction Period

	Project Trips			
Time Period/ Direction	Workforce Trips ¹	Non-Heavy Vehicle Deliveries ²	Heavy Vehicles ³	Total
Weekday AM Peak Hour				
Enter	143	1	2	146
Exit	0	1	2	3
Total	143	2	4	149
Weekday PM Peak Hour				
Enter	0	1	2	3
Exit	143	1	2	146
Total	143	2	4	149
Weekday Daily				
Enter	218	5	20	243
Exit	218	5	20	243
Total	436	10	40	486

¹ Assumed 150 construction workers per day. Conservatively assumed trips overlap with adjacent street peaks. Peak construction activities are currently anticipated to occur for a period of approximately two to three months. The remainder of the construction period is anticipated to generate fewer vehicle trips. 2 Assumed 5 deliveries per day with 40 percent of trips occurring during peak hours.

As shown in Table 1, the peak construction activity for the proposed solar facility is expected to generate 486 new vehicle trips (243 entering and 243 exiting) on a typical weekday, with approximately 149 new vehicle trips (146 entering and 3 exiting) during the weekday morning peak hour and 149 new vehicle trips (3 entering and 146 exiting) during the weekday evening peak hour. These trip generation estimates assume 50 daily delivery trips and six delivery trips during each of the peak hours. The adjacent roadways are anticipated to have ample capacity to accommodate the temporary increase in daily and peak hour traffic with the project estimated to generate

³ Assumed 20 deliveries per day spread evenly throughout day.

approximately two to three additional trips every minute during peak hours. Additionally, there are several routes connecting the site to the regional roadway system thereby reducing impacts to any single roadway segment or intersection.

Post-Construction Conditions. Routine post-construction O&M activities at the site are not anticipated to result in a measurable increase in vehicle traffic. The number of maintenance workers traveling to the site is anticipated to be low and impacts to local traffic are not expected. The proposed solar facility will be unmanned during routine O&M and would only be inspected periodically. Therefore, the site is not expected to add a noticeable increase to existing traffic under typical O&M conditions. Personnel would be on site as necessary for any maintenance and repairs. Additionally, impacts resulting from decommissioning of the project are expected to be similar to or less than those experienced during construction.

2.3 Truck Haul Routes

The construction of the proposed solar facility will require large vehicle deliveries for a variety of materials that may include concrete, solar panels, earth materials, building materials, etc. Tetra Tech identified potential truck haul routes between the site parcels and the regional roadway system for these larger vehicles. For purposes of this assessment, it was assumed that the deliveries would originate from three primary geographical areas: Richmond, VA, Lynchburg, VA, and Raleigh, NC. Factors considered in developing potential truck haul routes are summarized below. Separate inbound and outbound travel routes are provided where appropriate.

- Prioritize designated Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) truck routes from the VDOT database.
- Avoid roadway segments having bridge height and weight limitations based on a review of the VDOT database.
- Minimize impacts to schools, traffic signals, and areas with pedestrian activity.
- Minimize turns at locations with geometric limitations.

The potential regional truck haul routes are shown in Figure 2. The potential local truck haul routes to/from the proposed site driveways are shown in Figure 3. A preliminary Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared for the project and is provided in Appendix D.

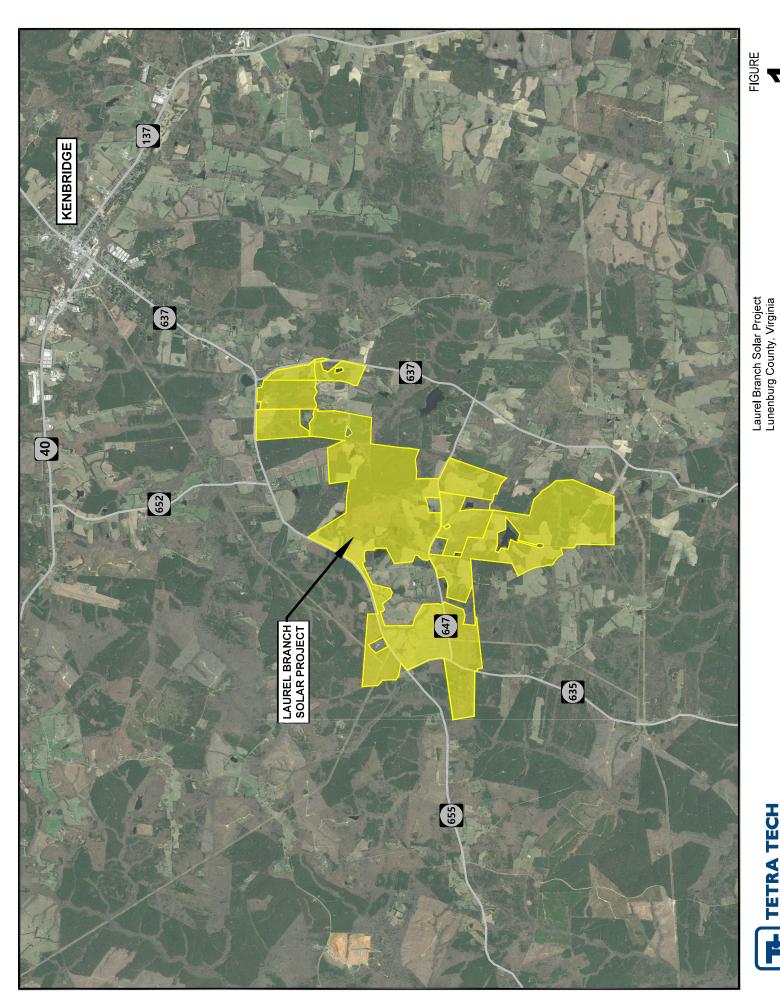
3.0 CONCLUSIONS

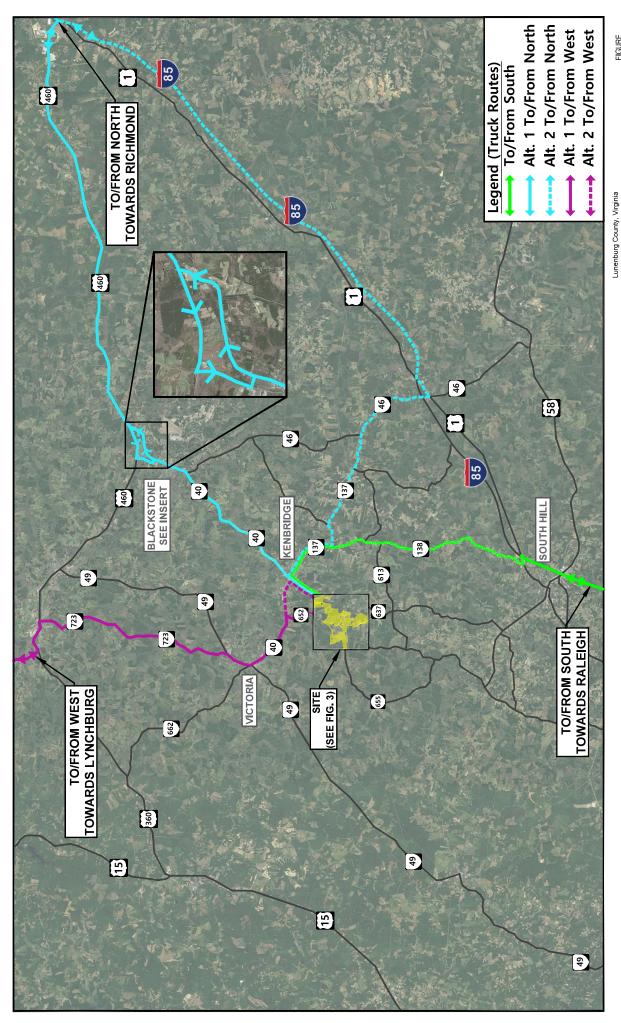
The peak construction workforce levels for the proposed 80 MWac solar photovoltaic power generation facility is expected to generate approximately 149 trips during the weekday morning peak hour and 149 trips during the weekday evening peak hour during peak construction workforce activity. This equates to approximately two to three new vehicle trips per minute during peak hours. Peak construction activities are currently anticipated to occur for a period of approximately two to three months. The remainder of the construction period is anticipated to generate fewer vehicle trips. These trip generation estimates are conservative as the majority of peak hour trips are likely to occur outside of the typical weekday commuter peak hours of the adjacent street traffic and do not take credit for possible vehicle trip reductions associated with use of available public transportation. The

project will generate even less traffic post construction with routine inspection and maintenance of the solar panels and supporting equipment. Additionally, there are several routes connecting the site to the regional roadway system thereby reducing impacts to any single roadway segment or intersection. As part of the project, 29 driveways will be constructed to provide temporary construction access and permanent O&M access to the site from the public roadway network including three driveways on Oral Oaks Road, seven driveways on Laurel Branch Road, three driveways on Plank Road, nine driveways on Sneads Store Road, one driveway on Craig Mill Road and six driveways on Hilltop Road. The adjacent roadways are anticipated to have ample capacity to accommodate the temporary increase in daily and peak hour traffic with existing daily traffic volumes of 20 vehicles per day (vpd) to 1,100 vpd. Potential truck haul routes were identified between the site parcels and the regional highway system to reduce construction-related traffic impacts.

FIGURES









Laurel Branch Solar Potential Regional Truck Haul Routes

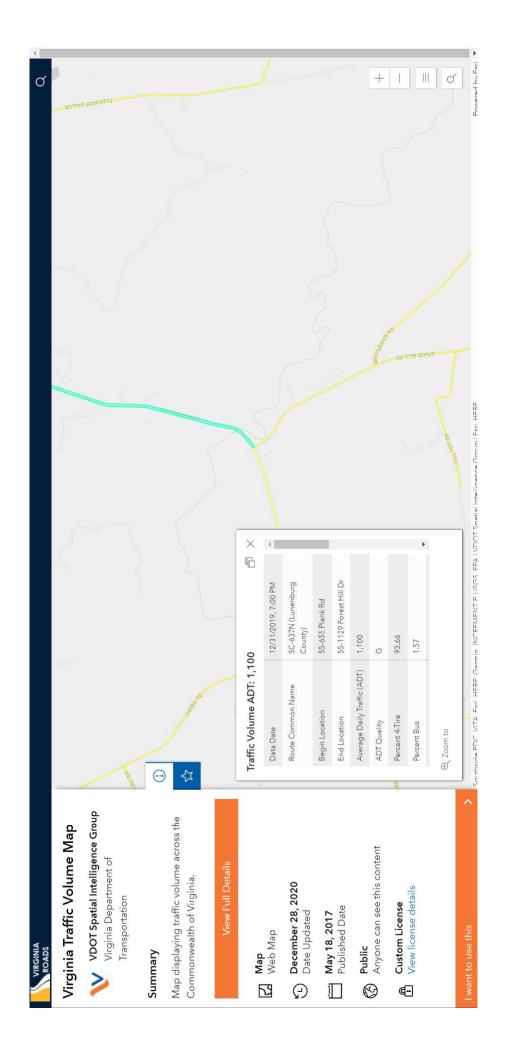


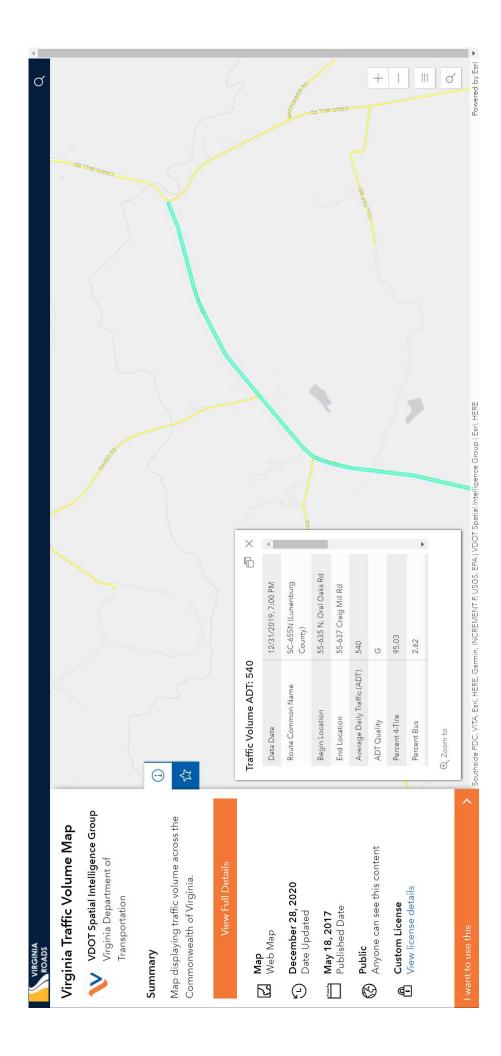


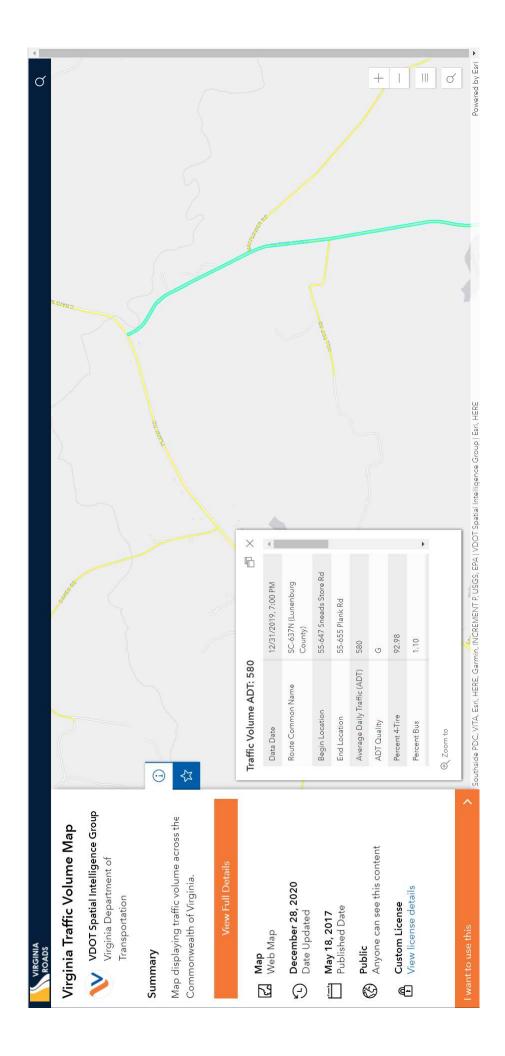
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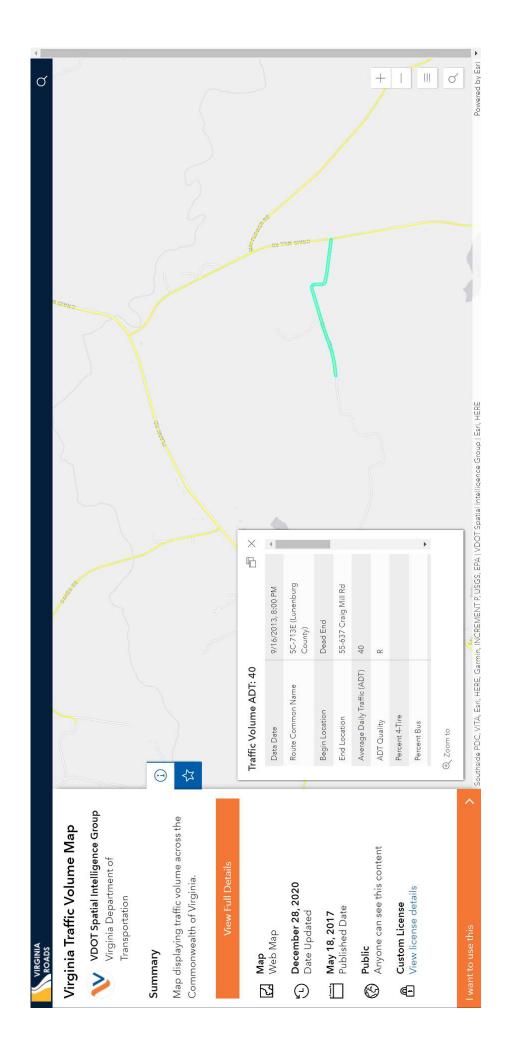
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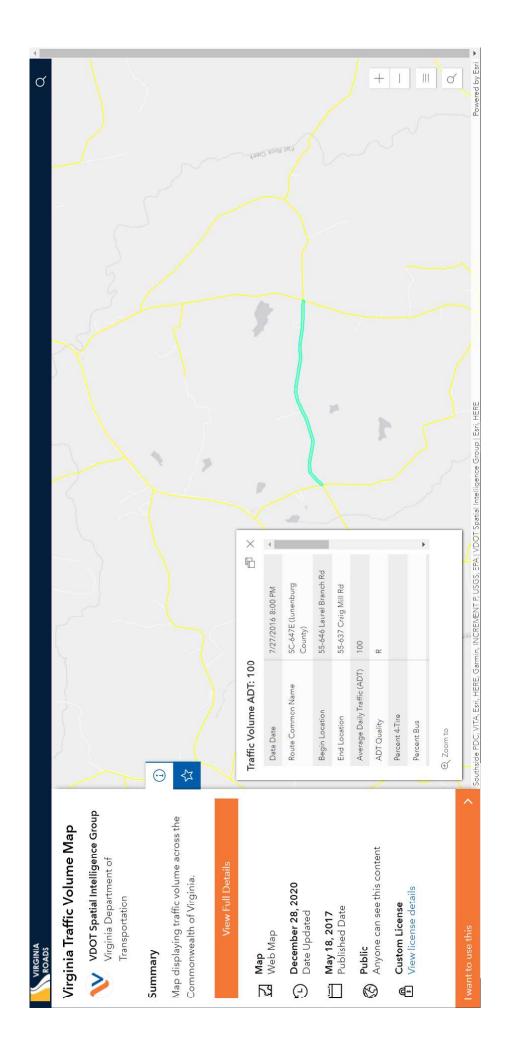
APPENDIX A: VDOT TRAFFIC VOLUME DATA

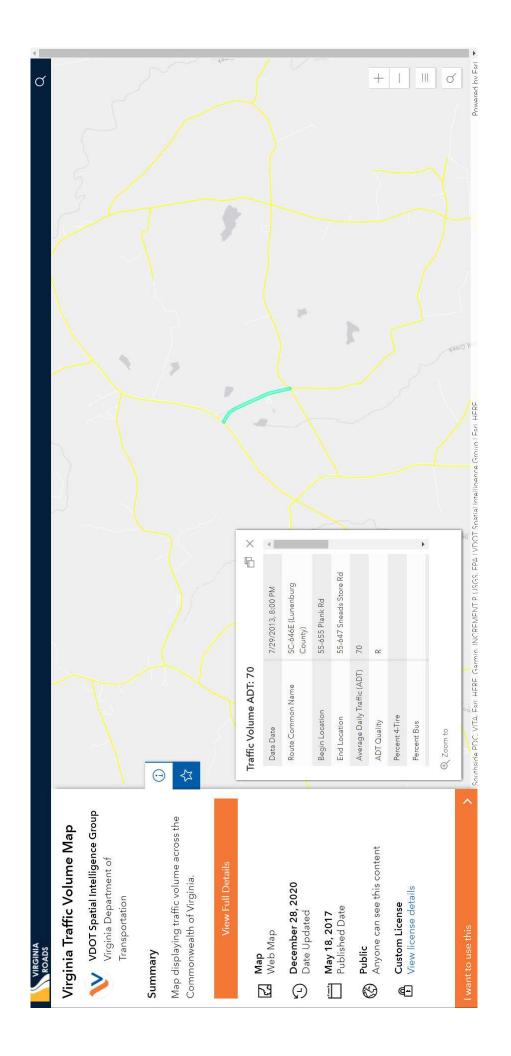


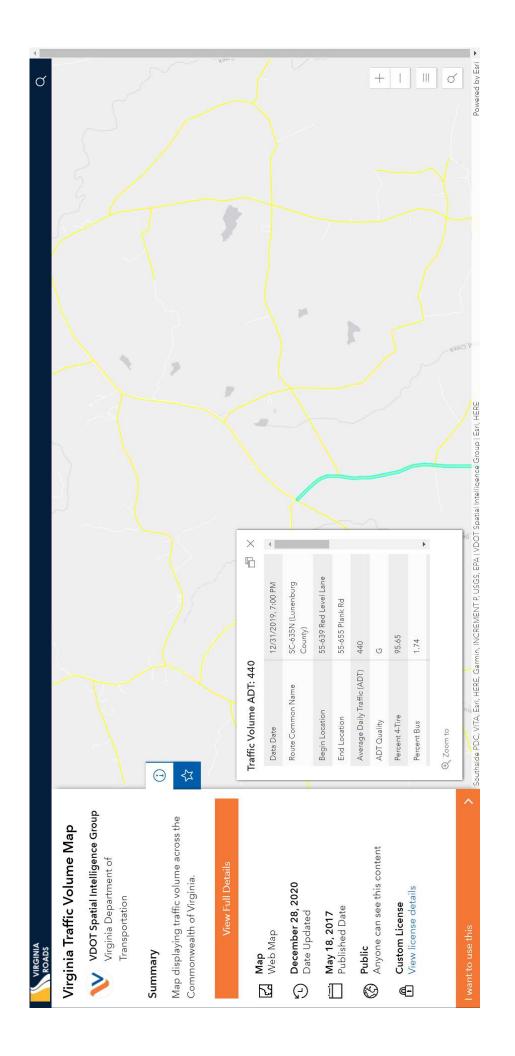


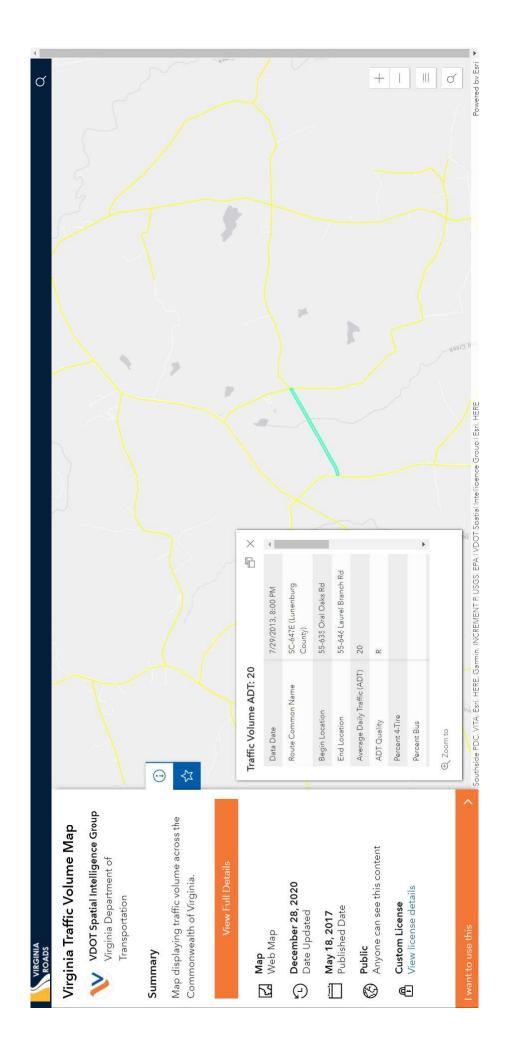


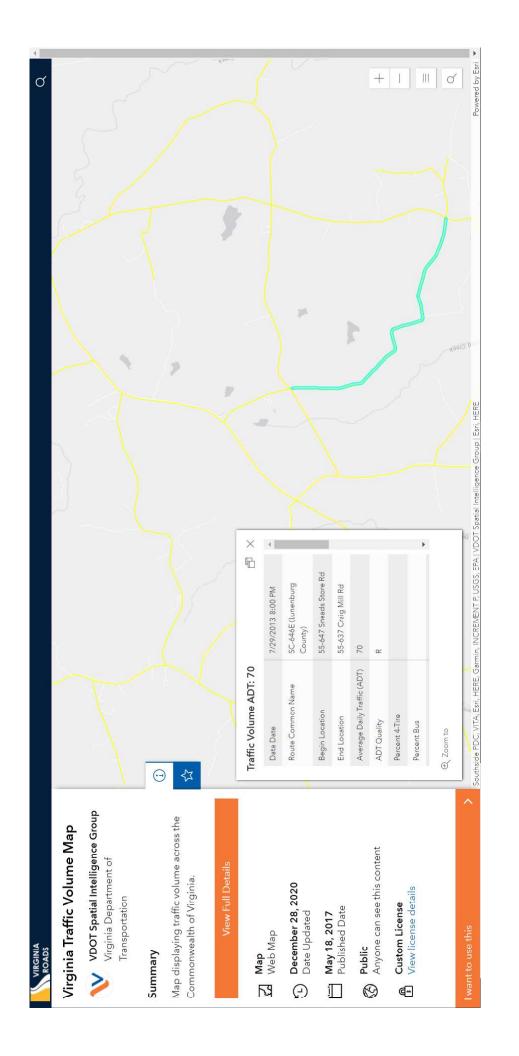


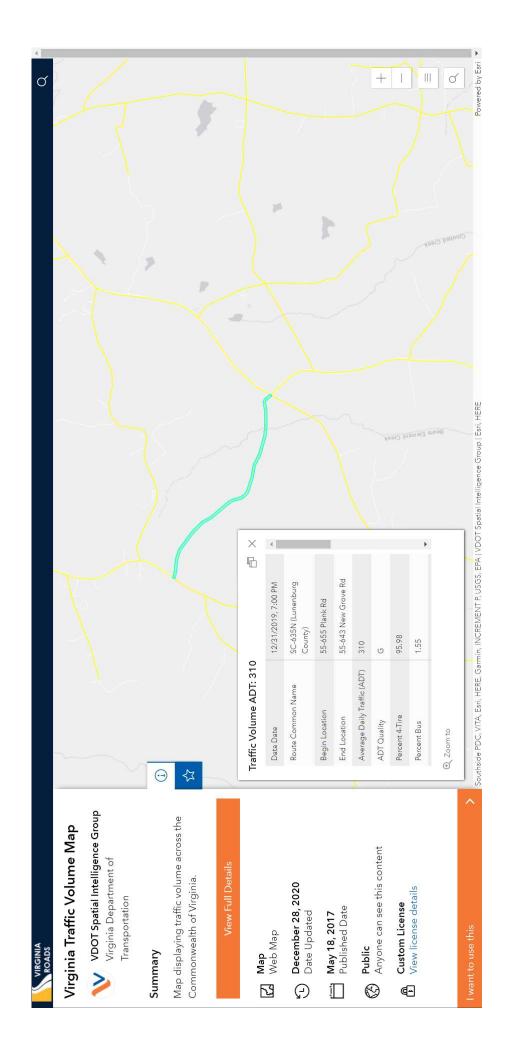












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Transportation Assessment

APPENDIX B: TRIP GENERATION CALCULATIONS

Peak Construction Workforce Trip Generation Calculations and Assumptions Proposed Dominion Laurel Branch Solar Facility - Lunenburg County, VA

		CALCULATIONS		(150 workers x 100% arrive x (100% - 10% carpool x 1 vehicle/2 carpool workers)) + (3 Delivery Vehicles arrive) = 146	(150 workers x 0% depart) + (3 Delivery Vehicles depart) = 3			(150 workers x 0% arrive) + (3 Delivery Vehicles arrive) = 3	(150 workers x 100% depart x (100% - 10% carpool x 1 vehicle/2 carpool workers)) + (3 Delivery Vehicles depart) = 146			(150 workers x 100% arrive in AM x (100% - 10% carpool x 1 vehicle/2 carpool workers) + (150 workers x 50% return from lunch /errands midday) + (25 Delivery Vehicles arrive) = 243	(150 workers x 100% depart in PM x (100% - 10% carpool x 1 vehicle/2 carpool workers)) + (35 workers x 50% leave for lunch/errands midday) + (25 Delivery Vehicles depart) = 243	
				(150 workers:	(150 workers)			(150 workers	(150 workers			(150 workers	(150 workers)	
		Total		146	ന	149		ĸ	146	149			243	486
Driveway Trips	Heavy Vehicle	Deliveries		2	2	4		2	7	4		20	20	40
Construction Site Driveway Trips	Non-Heavy	Vehicle Deliveries		1	Н	2		П	H	2		2	51	10
		Workforce Trips Vehicle Deliveries		143	ol	143		0	143	143		218	218	436
			AM Peak Hour:	Enter	Exit	Total	PM Peak Hour:	Enter	Exit	Total	Weekday Daily:	Enter	Exit	Total

Construction Assumption	AM Peak Hour	PM Peak Hour	Off-Peak	Notes
# of Peak Workers On-Site at One Time:	150	150	150	Assume 1.90 tradespeciple per day
% Workers Arriving:	100%	%0	20%	Accorded by any special process of the moning peak hours of adjacent street traffic assumed to occur between is "Jam-Sam and dapa fine for the moning peak hour of adjacent street traffic and some major that the evening peak hour however, as a conservative measure, assumed traffic and some major that the evening peak hour however, as a conservative measure, assumed half of workforce depart and return once during of peak times. Assumed none of the workers get peaked up/dropped off.
% Workers Departing:	%0	100%	20%	Assumed hours of operation 3am Spm (may be longer). Peak Hours of adjacent street traffic assumed to occur between is 7am 3am and 4pm 6pm. Therefore the majority of construction worker traffic is likely to occur outside of the morning peak hour of adjacent secure, as conscribing to exemption of the workers get packed up/dropped off.
% Carpool ¹ :	10.0%	10.0%	%0:0	Assumed 10% carpoding during commuting
Carpool VOR ² :	2.00	2.00	1.00	Assumed two workers per car during commuting.
# Shuttle Trips:	0	0	0	Assumed all workers and deliveries will occur via the construction drheway, no laydown site is proposed
#Truck Deliveries:	2	2	16	Assumed worker hours of operation 7am-5pm and assumed 20 deliveries per day that would be distributed evenly throughout the day.
# Non-Truck Deliveries:	1	1	3	Occasionally, non-heavy vehide deliveries will occur. For trip generation analysis purposes, assumed 5 deliveries per day, Conservatively assumed some occurs during peak hours of adjacent street traffic.

¹Enter % per population - formulas above account for VOR
²VOR for carpoolers only
NOTE. Assumes an 80 MW AC facility with 9 months of peak construction and 2 to 3 months of ramp-up/ramp-down construction activity
Source: Tetra Tech

APPENDIX C: PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

TOWN & COUNTY TRANSIT

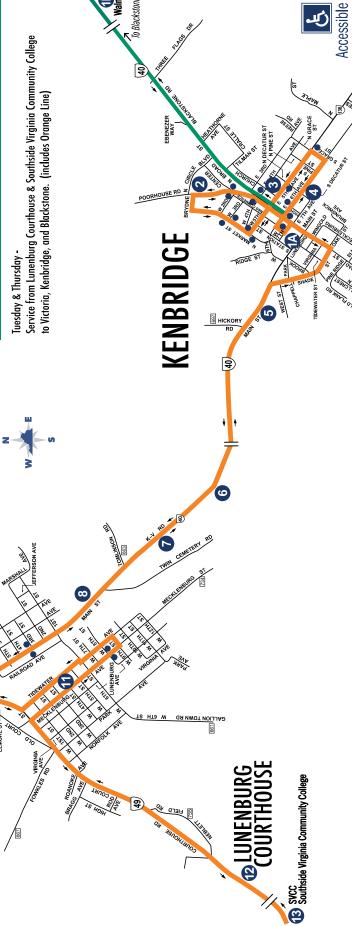
Monday, Wednesday & Friday Service from Kenbridge through Victoria to
Lunenburg Courthouse & Southside Virginia
Community College

VICTORIA

Scheduled stops and times are shown in the chart and on the map. The bus will stop at locations denoted on the map by a smaller circle [•], if there are passengers waiting at the stops.

BLACKSTONE AREA BUS SYSTEM

TOWN & COUNTY TRANSIT



Servicing the County of Lunenburg and the Towns of Kenbridge and Victoria, this route operates from 7:00 AM to 4:15 PM on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and on Tuesday and Thursday until 4:45 PM. On Tuesday and Thursday this route travels to the Town of Blackstone.

ORANGE LINE Mon, Wed, Fri	Σ⇒						∑ ⇒				
🕼 W. 7th St. & Broad St.	7:00	9:00	_	10:15	ı	11:30	1:00	2:20	ı	4:15	
2 Kenbridge Elementary	7:02	8:53	9:02	10:13	10:17	11:27	1:02	2:13	2:22	4:13	
Mildred's Meals	7:04	8:51	9:04	10:11	10:19	11:25	1:04	2:11	2:24	4:11	
🙆 Kenbridge Family Practice	7:06	8:49	9:06	10:09	10:21	11:23	1:06	5:09	2:26	4:09	
Southside Shopping Center	7:10	8:45	9:10	10:05	10:25	11:19	1:10	2:05	2:30	4:05	
👩 Community Health Center 📗	7:15	8:40	9:15	10:00	10:30	11:14	1:15	2:00	2:35	4:00	
🕝 Village Estates Apts.	7:18	8:37	9:18	85:6	10:32	11:12	1:18	1:58	2:37	3:58	
🔞 Food Lion, Victoria	7:20	8:35	9:20	6:55	10:35	11:09	1:20	1:55	2:40	3:55	
🧐 Victoria Public Library	7:22	8:33	9:22	9:53	10:37	11:07	1:22	1:53	2:42	3:53	
🕕 Vaughn's Grocery	7:25	8:30	9:25	9:50	10:40	11:00	1:25	1:50	2:45	3:50	
🕕 Victoria Place Apts.	7:28	8:27	9:28	9:47	10:43	10:59	1:28	1:47	2:48	3:47	
😢 Lunenburg Co. Courthouse	7:35	8:20	9:40	ı	10:50	ı	1:40	ı	2:55	3:40	
(B) SVCC	8:00	-	_	ı	-	ı	1	ı	3:25	ı	

GREEN LINE Tues. Thurs	¥⇒						Σ			
(B) Walmart, Blackstone	1	1	1	10:35	1	1	1	2:35	1	ı
W. 7th St. & Broad St.	7:00	9:00	ı	10:15	10:50	12:10	1:00	2:20	2:50	4:45
Kenbridge Elementary	7:02	8:53	9:02	10:13	10:52	12:08	1:02	2:13	2:52	4:43
Mildred's Meals	7:04	8:51	9:04	11:01	10:54	12:06	1:04	2:11	2:54	4:4]
4 Kenbridge Family Practice	90:/	8:49	90:6	60:01	10:56	12:04	1:06	5:09	2:56	4:39
⑤ Southside Shopping Center	01:/	8:45	9:10	50:01	11:00	12:00	1:10	2:05	3.00	4:35
© Community Health Center	7:15	8:40	9:15	10:00	11:05	11:55	1:15	2:00	3:05	4:30
(7) Village Estates Apts.	81:/	8:37	9:18	85:6	11:07	11:52	1:18	1:58	3:07	4:28
8 Food Lion, Victoria	1:20	8:35	9:20	55:6	11:10	11:49	1:20	1:55	3:10	4:25
Victoria Public Library	7:72	8:33	9:22	6:53	11:12	11:47	1:22	1:53	3:12	4:23
1 Vaughn's Grocery	7:25	8:30	9:25	9:50	11:15	11:40	1:25	1:50	3:15	4:20
(1) Victoria Place Apts.	7:28	8:27	9:28	6:47	11:18	11:37	1:28	1:47	3:18	4:17
😢 Lunenburg Co. Courthouse	7:35	8:20	9:40	ı	11:30	ı	1:40	ı	3:25	4:10
(13) SACC	8:00	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	3:50	ı

Laurel Branch Solar Project

APPENDIX D: CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT PLAN

Transportation Assessment

1.1 Introduction

Virginia Electric and Power Company (d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia) ("Dominion") is proposing an 80 MWac utility-scale solar facility known as "Laurel Branch Solar" (the "Project") in Lunenburg County, Virginia (the "County"). The project will be located to the southwest of the Town of Kenbridge on 2,378 acres of land along Routes 635 (Oral Oaks Road), 646 (Laurel Branch Road), 647 (Sneads Store Road), 655 (Plank Road) and 637 (Craig Mill Road) and Hilltop Road in Lunenburg County, Virginia. Project construction is projected to begin the second quarter of 2024 and last approximately 12 months with nine months of typical construction and two to three months of ramp up/ramp down activity. Peak construction activity is anticipated to occur over a two to three-month period.

1.2 Construction Traffic Haul Routes

The construction of the proposed solar facility will require large vehicle deliveries for a variety of materials that may include concrete, solar panels, earth materials, building materials, etc. Tetra Tech identified potential truck haul routes between the site parcels and the regional roadway system for these larger vehicles. For purposes of this assessment, it was assumed that the deliveries would originate from three primary geographical areas: Richmond, VA, Lynchburg, VA, and Raleigh, NC. Factors considered in developing potential truck haul routes are summarized below. Separate inbound and outbound travel routes are provided where appropriate.

- Prioritize designated Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) truck routes from the VDOT database.
- Avoid roadway segments having bridge height and weight limitations based on a review of the VDOT database.
- Minimize impacts to schools, traffic signals, and areas with pedestrian activity.
- Minimize turns at locations with geometric limitations.

The potential regional truck haul routes are shown in Figure 1. The potential local truck haul routes to/from the proposed site driveways are shown in Figure 2.

When accessing the site via Route 406 to the north, all construction traffic (employees, subcontractors, delivery companies, etc.) associated with the project will be instructed to use N West Avenue (Route 606) when entering the site and Cox Road when exiting the site. This will minimize disruptions to downtown Blackstone and avoid potential safety issues with the limited queue storage for Route 406 westbound left-turn movements onto Cox Road.

The final approved truck route map will be distributed to all construction employees and subcontractors to ensure the appropriate routes will be used to access the site. Signage is proposed to guide project-related traffic and make existing roadway users aware of the increased traffic levels and trucking activity during the construction phase. A preliminary signage plan is presented in the Attachments. The signage plan will be subject to review and approval by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

1.3 Construction Office, Staging and Employee Parking

The project is currently at the conceptual level. It is anticipated that parking for the construction-related activity (employees and deliveries) will occur entirely on-site. laydown yards are currently proposed all of which will be located within the project boundaries. The laydown yards are typically dimensioned 350 feet by 55 feet. The layout and configuration of the laydown yards' appurtenances such as construction trailers, parking layout, porta johns, dumpsters, material storage and drop-off, etc. will be determined during the construction level plan preparation. The proposed signage plan will also be updated, if needed, during the development of the construction-level plans.

A central parking field is not proposed since the project will consist of numerous solar panel pods. Employees are expected to park at the pod in which they are assigned to on each day of construction. The pods will be accessed via 29 proposed driveways including three driveways on Oral Oaks Road, seven driveways on Laurel Branch Road, three driveways on Plank Road, nine driveways on Sneads Store Road, one driveway on Craig Mill Road and six driveways on Hilltop Road. Delivery vehicles will also use the proposed driveways to deliver materials. The proposed signage plan provided in the Attachments includes warning signs to alert motorists of slower moving heavy vehicles in the area.

The project will consist of three phases: construction, O&M, and decommissioning. The highest volume of site-related trips will occur during the peak construction phase of the project. A Transportation Assessment was prepared as part of the Lunenburg County conditional use permit (CUP) review process which included a detailed vehicle trip generation analysis for the peak construction activity anticipated for the project. A summary of the vehicle trip generation estimates provided in the May 2022 Transportation Assessment is provided in Table 1 for reference. These estimates conservatively assume that all construction workers would arrive within the same hour and depart within the same hour. Additionally, there are several routes connecting the site to the regional roadway system thereby reducing impacts to any single roadway segment or intersection. Peak construction activities are currently anticipated to occur for a period of approximately two to three months. The remainder of the construction period is anticipated to generate fewer vehicle trips.

Table 1 Trip Generation Summary – Peak Construction Period

		Project	Trips	
Time Period/ Direction	Workforce Trips ¹	Non-Heavy Vehicle Deliveries ²	Heavy Vehicles ³	Total
Weekday AM Peak Hour				
Enter	143	1	2	146
Exit	0	1	2	3
Total	143	2	4	149
Weekday PM Peak Hour				
Enter	0	1	2	3
Exit	143	1	2	146
Total	143	2	4	149
Weekday Daily				
Enter	218	5	20	243
Exit	218	5	20	243
Total	436	10	40	486

¹ Assumed 150 construction workers per day. Conservatively assumed trips overlap with adjacent street peaks. Peak construction activities are currently anticipated to occur for a period of approximately two to three months. The remainder of the construction period is anticipated to generate fewer vehicle trips.

Over the course of the approximate 12-month construction schedule, the volume of daily truck counts will vary, but is anticipated to be up to 20 trucks per day during peak construction days.

1.4 Public Road Evaluation: Pre- and Post-Construction

The project commits to conducting a photographic and video evaluation of the condition of the existing secondary roadways immediately leading to the site as shown in Figure 3. The project is anticipated to begin construction during second quarter 2024. The pre-construction road evaluation on the roadways shown in Figure 3 will be conducted closer to the beginning of the project's construction activity. The specific date of the evaluation will be determined in consultation with VDOT staff during the construction plan preparation phase.

² Assumed 5 deliveries per day with 40 percent of trips occurring during peak hours.

³ Assumed 20 deliveries per day spread evenly throughout day.

TAB I Decommissioning and **Reclamation Plan**

Laurel Branch Solar Project

Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan

September 5, 2022

Prepared for



Prepared by



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Appendix A: Decommissioning Estimate

Acronyms and Abbreviations

MW megawatt

PV photovoltaic

Project Laurel Branch Solar Project

DC direct current

AC alternating current

SCADA Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition

BMP best management practice

bgs below ground surface

SF square feet

LF linear feet

ea each

NA not applicable

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Dominion Energy Virginia ("Dominion") will construct, own, and operate the approximately 80-megawatt (MW) capacity photovoltaic ("PV") Laurel Branch Solar Project ("Project"). The Project will encompass approximately 815 acres in Lunenburg County, on a portion of twenty-six (26) parcels in Lunenburg County, Virginia (the "County") totaling approximately 2,378 acres. Dominion provides this draft Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan is provided to comply with the County's Ordinance for Solar Energy Facilities (the "Solar Ordinance"). The required Decommissioning Estimate (See Section 5) is provided as Appendix A.

Prior to operation, a final Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan (the "Final Plan") will be provided to the Zoning Administrator for review and approval. Once approved, the Final Plan and the Decommissioning Estimate will be reviewed once every five (5) years by an independent third party.

2.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Project is located to the southwest of the Town of Kenbridge, between Plank Road and Sneads Store Road and along Oral Oaks Road. The solar facility will consist of approximately 185,482 solar modules, associated solar module racking system and foundations, 101 solar inverters, 23 medium voltage step-up transformers, and associated electrical equipment and materials necessary to collect the energy produced. The facility will be secure, surrounded by a 7-foot tall chain link and barbed wire fence (i.e. 6-foot tall plus 1 foot of barbed wire). The anticipated life of the Project is 35 years, based on typical life spans of solar facilities.

3.0 EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

The Project lease will encompass approximately 2,378 acres. Land use prior to development was primarily timber and agriculture. The Project study area consists of moderate topography as it lies on multiple ridges and stream valleys. Neighboring land uses include timbering and agriculture.

4.0 DESCRIPTION OF WORK TO CONSTRUCT LARGE SCALE SOLAR FACILITY

4.1 Major Activities

4.1.1 Cable Trenching

Trenching requirements for the electrical cables and telecommunication lines would consist of a trench up to approximately three feet deep and one to four feet wide. The trenches would be filled with base material above and below the conductors and communications lines to ensure adequate thermal conductivity and electrical insulating characteristics. The topsoil from trench excavation would be set aside before the trench is backfilled and would ultimately comprise the uppermost layer

¹ See Solar Ordinance Section 4.3.e (Draft Decommissioning and Reclamation Plan).



1

of the trench. Any excess material from the foundation and trench excavations will be incorporated onsite and will not be exported.

4.1.2 Foundations

The solar modules will be installed on steel racking structures. The posts for the racking structures will be driven approximately 9 feet into the ground using a post-driving machine. The solar inverters and medium voltage step-up transformers will be set on concrete pads, which are typically 12 to 18 inches deep.

4.1.3 Modules Racking System

Galvanized beams and other structural members will be bolted to the foundation posts of the racking system. The solar modules will then be mounted on these structural members using different pieces of hardware.

4.1.4 Solar Inverters and Medium Voltage Step-Up Transformers

The solar inverters and medium voltage step-up transformers will be offloaded from delivery trucks and placed on concrete foundations. These pieces of equipment will be bolted to the concrete foundations. The underground electrical and communication cables will be routed and connected to these pieces of equipment.

4.2 System Overview and Components

Photovoltaic is a solar energy technology. Solar energy technology refers to the generation of electrical current from sun light. PV solar modules absorb sunlight and use silicone cells to generate electrical current. The PV modules are mounted on a single axis tracking racking system, which allows the modules to track the sun throughout the day. System components are described below.

4.2.1 Combiner Boxes

Combiner boxes allow for the paralleling of multiple conductors/feeder inputs and allow for fewer outputs.

4.2.2 Inverters

Inverters are high-speed switching and power conversion devices which transform direct current (DC) to alternating current (AC). In the case of the Project, there are 101 solar inverters.

4.2.3 Transformers, Recloser, Disconnect Switch

Transformers are an apparatus for reducing or increasing the voltage of an alternating current. There are 23 medium voltage step-up transformers on this Project for distribution to the electrical grid. The Recloser and Disconnect Switches are protection devices that allow for isolation of the solar farm from the wider distribution system.

4.2.4 Underground Cables and Conduits

Underground power (AC and DC) cables, communication and grounding cables on the Project will be either direct buried or placed in conduit. The cables will be rated in accordance with their application.

The cables will be located in a conduit as per code when transitioning from below grade to above grade.

4.2.5 Access and Internal Roads

The Project will have internal roads to provide access to facility equipment. Internal access roads will be constructed using an aggregate base over compacted native soils.

4.2.6 Buildings and Enclosures

The Project will not contain any permanent occupied building structures after construction is complete and the plant is operating. The site may have storage containers used for storing spare parts and materials, but these will not be affixed to a foundation. Except for periodic maintenance, the site is unmanned.

4.2.7 Security Fencing

To ensure security of the facility, the property will be fenced with six-foot-high chain link fencing topped by one foot of three-stranded barbed wire. Access to the site will be controlled via locked access gates.

4.2.8 Project Life

The facility has an estimated useful life of at least 35 years with an opportunity for extension depending on equipment replacements or refurbishments.

4.2.9 SCADA and Communications Equipment Enclosure

Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) refers to the entire communication and control components. The SCADA equipment for the solar farm will be mounted inside of an enclosure that measures approximately 24 feet long by 10.5 feet wide. The enclosure is affixed to a foundation or mounted on piles, depending on soil conditions. The SCADA system includes an internet router, server(s), a firewall, battery backup, and other hardware to monitor the solar farm.

5.0 DECOMMISSIONING PROCESS

Decommissioning consists of the removal of above- and below-ground facility components, management of excess wastes and materials, and the restoration of ground surface irregularities and herbaceous vegetation. As per the lease agreement with the landowner, the Project area is to be restored in a manner consistent with its condition prior to facility construction. Decommissioning activities are expected to take between 10 to 12 months. The estimated deconstruction schedule is as follows: Site Preparation - 2 weeks; Equipment Removal - 8 to 10 months; Site Restoration and Waste Management - 1 to 2 months.

Removal of all physical improvements will be done in accordance with applicable regulations of the time. Prior to initiating decommissioning, notice will be provided to the Zoning Administrator by certified mail of the proposed date of discontinued operations and plans for removal. An estimated construction schedule and a traffic study modelling the decommissioning processes will be provided

for review by County staff (in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Transportation if deemed necessary).

5.1 Site Preparation

Site preparation activities include installing erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) and vegetation clearance. Prior to decommissioning, the site will be visually inspected to determine if vegetation clearance is needed to access equipment. Appropriate temporary erosion and sedimentation control (construction-related) BMPs will be used during the decommissioning phase of the Project. The BMPs will be inspected on a regular basis to ensure proper erosion and sediment control during the decommissioning effort.

5.2 Equipment Removal

After the facility has been disconnected and isolated from the utility power grid and all electrical components have been disconnected within the facility, equipment will be dismantled and removed. As described in this section, removal of all solar electric systems, buildings, cabling, electrical components, security barriers, roads, foundations, pilings, and any other associated facilities shall be removed. Decommissioning will be undertaken by licensed subcontractors using similar techniques and equipment to those used in the construction of the Project.

Primary equipment and materials to be removed as part of decommissioning are included in the following Table 1.

Component	Quantity
Solar Modules (71.2 lb ea)	185,482 ea
Steel Trackers (101 LF)	1,181 ea
Steel Trackers (202 LF)	1,845 ea
Steel Piles	13,000 ea
MV cable length	10,000 LF
Inverters and foundations	101 ea
Transformers and foundations	23 ea
Substation footprint	55,000 SF
Access Road	31,939 LF
Perimeter Fence	183,048 LF

Table 1. Primary Equipment to be Removed

Equipment removal of primary components is described further in the following subsections:

5.2.1 Disassembly and Removal of Solar Modules

Removal of approximately 185,482 solar modules will be completed by manual labor. The module components will be mechanically disconnected from the solar array and transferred to a staging location for transporting to an offsite facility. Panels suitable for reuse will be sold for market value and panels not suitable for reuse will be processed at an offsite facility for recycling. The Project will use silicon-based solar PV modules. The modules will be electrically and mechanically disconnected from the solar array and packaged for shipment per manufacturer's requirements.

5.2.2 Disassembly and Removal of Tracking System

The racking structure consists of approximately 3,026 steel trackers mounted on approximately 13,000 steel piles. The trackers total 329,361 feet in length. All of these materials can be recycled and/or reused. Disassembly and removal of the racking structure will be performed manually.

5.2.3 Removal of Steel Piles/Posts

Approximately 13,000 steel piles associated with the tracking system are estimated for removal. Steel piles will be completely removed by hoisting with a piece of heavy equipment. Steel piles are assumed to be 15 feet, imbedded to a depth of 9 feet below ground surface (bgs). Steel components will be segregated and transferred to a staging location for offsite recycling.

5.2.4 Removal of Inverters and Transformers

Twenty-three transformers and 101 inverters and associated concrete foundations will be removed and transferred to a staging location for offsite disposal or recycling at an approved facility.

5.2.5 Removal of Substation

The substation will be mechanically disassembled with the use of support equipment for hoisting components. Steel will be segregated for offsite recycling or sold for scrap. The substation site restoration will include the removal of the gravel and concrete foundation, soil preparation, grading, and seeding.

5.2.6 Below-ground Electrical Cables

Electrical cabling is typically installed underground, installed in aboveground cable trays, or attached to the module racking structure. It is assumed that all cabling and conduit will be installed at a minimum depth of 4 feet bgs. Below ground conduit and cable will be removed.

5.2.7 Above-ground Transmission Lines and Poles

The Project does not include an above ground transmission line. As such, removal of overhead transmission lines and poles are not included in this Plan.

5.2.8 Access Road Excavation and Removal

Within the Project limits, access roads will be removed and restored as part of decommissioning. The Project includes an estimated 31,939 linear feet of access roads. Gravel associated with the access roads will be stockpiled for recycling or reuse. Underlying geotextile fabric will be collected for offsite disposal.

5.2.9 Perimeter Fence Removal

Approximately 183,048 linear feet of steel fencing will be removed from the site. Gates will be removed as whole units and welded wire fabric will be cut to manageable sized pieces and staged. Fencing will be assessed prior to dismantling to determine if the fencing can be stored and reused on other construction sites. If reuse is not deemed practical, the fencing will be dismantled and recycled or sold for scrap.

The following describes the methods for dismantling and removal of various Project Components:

PV arrays and associated equipment

- Disconnect all wiring, cables and electrical interconnections.
- Remove PV arrays from racks.
- Dismantle and remove all racks and extract all pile-drive support structures (see Equipment foundations).

Inverter units

- Remove inverter units from bases.
- Remove concrete foundations (see Equipment foundations).

Generation Tie-Line cables

- All above ground cables will be removed and transported off-site to an approved recycling facility or landfill.
- Underground cable runs will be removed in their entirety. Removed cable will be recycled or taken to a landfill as appropriate.

Equipment foundations

The inverter units and pile-drive support structures for the solar arrays will have foundations
that require removal. Other underground infrastructure requiring removal may include
concrete protective electrical structures. Any foundation structures and below ground
concrete will be fully removed from the ground and the affected area will be backfilled as
necessary with native soil.

Access roads

- Landowners shall be consulted to determine if any access roads are desired to remain in place for future use.
- Should roads be removed, all aggregate and other underlying materials (e.g. geotextile fabric) will be excavated.
- As necessary, all compacted areas will be disced or tilled to restore soil densities consistent with the surrounding area. Topsoil will be distributed to provide substantially similar growing media as was present within the areas prior to site disturbance.

Other components

Fences, gates, and guards will be removed.

5.3 Site Restoration

The current Project area is primarily used for agricultural purposes. The area will be restored to a similar state such that this use could be resumed. Any land used for agricultural purposes prior to construction of the Project will be returned to a tillable condition so that it is suitable for agricultural or forestal uses. The site shall be graded and re-seeded or replanted within twelve (12) months of removal of solar facilities to restore it to as natural a pre-development condition as possible. Regrading and re-seeding or replanting shall be initiated within a six-month period of removal of equipment. Any exception to site restoration, such as leaving access roads in place or re-seeded or



replanted must be requested by the landowner in writing, and this request must be approved by the Board of Supervisors.

5.4 Managing Excess Materials and Waste

A variety of excess materials and wastes will be generated during decommissioning. To the extent practicable, Dominion will coordinate with manufacturers, contractors, waste firms, and other entities to maximize the reuse and/or recycling of materials. Those materials deemed reusable/recyclable will be transported offsite and managed at approved receiving facilities following all applicable federal, state, and county waste management regulations of the time.

All residual waste will be removed by a licensed contractor and transported to an approved landfill. No waste materials will remain on the Project site.

The following main waste streams will be generated from decommissioning the solar facility:

5.4.1 PV Panels

The Project will coordinate the collection and reuse and/or recycling of the PV modules and for minimizing the potential for modules to be discarded. If there is no possibility for reuse, PV panels will either be returned to the manufacturer for appropriate recycling/disposal or will be transported to a recycling facility where the glass, metal and semiconductor will be recycled. Best management practices at the time of decommissioning shall be utilized.

5.4.2 Racking and Supports

All steel racks and pile-driven supports will be transported offsite and recycled at an approved recycling facility.

5.4.3 Inverters

All metal components of the inverters will be recycled at an approved recycling facility to the extent practical. Transformers will be transported off-site for reuse. If no reuse option is available, transformers will be recycled or disposed at an approved facility.

5.4.4 Gravel and Aggregates

Should access roads be removed, any used gravel or aggregates will be tested for contamination prior to removal. All uncontaminated materials will be transported offsite for salvage processing and then reused for construction fill. In the unlikely event that the used gravel or aggregates are found to be contaminated, these will be disposed at an approved facility.

5.4.5 Concrete

All concrete, including all foundations, will be broken down and transported to an approved landfill or recycling facility.

5.4.6 Cables and Wiring

All copper and/or aluminum wiring and associated electronic equipment (e.g., isolation switches, fuses, metering) will be recycled to the extent practical. Any materials not deemed recyclable will be disposed of at an approved landfill.

Decommissioning Plan

5.4.7 Fencing

All fencing materials will be recycled at a metal recycling facility to the extent practical.

5.4.8 Debris and Residual Waste

Any remaining debris or residual waste will be collected and all recyclable materials will be sorted. All sorted materials will be removed and sent to either an approved recycling or disposal facility. Any hazardous material from the property shall be disposed of in accordance with federal and state law.

Approximately 6,646 tons of steel are estimated to be generated, primarily from steel piles, fence, and racking structure. Additional steel sources include conduit, substation components, and storage containers. It is assumed storage containers will be reused on other projects. Steel will be accumulated in the staging area and salvaged for market value or recycled.

Approximately 8,772 tons of concrete will be generated from building and equipment foundations. Concrete will be broken into manageably sized pieces and staged for offsite recycling or disposal.

Used equipment, including inverters and transformers will be sold for market value or recycled. Prior to offsite recycling of transformers, oil will be removed from units, collected in appropriate containers, and transported to an approved recycling facility.

Approximately 9,463 cubic yards of gravel are estimated to be recovered from the access road. The gravel will be stockpiled and loaded for recycling or reuse elsewhere. It is assumed gravel will be used on another project and transportation will be managed by others.

General construction and demolition debris are anticipated to be generated as part of decommissioning. Construction and demolition debris will be disposed at an approved offsite disposal facility.

5.5 Decommissioning Estimate and Financial Assurance

- 5.5.1 The estimated cost of decommissioning and reclamation in current dollars (excluding salvage value) is attached as Appendix A (the "Decommissioning Estimate"). The Decommissioning Estimate includes a mechanism for calculating increased removal costs due to inflation.
- 5.5.2 The Decommissioning Estimate shall be reviewed and recalculated, as may be necessary, every five (5) years.
- 5.5.3 Dominion shall ensure that funds will be available for decommissioning and reclamation as set forth herein and in Exhibit A by providing evidence to the Zoning Administrator that it has an investment grade credit rating with Moody's and/or Standard and Poor's. If the Project is subsequently sold to a non-investment grade entity, the decommissioning surety requirements set forth in subsection 5.5.4 will be required.
- 5.5.4 If a decommissioning surety is required pursuant to Section 5.5.3 above, a performance bond issued by a surety registered with the Virginia Commissioner of Insurance (and on the authorized insurance provider list published by the Commissioner) shall be provided to the County. The performance bond will be in an amount equal to 100% of the Decommissioning

- Estimate (as calculated at the time) and will be for a term of one (1) year and will be continuously renewed, extended, or replaced. The performance bond will remain in effect until site restoration is completed and the site is restored in accordance with this plan, unless all or a portion of the bond is earlier released by the County as set forth in Section 5.5.5 below.
- 5.5.5 The bond surety shall be updated when the Decommissioning Estimate is updated. If the recalculated estimated cost exceeds the original estimated cost by ten percent (10%), then the bond shall be increased accordingly to satisfy the new cost estimate. If the recalculated estimated cost is less than ninety percent (90%) of the original estimated cost, then the County may approve reducing the amount of the bond to the recalculated estimate of cost. The County shall release the bond upon on the owner's or occupant's compliance with the Final Plan. The County may approve the partial release of the bond.

Laurel Branch Solar Project	Decommissioning Plan

APPENDIX A: DECOMMISSIONING ESTIMATE

Decommissioning Cost Estimate Summary

This decommissioning cost estimate was developed based on 2021 Quarter 4 cost data. Actual costs and revenues will be dependent on salvage values and labor, equipment, and material cost at the time of decommissioning. Limited project design details were available during the preparation of this cost estimate; therefore, various assumptions on components and quantities were made and are included based on similarly sized solar projects. These primary assumptions are included in Table B-1.

Table B-1. Solar Project Components and Quantity Assumptions

Component	Quantity
Facility Capacity	80 MWac
Basis of Rates	2021 Q4 rates for Roanoke, VA
Solar Modules (71.2 lb ea)	185,482 ea
Module Type	Bifacial Monocrystalline
Modules assumed for reuse	95%
Modules assumed for recycling	5%
Steel Trackers (101 LF)	1,181 ea
Steel Trackers (202 LF)	1,845 ea
Steel Piles	13,000 ea
MV cable length	10,000 LF
Transmission line and poles	NA
Inverters	101 ea
Transformers	23 ea
Substation footprint	55,000 SF
Switchyard footprint (1)	75,000 SF
Access Road	31,939 LF
Perimeter Fence	183,048 LF

⁽¹⁾ The switchyard will not be decommissioned. Removal is not included in the estimate.

The cost and salvage estimates and associated assumptions are summarized in the following sections.

Decommissioning Costs

Decommissioning costs include labor, equipment, and materials associated with decommissioning, as well as transportation and disposal costs for system components that are not sold for salvage. The major decommissioning activities include site preparation, equipment removal, site restoration, waste management, and overhead and management. These major activities are outlined in Table B-2.

Costs for damages to public roads are not included in the decommissioning estimate. Transportation services requiring use of public roads would be performed by subcontractors. If the subcontractor causes damage to public roads as a result of their work on this project, they would be responsible for repair of any damages.

Overhead and management costs include supervision and coordination, operating expenses for necessary equipment and facilities, and costs associated with obtaining preconstruction permits.

Table B-2. Estimated Decommissioning Costs

	E (1.10 (
ltem	Extended Cost
Site Pre	paration
Materials	\$19,205
Labor	\$36,005
Equipment	\$10,851
Equipmer	ıt Removal
Materials	\$331,460
Labor	\$1,495,568
Equipment	\$1,880,137
Site Res	storation
Materials	\$438,106
Labor	\$30,927
Equipment	\$329,679
Waste Ma	nagement
Materials	\$204,308
Labor	-
Equipment	-
Total Decommissioning Cost (with overhead and management)	\$4,776,246

Decommissioning Salvage

Upon decommissioning, many of the materials and components of the solar facility may be able to be sold for salvage/reuse. The total salvage value is estimated to be \$18,554,736 as outlined in Table B-3.

Table B-3. Estimated Decommissioning Salvage Costs

ltem	Extended Salvage
Equipm	ent Salvage
Steel Salvage	\$797,524
Copper Salvage	\$13,066
Solar Modules	\$17,744,146
Total Salvage Value	\$18,554,736 (-)

Decommissioning Cost Summary and Financial Assurance

The total decommissioning estimate including labor, materials, equipment, and disposal costs, without any reduction for salvage value is \$4,776,246. A detailed cost breakdown is provided in this attachment.

Upon the fifth anniversary of the Project's commissioning, and every fifth year thereafter until the Project's decommissioning, the applicant will engage a professional engineer licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia to recertify the decommissioning cost estimate.

The applicant proposes to fund the final security amount through a Performance Bond issued by a surety registered with the Virginia Commissioner of Insurance and is, at the time of delivery of the bond, on the authorized insurance provider list published by the Commissioner. The Performance Bond will be in an amount equal to 100% of the estimated decommissioning and reclamation cost. The Performance Bond will be for a term of one year and will be continuously renewed, extended, or replaced so that it remains in effect for the remaining term of the agreement or until the secured decommissioning obligations are satisfied, whichever occurs later. The value of the security shall be based on the most recent estimated cost of decommissioning the solar farm. The security shall remain in effect until site restoration is completed and the site is restored to pre-construction conditions.

Inflation Adjusted Amount

The total present value decommissioning cost without any reduction for salvage value is \$4,776,246. The adjusted decommissioning costs after 35 years at a 2% inflation rate (compounded annually) is \$9,551,964.

The following formula is used as a mechanism to calculate increased removal costs due to inflation:

$$FV = PV (1+r)^n$$

Where:

FV = Future Value

PV = Present Value

r = interest rate per period (assumed average of 2% per year)

n = number of compounding periods (years)

Detailed Cost Summary

Laurel Branch Solar Data Release:

anch Solar
Unit Cost Estimate by WBS

A Proc. 1, 5 20, 5 1, 10, 5 20, 5 1, 10, 5 20, 5 1, 10, 5 20, 5 1, 10, 5 20, 5 1, 10, 5 20, 5 1, 10, 5 20, 5 1, 10, 5 20,	The control of the co		Description	Unit	Material	Labor	Equipment	Unit Rate Total	Ext. Mat.	Ext. Labor	Ext. Equip.	Ext. Total	Data Release	CCILocation	Motes
1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1,	1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1,	Laurel Branch Solar > Site Preparation Synthetic erosio	n control, sift fence.											VIRGINIA / ROANOKE	ssammed for use althou broth of access road
Particle	Particle	install and re-			_				\$ 18,205,23	34,813.51	9,262,31	62,281,05		(240-241) VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	
Fig. 10 Fig.	1,000 1,00	Selective tres selective cles light density, mower, exclu					φ.		<i>ω</i>	1,191.53	1,588.68	2,780.21		VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	
Part	Part	Laurel Branch Solar > Site Preparation Subtotal							\$ 19.205.23	36.005.04	10.850.99	66.061.26	l		
Fig. 10 Fig.	Company Company <t< td=""><td>Laurel Branch Solar > Equipment Removal</td><td>al</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></t<>	Laurel Branch Solar > Equipment Removal	al												
New Street Stre	And the file of the	Rent back 3/4 CY ca Cost.									333,075,54	333,075,54		VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	Assume use for handing or materials isset, PV modules, and concrete, Assume 1-it thick concrete paris, Assume concrete unit weight is 130pct, Assume this machine will transport 0,25 ton/bad at 6 leads per hour, based on Schour vork weeks.
Viving V	March Marc	Rent load									690 349 02	690 349.02		VIRGINIA / ROANOKE	To move equipment and materials across site to interim staging areas -assume 0.1 tons per load and 6 bads per hour based on 9C-hr work weeks.
National Part National Par	Part	Field personnel, laborer, average							, ,			550,547.50		VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	Disassemble modules and racking system (6 modules per hour), unbolting of transformers and inverters (5 hours each fence cutting (NA - accounted for in separate line item), based on 50-hr work week.
March Marc	A	Crane cri 12 ton tru crane, po					49		• •	53,013.10	167,150.76	220,163.86		VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	For removal of steel piles, assume 60 per day (10 HR Days)
rick Book. rick Bo	The control of the co	Rent fro frame, d			•		69				470,694,00	470,694,00		VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	Loader for movement to staging area and for offsite loading, assume 0.25 ton per load, 6 toads per hour, and 5Chtr wo weeks
Trench chain F. S - C - C - C - C - C - C - C - C - C -	State Stat	Decons concret reinforc stories, packag	Deconstruction of concrete, floors, concrete slab on grade, rod reinforcement, 4" thick, up to 2 stories, excludes handling.						o		125,512.80	426,473,60	Year 2021 Quarter 4	VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (246-241)	Ramovaj of foundations.
Columbia	Sealing for recycling Let See	Fencing link post						\$ 2.10		291,046,32	93,354.48	384,400.80		VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	
oddes to G.Y. \$ 1300 \$ - 5	Included Cy, S 13.00 S S S S S S S S S	PV EO		·					ø			112,253.72		VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	5% of panels will be recycled. FCV, processing fee is based on WeRecycleSolar salvage and reuse value analysis provided for another project in 2020.
Fig. S S S S S S S S S	Subboard Ea S S S S S S S S S	Transp	g.		13.00				v			219,206,00		VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	11 panels per CY. Assume facility is 1 hr away
S 331,469,72 \$ 1,489,567,7 \$ 1,489,567,7 \$ 1,489,567,7 \$ 1,489,136,60 \$ 3,707,164,04 Thinking, EDOO Thinking	Subtotal	Overhe							-			300,000.00		VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	
Highway, 6000 Week S - S - S - G - G - G - G - G - G - G -	Ity, Pick Houry, 6000 Week S 5,698,32 S 6,898,32 S C44,898,76 S 244,898,76 S 244,898,78	ent Re	Laurel Branch Solar > Equipment Removal Subtotal							1,495,567.72	1,880,136.60	ω.			
\$ - \$ - \$ - \$ - \$ - \$ - \$ - \$ - \$ - \$ -	Althornous GOOD Althornous GOO	Laurel Branch Solar > Site Restoration	u u												
In grading kanner of the case, furnish and grading kanner of case, furnish and grading kanner of the case, furnish and grading kanner of the case, furnish and grading kanner of the case, furnish and case for the c	remed, E-deep, Linnish Services, Linnish Service	Rent v gallon Cost									244,898.76	244,898,76		VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	sseume 10 mo duration
all execting 215 Area S 775.59 S 173.60 S 186.54 S 1,096.07 S 110.08.65 S 2,004.00 S 2,798.10 S 16.41.05 S 10.40.40 S 1.00.40.04 S 1.00.40.07 S 1.00	According 215 According 21	Topsoil or topso and pla			5,95				φ.	23,686,08	40,912,32	491,665,60	Year 2021 Quarter 4	VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	Assume coverage of access road and removed foundations
rappers, bink Karapers, bink Karaper	According to the control of the cont	Seeding b /acre						\$ 1,096.07	69			16,441.05		VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	Assume coverage of access road and removed foundations
	brotal \$ 438,106.15 \$ 39,926.95 \$ 329,678.60 \$ 798,711.70	excavation measure haul, 21 scrapers					69				41,069.42			VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	Ranoval of gravel from access road
438 406 4F C 30 006 0F C 320 678 60 C	A position A consider A circulation	storation							438 108 15			,			

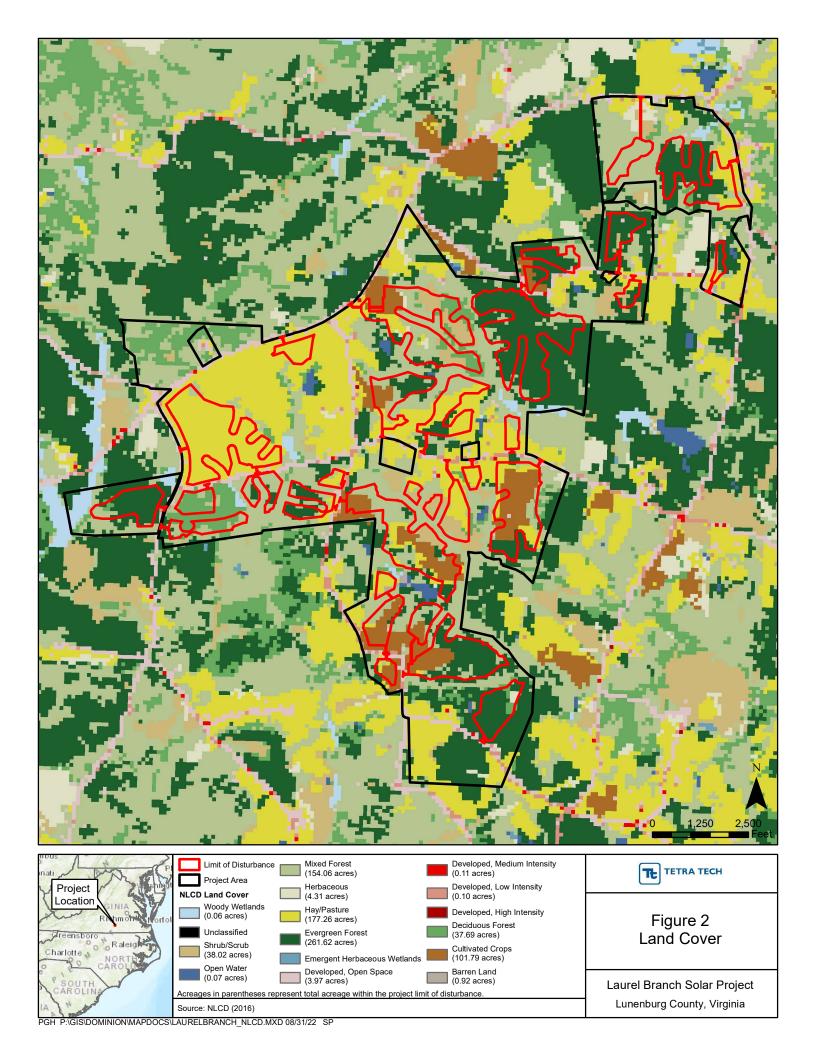
130	Selective demolftion, rubbish handling, dumpster, 40 C.Y., 10 ton capacity, weekly rental, includes one dump per week, cost to be added to Week demolfton cost.	\$ 775.00	\$	φ.	<i>ω</i>	\$ 00'5/2	100,750,00		99	Year 2021 VIRGINIA (240-241)	VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	2021 VIRGNIA/ ROANOKE assume 5 dumpster full time for 6 mo, geotextile, C&D debris, etc. (240-241)
7936	Transportation 1 hour away C.Y.	\$ 13.00	\$ 00	6	9	13.00 \$	103,168.00		•	Year 2021 103,168.00 Quarter 4	VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	Year 2021 VIRGNIA / ROANOKE Transportation for steet, concrete, and used equipment for recycling, assume approximately 1 CV per 2 ton Quarter 4 (24024)
50	Plazardous waste deanup/pickup/disposal, liquid pickup, vacuum truck, stainless steel tank, transportation in 6900 gallon bulk truck	\$ 7.81	89	69	<i>s</i>	7.81	390.50		•	Year 2021 390,50 Quarter 4	VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	assume 50 mtes to disposal facility
Laurel Branch Solar > Waste Management Subtotal	e Management Subtotal					S	204,308.50 \$	•		204,308.50		
Grand Total					W	314,521.91 \$	993,079.60 \$	993,079.60 \$ 1,562,499.71 \$	\$ 2,220,666.19 \$	4,776,245.50		

Laurel Branch Solar Data Rejease:

nch Solar
Unit Cost Estimate by WBS

				other	
Notes		copper wire from above ground witing E40,5 lb per 1000.F bare 40 copper \$1,75lb	steel from ples (15 ft as) @ 25 lb/t= 375 lb/pte steel from backers; assume 22 lb/L steel fercing; assume 1 lb/L?	assumes 95% of modules will be suitable for nase and 5% will be recycled (recycle cost tracked under equipment removal task). Value of modules 50.1904. Value of PV module is based on WeRecycleSolar salvage and reuse value analysis provided for another project in 2020.	
CCI Location		MRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	VIRGINIA / ROANOKE (240-241)	
Data Release		Year 2021 13,066.20 Quarter 4	Year 2021 Quarter 4	Year 2021 Quarter 4	
Ext. Total		13,066.20	Year 2021 797 524.38 Quarter 4	Year 2021 17,744,145.60 Quarter 4	18,554,736.18
Ext. Equip.		•	<i>ч</i> э		,
		<i>₩</i>	φ.	es -	69
Ext. Labor		8	ø	8	8
Ext. Mat.		13,066.20	797,524.38	17,744,145.60	18,554,736.18 \$
Equipment Unit Rate Total		\$ 2.04	\$ 900	\$ 100.70	S
Equipment			·	-	
Labor					
Material		2.04 \$	\$ 9000	100.70 \$	
Unit		9		8	
Description	and Equipment Salvage	Copper wire salvage value, unit cost credit, excludes handling, packaging, or disposal costs	Steel salvage value, unit cost credit, extudies harding, packaging, or Lb. (falcosal costs.	End-of-life salvage value for solar modules (suitable for reuse)	Laurel Branch Solar > Material and Equipment Salvage Subtotal
Quantity	Laurel Branch Solar > Material and Equipment Salvage	6405	13382073	176208	Laurel Branch Solar > Material .

TAB J Land Cover Map





COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Stephen C. Brich, P.E. COMMISSIONER

RICHMOND DISTRICT 2430 Pine Forest Drive COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834 www.VDOT.Virginia.gov

March 22, 2022

Ms. Taylor N. Newton
Director of Planning and Economic Development
County of Lunenburg
11413 Courthouse Road
Lunenburg, VA 23952

(Sent Via E-mail)

SUBJECT:

Laurel Branch Solar Project

Rte. 646 Laurel Branch Rd. & Various Secondary Routes

Lunenburg County, VA

Conditional Use Site Plan-Preliminary Plans VDOT Comments

Plan Revision Date 2/14/22

Dear Ms. Newton:

The Virginia Department of Transportation, South Hill Residency Southern Region Land Development Office has reviewed the Conditional Use Application Preliminary Plans received by on March 10, 2022. At this time we have no objection to the conditional use but do offer the following comments to the county.

- As you know our biggest concern is the repetitious heavy construction traffic on our secondary surfaced and non-surfaced roads. Maintaining these roads due to the construction traffic damage will be costly to the local VDOT Area Headquarters budget. Extra monies used to maintain these roads due to construction traffic will more than likely take away from other maintenance projects on secondary roads in the county.
- Based off the above comment we have asked you to have the county to consider implementing the Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) some of our other counties have for secondary routes. It requires the applicant to maintain the roads during construction and make any needed permanent repairs. As we discussed VDOT cannot require the applicant to make any repairs due to it being a public road. However the county can if it chooses under their application process and/or ordinances. You have the guidance on the CTMP.
- Something else the county may want to consider and discuss with the applicant is the
 possible partial abandonment of Rte. 647 Sneads Store Road from Rte. 646 Laurel
 Branch Rd. to where the applicants property line crosses Rte. 647, Sneads Store Rd.

Same thing for Rte.713 Hilltop Rd. From Rte. 637 Craig Mill Rd. to where the applicants property line crosses the road. There are no residential houses in this section of roadway and according to the plans the applicant will eventually own the land on both sides of the road between in this section. Therefore not meeting a public need. This also allows for better security to the area and reduced amount of fencing. Of course this is still a through road and will have to go through the abandonment process with a public hearing etc.

Of course later on in this process if the project is approved by the county, the plans will
have to go through a complete site plan review and eventual VDOT permitting for all
work within the VDOT right of way.

We would like to thank the county for getting VDOT involved early on and be part of your county review team for this project. It benefits everyone.

If you have any questions in the meantime please feel free to contact me at 434-774-2310 or by email, todd.cage@vdot.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

C. Todd Cage On Cage O

C. Todd Cage

Land Development Engineer Southern Region Land Development Richmond District

CC: Paul Hinson, P.E., LEED AP, VDOT Southern Region Area Land Use Engineer John Legg, VDOT Southern Region Permits/Subdivision Specialist Sr. Tommy Johnson, VDOT South Hill Residency Administrator Kevin Smith, VDOT South Hill Residency Assistant Administrator KEN BLACKBURN
MAYOR

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RAYMOND E. HITE, JR.
R. MICHAEL MCGRATH
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PAUL PERUSSE



TESSIE BACON TOWN ATI'ORNEY

A. J. "TONY" MATTHEWS
TOWN MANAGER

MARSHA A. NASH TREA.SURER/CLERK

January 19, 2023

Ms. Taylor Newton
Director of Planning and Economic Development
11413 Courthouse Rd
Lunenburg, Va 23952

Dear Ms. Newton,

This letter is in regards to the Laurel Branch Solar Project application consisting of 26 individual parcels. The planning Commission of the Town of Kenbridge met and approved the project on Tuesday, December 5, 2022 and discussed the project location and the impact on Kenbridge. It was approved to allow the project issue to go to the Town Council. The Town Council met on December 20, 2022 and a motion was made and second to allow Laurel Branch Solar project to continue with the project as there does not appear to be any conflict with critical infrastructure or future needs of the Town of Kenbridge. Thank you for your time and help with this project.

Sincerely.

Tony Matthews

Kenbridge Town Manager

Taylor Newton

From:

robin.l.lucey@dominionenergy.com

Sent:

Monday, January 30, 2023 10:34 AM

To:

Taylor Newton

Subject:

RE: Verification Requested for Application

Thanks Taylor!

From: Taylor Newton <taylor@lunenburgva.gov> Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 10:31 AM

To: Robin L Lucey (DEV Generation - 3M) < robin.l.lucey@dominionenergy.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Verification Requested for Application

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Robin,

That is fine with providing them via email, rather than redoing the full application.

Respectfully,

Please note a change in my email address. It is now taylor@lunenburgva.gov. Please update your records.

Ms. Taylor N. Nowton, TZA

Director of Planning and Economic Development

Local Zoning Administrator

County of Lunenburg

11413 Courthouse Road

Lunenburg, VA 23952

434.696.2142 (phone)

434.696.1798 (fax)

taylor@luncnburgva.gov (email)

www.lunenburgva.net (County Website)



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From: robin.l.lucey@dominionenergy.com <robin.l.lucey@dominionenergy.com>

Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 10:30 AM

To: Taylor Newton < taylor@lunenburgva.gov >
Subject: RE: Verification Requested for Application

Hi Taylor,

Thank you for confirming. We will get that information over to you. I regards to the application, the figures of total prime farmland and prime timberland were not mentioned, so would you be ok with us providing this information to you via email? Thank you for your time and your help!

Sincerely, Robin

Robin L. Lucey
Business Development Manager
Dominion Energy – Power Generation
600 East Canal Street, 19th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219
Mobile: 804-212-5426

Email: robin.l.lucey@dominionenergy.com

From: Taylor Newton < taylor@lunenburgva.gov>

Sent: Monday, January 30, 2023 9:58 AM

To: Robin L Lucey (DEV Generation - 3M) <robin.l.lucey@dominionenergy.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Verification Requested for Application

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Robin,

Yes, I would like the exact numbers versus estimate.

Respectfully,

**Please note a change in my email address. It is now taylor@lunenburgva.gov. Please update your records. **

Ms. Taylor N. Newton, TZA

Director of Planning and Economic Development Local Zoning Administrator County of Lunenburg 11413 Courthouse Road Lunenburg, VA 23952 434.696.2142 (phone) 434.696.1798 (fax)

taylor@lunenburgva.gov (email)

www.lunenburgva.net (County Website)



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From: robin.l.lucey@dominionenergy.com <robin.l.lucey@dominionenergy.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2023 5:19 PM

To: Taylor Newton < taylor@lunenburgva.gov >
Subject: RE: Verification Requested for Application

Hi Taylor,

Would you like us to provide exact numbers of the acreage falling under prime farmland and prime forestland (rather than estimates)? Thank you!

Robin

Robin L. Lucey
Business Development Manager
Dominion Energy – Power Generation
600 East Canal Street, 19th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219

Mobile: 804-212-5426

Email: robin.l.lucey@dominionenergy.com

From: Taylor Newton < taylor@lunenburgva.gov > Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 10:23 AM

To: Robin L Lucey (DEV Generation - 3M) < robin.l.lucey@dominionenergy.com>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Verification Requested for Application

Are you expecting this message to your DE email? Suspicious? Use PhishAlarm to report the message. Open a browser and type in the name of the trusted websit a his lead of clicking on links. DO NOT click links of open attachments until you verify with the

*** sender using a known-good phone number. Never provide your DE password.

Robin,

Jpon further review, it has been determined that the acreage amounts for prime farmland and prime forestland may be incorrect, so the County is requesting confirmation. The information can be obtained via the NRCS or utilizing their local

field contact. Additionally, it appears that several of the parcels included in the project have been clear-cut since the application submission. Please revise all parts of the application where the total acreage of prime farmland and prime timberland are mentioned and resubmit with ten (10) hard-copies and one (1) electronic copy.

Respectfully,

Please note a change in my email address. It is now taylor@lunenburgva.gov. Please update your records.

Ms. Taylor N. Newton

Director of Planning and Economic Development County of Lunenburg 11413 Courthouse Road Lunenburg, VA 23952 434.696.2142 (phone) 434.696.1798 (fax) taylor@lunenburgva.gov (email) www.lunenburgva.net (County Website)



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Staff Report

Report on Conditional Use Permit CUP-2-22 Laurel Branch Solar (Virginia Electric and Power Company) with Respect to Article 15.2-2232 of the Code of Virginia

Purpose of Review and Scope of Hearing

Purpose: To determine whether the request of Laurel Branch Solar for a Conditional Use Permit for a proposed solar energy facility ("the Application"), as a "public utility facility" under Virginia Code Section 15.2-2232(A), is substantially in accord with the *Lunenburg/Kenbridge/Victoria Joint Comprehensive Plan 2019-2024* ("the Comprehensive Plan") relative to the general or approximate location, character, and extent of the proposed facility.

Scope of Hearing: Staff has recommended that the Planning Commission review the request for determination under Virginia Code Section 15.2-2232 prior to any review of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application. Therefore, the subject hearing is limited in scope to the determination of whether the request made in the Application, file number CUP-2-22, is 'substantially in accord' with the Comprehensive Plan. During this hearing phase, only those facts that pertain to the broader issues of the Comprehensive Plan will be discussed. Should the request be found to be in accord with the Comprehensive Plan, detailed examination of the Application as a Conditional Use Permit will be addressed in additional hearings before the Planning Commission, with a subsequent hearing before the Board of Supervisors. Should the request be found not to be in accord with the Comprehensive Plan, the Application will be dismissed, and no further hearing nor consideration of the Conditional Use Permit will be conducted; the facility proposed in the Application will not receive approval or permissions to build. The Applicant may appeal this action to the Board of Supervisors.

Project Description and Existing Conditions

Description: The facility proposed under CUP-2-22, having a rated capacity of 80 megawatts (80 MW), is classified as a Large-Scale Solar facility (solar facility that generates electricity from sunlight on an area adequate to support a rated capacity of five megawatts (5 MW) alternating current or greater). The facility is proposed to be developed on twenty-seven (27) parcels totaling approximately 2,189 acres, currently zoned A-1, Agriculture District, and located in an area of the County having a current and future land use designation as *Agricultural*, characterized as areas "foreseen as slow growth, low density areas...expected to remain primarily agricultural, forest, and rural residential land uses."

The Property is located to the southwest of the Town of Kenbridge. The Property is currently used for timber and agricultural. The majority of the Property is located between Plank Road and Sneads Store Road as well as along Oral Oaks Road and Laurel Branch Road. Where parcels are

¹ The Project Narrative indicates that the "Project will be located on twenty-five (25) parcels…," however, the Preliminary Site Plan lists 27 parcels, including one "Easement Only." The total acreage is consistent between the Project Narrative and Preliminary Site Plan.

not immediately adjacent, overhead electric lines will provide connections between the parcels. The project area of the site (the area within the site used for the construction and operation of the solar energy facility, including security fencing but excluding setbacks and buffer areas) totals approximately 750 acres.² The Application indicates the installation of an estimated maximum 176,094 photo-voltaic (PV) single-axis tracker solar panels.

Preexisting Site Use/Economic Considerations: Preexisting or recent use of the site is not addressed within the Application; however, it appears that timber was harvested. Adjacent uses and uses within the area are comprised of residential and agricultural uses.

Existing Topography: The Application contains a *Slopes* plan indicating topography of the site. Generally, the site slopes downward from south to north and east to west and it is expected that stormwater would generally flow in these directions. Slopes generally range between 0% to 15%.

Soils: According to the Application, on-site soils are moderately fine-grained sands, humus, and clay, including USGS soil category of Ultisols (red clay soils with high acidity). Soil types found on the property include the following classifications: 10B: Helena sandy loam, 10C2: Helena sandy loam, 11B2: Herndon loam, 11C2: Herndon loam, 12B: Iredell loam, 12C2: Iredell loam, 13C2: Lignum loam, 18B: Orange loam, 1B2: Appling sandy loam, 1C2: Appling sandy loam.

Transportation: The Project will be constructed over an approximate 18-month period with a peak of 150 employees on the site during module installation. It is anticipated that construction will commence in 2024 and the Project will be operational by the end of 2025. Once operational, maintenance crews of 2 to 3 people will visit the Project site as necessary to mow and perform other maintenance activities. The Project will have a limited impact on existing transportation infrastructure once constructed.

Existing Air Quality: Given the sparseness of development and traffic, existing air quality should be acceptable. While no sampling has been done, one can expect low levels of degradation in the area due to its limited accessibility and use.

Existing Demand for Emergency Services: The site and existing use poses no unique demands on emergency services at present.

Adjacent and Surrounding Uses: The areas surrounding the proposed project area share the same land use and zoning characteristics – rural, agricultural, forestry uses – as well as the same land use classifications.

Page 2 of 8

² The Project Narrative notes that approximately 791 acres will be disturbed and approximately 165 acres will be used for solar panels, with a footnote indicating that "disturbed acreage and solar panel acreage may be increased based on agreements with the landowners allowing reduced setbacks." Of course, this may be contingent on conditions that may be imposed upon any issued Conditional Use Permit.

Comprehensive Plan Citations

The Comprehensive Plan includes a *Special Policy Areas* discussion and recommendations on solar facilities (Chapter V, *Special Policy Areas*), as follows:

Policy Area: Solar Facilities

Solar Facilities are acres of raw farmland covered with solar panels which enable the owner of the solar facilities to capture sunlight, convert that sunlight into electrical energy and then sell that electricity to the utility company.

Solar facilities are located in areas with availability of large tracts of land at low costs as well as available infrastructure (transmission lines) to support additional capacity. The existing land use of Lunenburg County could make the county's open areas an option for Solar Facilities. The County and the Towns should consider the development of alternative energy production while protecting agriculture, forestry lands and watersheds that the county enjoys.

Alternative energy production may be considered by the County and Towns as an attraction to expand employment opportunities and for companies interested in supporting solar development in communities where they are located.

Recommendations:

The County and Town Planning Commissions should consider safe development of solar energy that minimizes impacts to land uses, properties, and the environment, particularly for economic development purposes. They should develop reasonable conditions for the development of Solar Facilities which will protect the character of surrounding properties and will not limit future property development. Any County or Town planning measures which address Solar Facilities siting should also have an effective decommissioning plan developed and funded by the Solar developer before installation.

Additionally, the following Comprehensive Plan citations should be considered:

- Chapter V, Special Policy Areas, Policy Area: Loss of Agricultural Land and Open Space, references that "Future residential, commercial, and industrial development should be encouraged to locate in areas where adequate public services are available or planned. Any development that does occur in the rural areas should be designed to incorporate significant open spaces and designed to minimize environmental impacts on the land and water resources," and that "Environmental impacts of any newly planned development area should be considered. It is essential to maintain a balance between development and preservation objectives throughout the area." This section recommends that "Commercial and/or industrial developments that are approved in the rural portions of the County should be consistent with the best interest of the community."
- Chapter V, Special Policy Areas, Policy Area: Protection of Water Resources, references that surface water resources within the County "provide recreational opportunities and are a critical component of the County's infrastructure and quality of life. As such,

protection and enhancement of these water resources should be a primary object of the County and the Towns."

- Chapter VI, Goals, Objectives, and Strategies, B., Economy and Employment:
 - o Goal: Promote the expansion of a diversified economy.
 - Objective 1: Encourage quality industries to locate within the County and Towns.
 - Strategy 4: County Government, and other parties, to promote the area to environmentally friendly industries.
 - Objective 2: Provide adequate land and resources for commercial and industrial uses.
 - Strategy 5: Guide community and industrial uses into areas with adequate public utilities and transportation access.
- Chapter VI, Goals, Objectives, and Strategies, C., Land Use:
 - o Goal: Promote a balance of land uses that meet economic and demographic needs of Lunenburg County, the Town of Kenbridge, and the Town of Victoria.
 - Objective 4: Encourage quality industries to locate within the County and Towns.
 - Strategy 1: Encourage industries to locate in the County and Towns' industrial parks or in areas where they are compatible to adjacent uses.
 - Strategy 2: Guide community and industrial uses into areas with adequate public utilities and transportation access.
 - Strategy 3: Work with interest groups to attract new industries to the locality. Encourage industries to locate in the industrial parks or in areas where they are compatible to adjacent uses.
 - Strategy 4: Liaise with the Chamber of Commerce, and other parties, to promote the area to environmentally friendly industries.
- Chapter VI, Goals, Objectives, and Strategies, F., Natural Resources:
 - o Goal: Protect and preserve the natural resources of the community.
 - Objective 1: Prevent development in areas of critical environmental importance.
 - Strategy 1: Restrict development in flood plains, swamps, and drainage ways.

- Strategy 2: Restrict development on soils that will not adequately support structures.
- Strategy 4: Identify and protect all open spaces which have recreational potential, or which would enhance the environment in Lunenburg County, the Town of Kenbridge and the Town of Victoria.
- Strategy 5: Promote the preservation and planting of trees, shrubs, and other natural foliage.

Staff Analysis and Comments

Staff has reviewed and analyzed the Application and the above referenced Comprehensive Plan citations to determine whether the project is substantially in accord with the Comprehensive Plan.

With respect to the *Solar Facilities* policy area, Staff is of the opinion that the proposed facility can be characterized as safe development that generally minimizes, or will minimize through reasonable conditions, impacts to land uses, properties, and the environments.

With respect to the *Loss of Agricultural Land and Open Space* policy area, significant areas of the project will remain undeveloped, and the project is designed to minimize environmental impacts, and/or such impacts will be minimized through reasonable conditions.

With respect to the *Protection of Water Resources* policy area, Staff is of the opinion that the project will be subject to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality regulations and permitting, which will work to ensure protection of the County's water resources.

With respect to applicable *Economy and Employment* goals, objectives, and strategies. Staff is of the opinion that the proposed development works to expand a diversified economy within the County, and would constitute an environmentally friendly industrial use, primarily due to the proposed scale of operation, generally sited in an area with adequate and necessary utility access.

With respect to applicable *Land Use* goals, objectives, and strategies, while the area has adequate and necessary utility access and constitutes a more environmentally friendly industrial use, it is not inherently compatible with adjacent uses, which are almost entirely residential and agricultural. Significant setbacks and buffers/screening work to mitigate for this incompatibility and additional reasonable conditions should be considered as part of the review of the Conditional Use Permit.

With respect to applicable *Natural Resources* goals, objectives, and strategies, Staff is of the opinion that the proposed development does not negatively impact natural resources of the County, especially areas of critical environmental importance. Staff acknowledges that the project works to promote the preservation of existing trees by retaining existing vegetated areas along the periphery of the site and would suggest that additional reasonable conditions to support

the long-term maintenance of these areas be considered as part of the review of the Conditional Use Permit.

Staff Conclusions and Recommendations

Staff has analyzed the applicable elements of the Comprehensive Plan referenced above. The project's proposed location, character, and extent appear to be consistent with the overall policies, goals, objectives, and strategies of the Comprehensive Plan (or reasonably expected with the imposition of conditions as part of the review of the Conditional Use Permit). Based upon this and the Town of Kenbridge's recommendation that the project will not interfere with the future expansion or critical infrastructure needs of the Town pertaining to the project's location being within 1-mile from the Town of Kenbridge, through the siting agreement process, Staff is of the opinion and recommends that the proposed utility-scale solar facility is substantially in accord with the Comprehensive Plan, or parts thereof.

As noted at the beginning of this Report, the question before the Planning Commission with this 2232 review is whether the general location or approximate location, character, and extent of the proposed solar energy facility is substantially in accord with the Comprehensive Plan or part thereof. Staff suggests that the Planning Commission consider all relevant portions of the Comprehensive Plan in its analysis, and carefully and thoroughly document the reasons and basis for the action which the Commission takes. Options for Commission action are as follows:

- 1. By motion, determine that the application is substantially in accord with the Comprehensive Plan, with written reasons for the decision;
- 2. By motion, determine that the application is not substantially in accord with the Comprehensive Plan, with written reasons for the decision; or
- 3. By motion, defer action on the review at this time and continue for further discussion and consideration (within the 60-day window).

Planning Commission Actions

Option 1 - Applicant's proposal is substantially in accord with the Comprehensive Plan

I move that Laurel Branch Solar's proposed 80-megawatt photovoltaic solar energy facility, as described in the conditional use permit application CUP-2-22, is substantially in accord with the Lunenburg County Comprehensive Plan, or parts thereof, for the following reasons:

1. The proposed solar facility can be characterized as safe development that minimizes, or will be expected to minimize through conditions, impacts to land uses, properties, and the environments. While portions of the project are located within 1 mile of the limits of the Town of Kenbridge, this requirement has been waived by the County's Board of Supervisors based upon input and agreement received from the Town of Kenbridge.

- 2. The project will be subject to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality regulations and permitting, which will work to ensure protection of the County's water resources.
- 3. The proposed development works to expand a diversified economy within the County, and would constitute an environmentally friendly industrial use, primarily due to the proposed scale of operation, generally sited in an area with adequate and necessary utility access.
- 4. The area of the proposed project has adequate and necessary utility access, and the project constitutes a more environmentally friendly industrial use; while not inherently compatible with adjacent uses, which are almost entirely residential and agricultural, significant setbacks and buffers/screening will work to mitigate for this incompatibility and additional conditions can considered as part of the review of the Conditional Use Permit.
- 5. The proposed development does not negatively impact the natural resources of the County, especially areas of critical environmental importance. Further, the project works to promote the preservation of existing trees by retaining existing vegetated areas along the periphery of the site.

The Secretary of the Planning Commission is directed to communicate the Planning Commission's findings to the Board of Supervisors.

Option 2 - Applicant's proposal is not substantially in accord with the Comprehensive Plan

I move that Laurel Branch Solar's proposed 80-megawatt photovoltaic solar energy facility, as described in the conditional use permit application CUP-2-22, is not substantially in accord with the Lunenburg County Comprehensive Plan, or parts thereof, for the following reasons:

- 1. The proposed solar facility cannot be characterized as safe development and does not minimize impacts to land uses, properties, and the environment. Portions of the proposed facility are located within 1 mile of the limits of the Town of Kenbridge, resulting in negative impacts to land use and properties, and future property development.
- 2. The location of the proposed solar facility is a rural area, the amount of undeveloped area within the project is insufficient and the project is not designed to minimize environmental impacts.
- 3. Despite being subject to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality regulations and permitting, the project will have negative effects on the County's water resources.
- 4. The proposed development does not work to expand a diversified economy within the County, and given the scale of the proposal, would not constitute an environmentally

- friendly industrial use; furthermore, utility and transportation access to support the development are inadequate.
- 5. The proposed project is not compatible with adjacent residential and agricultural uses; setbacks and buffers/screening are insufficient and cannot be improved in a manner that would improve the compatibility of the project with adjacent uses.
- 6. The proposed development negatively impacts the natural resources of the County, especially areas of critical environmental importance such as existing stands of trees and the isolated wetland to the east of the project site.

The Secretary of the Planning Commission is directed to communicate the Planning Commission's findings to the Board of Supervisors.

Option 3 – Deferral of the application

I move that the Planning Commis	sion defer a decision on L	Laurel Branch Solar's request under
Va. Code § 15.2-2232 regarding i	ts proposed 80-megawatt	photovoltaic solar energy facility, as
described in the conditional use p	ermit application CUP-2-	22, until the Planning Commission
meeting scheduled to begin at	p.m. on	, in the
	meeting room.	

Public Comment Received

March 22, 2022

Taylor N. Newton
Clerk of the Planning Commission
11413 Courthouse Road
Lunenburg, VA 23952

Re: Laurel Branch Solar Project – Dominion Energy

Ms. Newton,

I am writing with my concerns for the above-referenced proposed project which I adamantly oppose. My opposition stems from several concerns.

First, this project would be in an area of agricultural & residential use when it is in fact industrial in nature. At a minimum 45 single family homes would be affected in some manner should this project move forth. In addition to myself, most residents I have contacted within the area of impact oppose having this type of project near their homes for a variety of reasons, but most pointedly, because it is not conducive to the rural nature of the surrounding areas currently enjoyed by its' residents. Aesthetically it is unpleasing. Had I wished to build my home in a commercial/industrial area, I would not have chosen the location upon which it now sits. If this project is to be built in Lunenburg County, it needs to be in a commercial or industrial area. If there are insufficient acreages in those areas, then the developer needs to look outside of Lunenburg County.

Secondly, the developer admits that this Lunenburg project along with many other similar projects in adjoining or nearby counties is being forced upon them economically by the Federal government. In other words, Dominion Energy is being forced to implement green energy projects to avoid paying penalties to our government. That does not make it Lunenburg County's problem. At a recent public meeting, I inquired why Dominion Energy chose our county. Their representative advised me they simply look for areas whereby one willing landowner holds and will sell the bulk of the acreage they need, and they pursue the rest of the land needed from that point. That is exactly what happened here. Dominion Energy could care less about our residents wishes, our desire to hold on to our rural lifestyle nor the negative effects this solar project will have. I realize our county would benefit from an increase in tax revenue and it may even aid in reducing electrical costs to some residents, but I ask you to consider the negative effects outweigh the benefits.

Next, solar farms can be beneficial, but my research indicates it is "too soon to tell" if they are a wise choice. Solar farms, like this one, that cover a large amount of land are likely to have an impact on the local fauna and flora, particularly on birds. Solar farms can also inhibit local vegetation growth and damage agriculture. Unlike wind energy, solar panels can't share the land they occupy for other uses. This 1000-acre project will mean habitat loss & erosion,

land cleared of everything including vegetation along with destruction of wildlife, one of Lunenburg County's most valuable resources. Additionally, this project will surround and affect many branches and creeks that feed directly into the water filtration plant for the Town of Kenbridge. I could go on but those few are enough reasons to not allow a project of this type to be located where proposed or maybe not in our county at all.

I have copied each member of the county Planning Commission with this letter. I am requesting when this matter comes before the commission for consideration that all its' members vote a resounding and unyielding 'No' to it.

Respectfully,

Janice D. Puleo 12443 Plank Road Kenbridge, VA 23944 434-480-0258

Cc: James Tharpe, Cecil Shell, Luther Drummond, Brenda Jennings, Edward Pennington Tony Trent, Walter Thompson

March 23, 2022

Lunenburg County Board of Supervisors Lunenburg County Planning Commission Lunenburg County Administrator

Subject: Laurel Branch Solar

Dear Supervisors, Planning Commission members, and County Administrator,

As a lifelong resident of Lunenburg County, a father of two children, and a contributing member of our local community, I am unsettled by the Laurel Branch Solar project proposed by Dominion Power. While I certainly encourage renewable energy sources, I cannot justify supporting the current project, for a variety of reasons. I also do not believe that the Lunenburg County Planning Commission, nor the Lunenburg Country Board of Supervisors, should approve the project without complete transparency from Dominion Power.

A solar facility of this magnitude defiles the landscape of Lunenburg County for current and future generations. Thousands of acres of vital woodlands and farmland will be decimated—replaced with glittering steel and photovoltaic (PV) panels collecting power for distribution to cities and counties with higher usage rates than Lunenburg. Lunenburg prides itself on rural living and supporting local farmers. Rezoning an agricultural area of this size, while commercial/industrial acreage is available elsewhere, to destroy the rural aesthetic is contrary to Lunenburg's farming history. Humanity survived for thousands of years without electricity, but farming has been a way of life since Adam.

The proposed thousands of acres of destroyed agricultural land creates significant primary, secondary, and tertiary impacts to surrounding properties and ecosystems. Neighboring land owners will see a tremendous devaluation of their property. For those completely surrounded by the proposed project, their property value will be non-existent. They will also experience a tremendous loss in their quality of life, as farm living approaches some aberration, where the natural landscape is stripped away, that does not even have a name yet. Furthermore, the entire project area effectively becomes impermeable surface area. The projected storm water runoff could decimate surrounding waterways and farm land. Dominion Power has a history of storm water issues (Louisa County) related to solar projects. Also, the overall effects on flora and fauna cannot be accurately quantified, as multiple species are displaced or eradicated.

In my professional capacity, I am intimately familiar with multiple solar facilities generating more than 1MW of electricity. Those facilities routinely fail (for example, our solar portfolio has not had all fields 100% operational, at any given time, during the last ten years), due to faulty inverters, broken PV panels, electrical leakage, etc. Repairs, operations, and maintenance are costly endeavors to say the least, but the underlying, unspoken costs are enormous. PV panels are constructed of hazardous materials including cadmium telluride, copper indium selenide, cadmium gallium (di)selenide, copper indium selenide, cadmium gallium (di)selenide, hexafluoroethane, lead, and polyvinyl fluoride. No one wants any of these substances introduced into the environment, which is why they require specific handling methods, yet we continue to create solar "farms" on any available greenspace. As these newly constructed projects fail, the hazardous detritus will inundate the current waste management industry in Lunenburg.

While some of these issues may be vetted, as Dominion proceeds through the process, they have been less than forthright thus far. To demonstrate, Dominion should address each of these issues:

- I live across the road from the proposed project. There is a mailbox, next to my driveway, with my address printed on it. Lunenburg County records show that I am the resident of that address. I received no notification of the proposed project; I found out through other sources. Why is that? Did they meet their requirement for notification?
- Dominion recently sent notices to users in Lunenburg County that their rates would increase to fund new infrastructure requirements, which would include the Laurel Branch solar project. In reality, this is a reallocation of wealth within the county, not an influx of money from outside sources. If Dominion intends to send this power out of Lunenburg, then why are Lunenburg County residents bearing this financial burden?
- Solar projects do not create construction jobs. Those workers are already employed and routinely travel to similar projects. The proposed project only creates potential income to the County, during construction, from out-of-town workers. Since Lunenburg County does not manufacture or distribute any of the required goods, the economic influx is minimal. What yearly financial incentive is Dominion proposing to Lunenburg?
- Why do corporations, such as Dominion, continue to target rural locations, such as Lunenburg? While their canned response is always land availability, the financial incentive to them plays a much larger, albeit uncommunicated, role. Promises of a little money go much farther in rural, less wealthy counties than in northern Virginia.
- Will Dominion provide compensation for surrounding landowners for devaluation of their property? Will it increase over the period of performance? Who determines the devaluation?
- What is the end state of the facility when Dominion determines that it is no longer viable? Does the infrastructure remain in place, rendering the land useless?
- How many pending lawsuits is Dominion facing regarding solar projects?
- What kind of visual buffer will hide thousands of acres comprised of 500,000+ solar panels?

Dominion is, or should be, well aware of the level of effective community outreach required to garner support for a project of this magnitude. Given the available information, it is unreasonable for any Lunenburg County administrator, supervisor, or resident to support the planned Laurel Branch Solar project. To date, they have simply gone through the motions and attempted to check every box, rather than thoroughly engage the community. This is an affront to the planning process, as a whole, where they believe that the financial impacts of their proposal far outweigh the potential consequences of local opposition. I implore you to demonstrate to Dominion that Lunenburg County greatly values its residents and that their opinions are given due consideration.

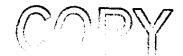
Best Regards,

Derrick Hall

11075 Plank Rd, Kenbridge, VA

Dukhntr35@gmail.com

434-321-7092



ALEG 3 1 2022

Mrs. Tracy M. Gee
Lunenburg County Administrator
Lunenburg County Administrator Office
11413 Courthouse Road
Lunenburg, Virginia 23952

Re: Laurel Branch Solar Project

Dear Mrs. Gee:

This letter is to express our concerns with the Laurel Branch Solar Project and its potential impact upon us, our property, and our neighbors within close proximity of the Laurel Branch Solar Project.

So that you have a complete understanding, I have enclosed a copy of my June 7, 2022 letter to Robin L. Lucey, Dominion Energy, a letter that I wrote after the June 6, 2022 Town Hall Meeting, as well as a copy of her June 23, 2022 response to that letter.

In spite of Robin's response, we still have concerns about the wells, bored and drilled, the water source for homes in nearby properties, wells that are not a part of the Laurel Branch Solar Project, but are within yards of the boundary of this project. (We are assuming that the onsite area for this project is the area within the project boundary.)

There are three bored wells and three drilled wells at three different residences on Laurel Branch Road, all a part of the Laurel Branches farm. One of the homes is supplied water from a bored well, a well only about 30 feet deep and located close to the boundary of Laurel Branch Solar Project. "Dominion Energy recommends that all wells onsite be properly abandoned prior to the start of construction activities. If this doesn't occur, we will ensure that they will be property closed and secured at all times."

The fact that "Dominion Energy recommends that all wells be properly abandoned....." is rather alarming. Obviously, there is a concern that such wells will be contaminated and should be abandoned, closed. What are Dominion Energy's expectations for those wells, not just on Laurel Branch Road, but all of those homes with wells around the perimeter of this project? How is the potential contamination going to be monitored and is Dominion Energy going to bear any of the responsibility for replacement of wells of those private homes within close proximity, but not a part of the solar project itself? There is definitely a concern about the water quality of all of our wells, both bored and drilled!

There is also a concern about the run-off from the solar sites. Laurel Branches farm has creeks and ponds that are fed by creeks that runs through an adjoining farm, Oral Oaks, Dixie Lee Farms, Inc., a farm that is a within the Laurel Branch Solar Project. The creek and pond are a source of water for the cows located on Laurel Branches property.

Likewise, there is a concern about the temperature increase around properties that border the Laurel Branch Solar Project, heat generated by the solar panels.

On Laurel Branch Road, there are three Lunenburg ante-bellum homes: Colonial Oaks, the first section of the house constructed in 1825; Laurel Branches, built in 1790; and Oral Oaks, built in 1840. There are also cemeteries on these three sites, cemeteries that need to be preserved, particularly if enclosed within the Laurel Branch Solar Project area, cemeteries that may be burial grounds for slaves that once worked/lived on these farms.

Colonial Oaks, also known as "Eddie Bell Place," and located 1.7 miles south of Sneads Store Road, has two cemeteries, the first is a cemetery of the family on the east side of the home and can be seen from Laurel Branch Road, Highway 646, and a second, located behind the house. Per the Ante-Bellum Homes of Lunenburg book by Evelyn Ferguson Arvin, "There was a cemetery for slaves on the place with slave quarters once located back of the house. Even after the slaves were freed, Mr. Bell never refused the ex-slaves or their relatives their requests for burial there." Colonial Oaks has a portion of its farm tentatively scheduled to be a part of the Laurel Branch Solar Project, thus to have solar panels.

Laurel Branches has a rock-wall cemetery right beside Highway 646, where the Smith, Slaughter, and Stupasky families are buried both within and on the outside of the wall. There are a lot of field stones marking unknown graves around the rock cemetery wall, field stones that may be marking graves of slaves, as per the History of Virginia, Volume V, page 271, Benjamin E. Smith, at Laurel Branches, "before the war, owned and employed forty slaves in its cultivation". However, Laurel Branches farm is not a part of the Laurel Branch Solar Project, but the farm will be surrounded by the project on three sides.

Oral Oaks, also known as the Colonel Allen Place, is located just off Highway 646 on Dixie Lee Farms, Inc. Per The Heritage of Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1743 – 2009, "Descendants of Col. Allen are of the distinguished Richmond Law Firm, Allen, Allen, Allen and Allen." Allen family papers (Robert Henderson Allen) and/or diaries 1858-1895, "record births, deaths and illnesses of slaves at Oral Oaks and the number of slaves and days involved in building a slave house with a chimney in November 1858..." The Anti-Bellum Homes of Lunenburg book states that Colonel Allen..." became the owner of many slaves." There is an Allen family cemetery located on Oral Oaks and at least one family member of the current owner may be buried at Oral Oaks. Whether there are any slaves buried on Oral Oaks is unknown.

The old Loftis farm has a cemetery. This farm, which borders the Maude Gee property on the east and comes out to Route 646, is a part of "Oral Oaks," Dixie Lee Farms, Inc.

There is an African American cemetery behind a home at 1976 Sneads Store Road on Dorothy Jane Snead Martin's property, approximately 75-100 yards from Dixie Lee Farm's boundary, a cemetery with both head stones and field stones and has had recent burials within the past five to six years.

There is a cemetery just off of Sneads Store Road, on the east side of the Harris farm. It may be a part of "Oral Oaks," Dixie Lee Farms, Inc. It has six grave stones, one with a date that appears to be in the 1800s. The timber in that area was cut a couple of years ago; hopefully these graves were undisturbed.

Per the List of Cemeteries in Lunenburg by Gerald Reinders, there is a private cemetery located off west side of Route 635, Oral Oaks, approximately ¼ mile starting at point approximately ½ mile south of intersection with Route 647, Sneads Store Road. Anderson Gee and his young son Kenna Gee are buried

there. There are fieldstones only. Information was provided to Mr. Reinders by Mary Agnes Garland, granddaughter of Anderson Gee.

We would like to ensure that all the cemeteries within or closely bordering Laurel Branch Solar Project be preserved and remain undisturbed.

In summary, we are concerned about our wells, about any run off into the streams and ponds that provide water for the cows, about the temperature increase, about the impact on the value of our homes, real estate, about the potential for fires, and about the protection of all the cemeteries within the project. Furthermore, we anticipate more traffic, particularly during the construction period; more noise in our quiet countryside, as it appears the contractors will be working five/six days a week, 12 hours a day; and a scenery of China-made metal panels filled with who knows what, replacing the beautiful landscape of pasture, crops, trees and wildlife.

Thanking you in advance for all you are going to do to ensure that the properties bordering or surrounded by the Laurel Branch Solar Project are impacted little to none.

Please share this letter with the members of the Lunenburg Board of Supervisors. The contents of this letter have already been shared with James "Buck" Tharpe, a member of the Lunenburg Planning Commission. Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely,

Sue Love Stupasky

Jue Love Steeperby

Louis Stephen Stupasky 1283 Laurel Branch Road Kenbridge, Virginia 23944

Enclosures (2)

Robin L. Lucey
Dominion Energy
120 Tredegar Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

RE: Laurel Branch Solar Town Hall Meeting, June 6, 2022

Dear Ms. Lucey:

This letter is a follow-up to Dominion Energy's Laurel Branch Solar Project meeting held in Kenbridge, Virginia, on Monday, June 6, 2022.

As you recall, the information provided was not sufficient. Not only was the slide presentation too far away from its audience, but the presenters could not be heard until the microphone was utilized during the question-and-answer session. Detailed handouts of the proposed changes to the affected real estate and/or maps would have provided a clear reference point for those in attendance, enhancing their ability to understand how the Laurel Branch Solar Project could affect their property, their livelihood, and the surrounding area.

We offer the following comments/questions:

- Well water: Within the Laurel Branch Solar Project area, there are not only drilled wells but several bored wells. Because they can be only about 30 feet deep, there is the potential that run-off from the solar panels could contaminate those wells. Who pays and monitors the wells?
- Our farm, Laurel Branches, established in 1790, is almost completely surrounded by the proposed solar project. Limited hunting has been allowed on our farm for years. How will this project affect hunting? Are there any hunting restrictions?
- Although one of your team members stated that solar projects do not affect the value of the surrounding real estate, we find that statement hard to believe. Who would want to buy land for a personal residence or to raise livestock near a solar project when the long-range impact is unknown? We have livestock on our farm and how the run-off may affect the streams that feed our ponds is very much a concern. Furthermore, such could affect the wildlife within the area.
- Should there be a fire caused by the solar panels/sites, a fire that destroys a personal residence, outbuildings, livestock, or timber, who is going to be held liable? Who has to carry liability insurance? Dominion Energy? Landowner that is leasing his real estate for the panels? Who would be responsible?
- In the opening comments, someone stated that the surrounding areas would see little visual impact, that there would be buffers, trees, etc. Look over the proposed solar panel project area today! The trees are or have already been cut/removed. No impact???

We do not intend to shoot the messengers, but there appears to be a lot of secrecy surrounding this project. There is a lack of handouts and maps being provided to the families being directly affected, as well as those in close proximity. These maps should provide details as to the location of the panels, the construction staging areas, and the proposed buffers. At the initial meeting, when someone tried to take a picture of the map of their acreage, the map was jerked away. We all realize that what neighbors do with their real estate is solely their business, but when their decisions affect us, we are owed detailed impact explanations!

Thanking you in advance for your feedback.

Sincerely,

L. Stephen Stupasky Sue Love Stupasky 1283 Laurel Branch Road Kenbridge, Virginia 23944-3917



Laurel Branch Solar - Responses to Letter

1 message



Thu. Jun 23, 2022 at 3:48 PM

Good afternoon Mrs. Stupasky,

Thank you so much for your time earlier today. It was great speaking with you! As discussed, I wanted to thank you for your letter with your comments and questions. I will be sending you a second email with the slide deck from the June 6th meeting as well as some additional information on the project, including the preliminary site plan and our permitting application narrative.

Please find the following responses to the questions outlined in your letter.

- 1. Well Water: Within the Laurel Branch Solar Project area there are not only drilled wells but several bored wells. Because they can be only about 30 feet deep, there is potential that run-off from the solar panels could contaminate those wells. Who pays and monitors the wells?

 Dominion Energy recommends that all wells ensite be properly abandoned prior to the start of construction activities. If this doesn't occur, we will ensure that they will be properly closed and secured at all times.
- 2. Limited hunting has been allowed on their farm for years. How will this project affect hunting? Are there any hunting restrictions? For safety reasons, Dominion Energy does not allow hunting activity at our solar facilities. These restrictions will not apply to parcels that are not included as part of the project.
- 3. Comments about property values. Most studies show that solar projects do not have a significant impact on the value or sale of nearby properties. I have attached an independent study on the effect of solar farms on neighboring property values that was conducted by licensed appropriate. Christian P. Kaila, MAI, SRA. Per the study, there is no evidence that there is any negative impact on neighboring property values, despite unsupported claims to the contrary. Polar Farms Impact on Neighboring Properties, Research and Conclusions of Spotsylvania Garnia, Variant Project. By: Christian P. Kaila, MAI, SRA. Docember 28, 2018.

A couple excerpts from the attached document include:

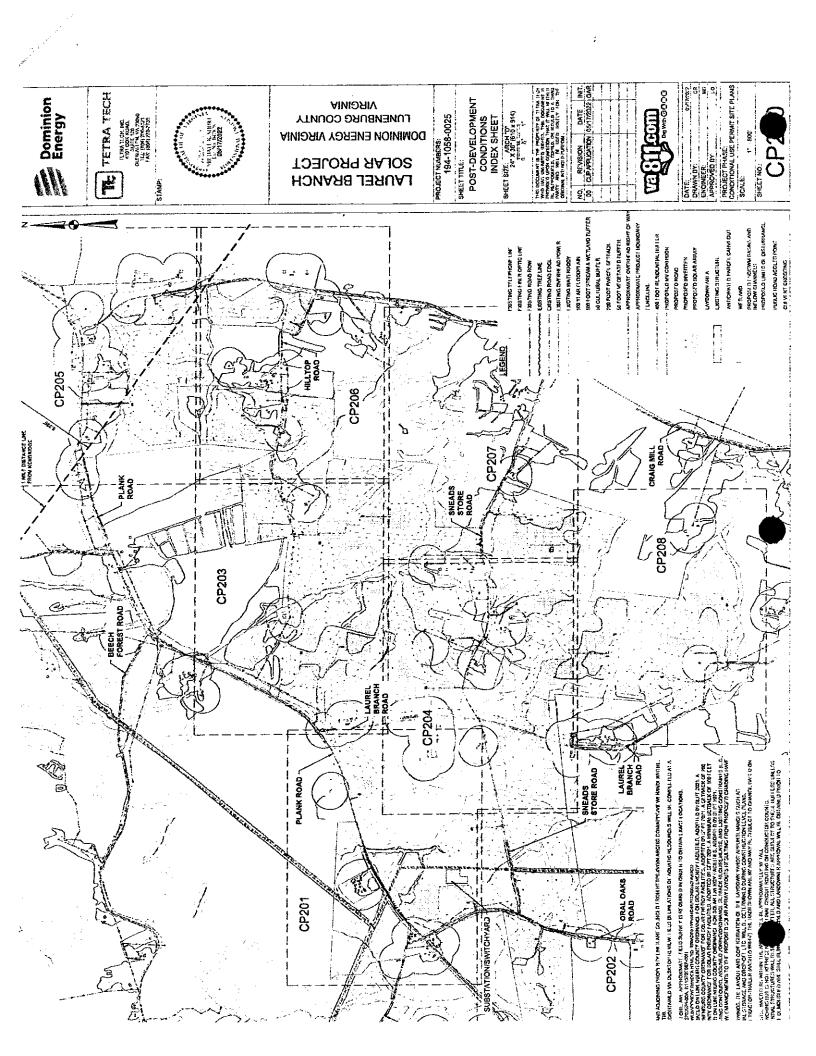
Patrocia McGarr, MAI Studies: File and two different studies by Patr McGarr, MAI dated May and August 2018. Both concluded no consistent negative impact has occurred to adjacent property that could be attributed to proximity to the adjacent solar farm. I found the McGarr reports to be credible and specific. The following are some exempts from her reports:

In total, we analyzed 15 adjoining property sales in Test Areas and 63 comparable sales in Control Areas, collectively, for the Grand Ridge Solar Farm. Portuge Solar Farm. Dominion Indy III Solar Farm, IMPA Frankton Solar Farm, and the Valparaiso Solar Farms over the past six years. We note that proximity to the solar farms has not deterred sales of nearby agricultural land and residential single family homes, nor has it impacted the development of new homes.

Richard Kirkland, MAI Study: This impact Analysis by Richard Kirkland, MAI was done in early 2018 for the Greenwood Solar Project in Culpeper County, Virginia. The Kirkland Study also concluded there are no impact to home values due to the adjacent solar projects as well as no impacts to adjacent residential or agricultural land. I found both the McCiarr and Kirkland research to be very credible due to the number of matched pairs of control sales and target sales adjacent to existing solar farms. The match sales methodology is the primary method to determine potential impact on adjoining property values. Paired Data Analysis is outlined in the "The Appraisal of Real Estate" published by the Appraisal Institute. This method is more greatly defined into submethods in "Real Estate Damages" by Randall Bell, PhD, MAI, also published by the appraisal Institute.

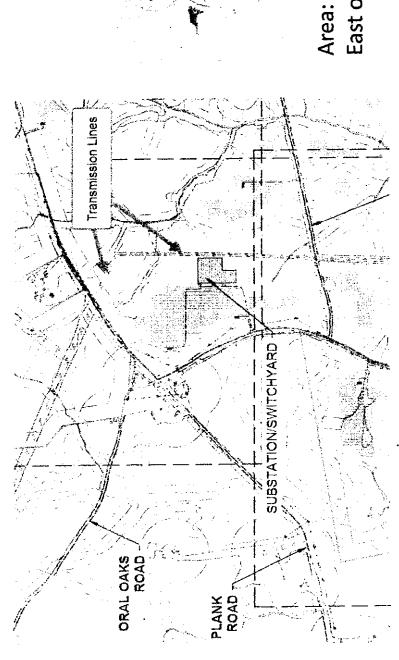
- A. Concerns about how the run-off may affect the streams that feed the ponds. Before constitution begins, environmental protections such as sediment basins, silt fences, and other controls are installed throughout the property to manage stormwater runoff and prevent soil erosion. To manage stormwater runoff, we build sediment basins to safely collect rainwater and prevent sediment from entering waterways. Establishing mature vegetation is an important part of stormwater management. Throughout the construction process, we plant grass mixes and in the speciality erosion products to fully re-vegetate the site and stabilize the soil.
- 5. Should there be a fire caused by the solar panels/sites, a fire that destroys a personal residence, outbuildings, livestock, or timber, who is going to be held liable? Who has to carry liability insurance? Dominion Energy? Landowner that is leasing his real estate for the panels? Who would be responsible? Dominion Energy would be required to indemnify the landowner for regularises that occurred where we were found liable.
- e. Comments were provided that the trees have already been cut or removed. Our team is cured the working on a visual impact analysis that shows proposed buffers for this project. Once this near been completed, I can provide to you for your review as well.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions. Thank you again for your time!



Propesed Substation and Switchmard Location





Area: South of Plank Road and East of Oral Oaks Road

CUP 6-22:Laurel BranchSwitchyard

DOMINION ENERGY VIRGINIA

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION

LAUREL BRANCH SWITCHYARD

AUGUST 2022

Table of Contents Laurel Branch Public Utility, Major – Switchyard Facility

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TAB A **Cover Letter**



August 24, 2022

HAND DELIVERY

Taylor Newton
Director of Planning and Economic Development County of Lunenburg
11413 Courthouse Road
Lunenburg, Virginia 23952

RE: Virginia Electric and Power Company (d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia) ("Dominion") Conditional Use Permit Application for a Public Utility, Major

Dear Ms. Newton:

Enclosed please find a conditional use permit application packet (the "Application") requesting approval of a Public Utility, Major (the "Switchyard") in Lunenburg County, Virginia (the "County"). Pursuant to Article 8 of the County's Zoning Ordinance, Dominion is providing ten (10) copies of the Application (see enclosed binders), which includes documents and plans related to the conditional use permit request for the Switchyard. In addition, four (4) over-sized copies of the Switchyard preliminary site plan are included separately. The Application fee of \$2,500.00 is enclosed with the binders. An electronic copy of the application documents has also been separately submitted.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 804-212-5426 or at robin.l.lucey@dominionenergy.com.

Sincerely,

Robin L. Lucey

Robin L. Lucey

Dominion Energy Virginia Business Development Manager

cc: Frank Rennie, Esquire, County Attorney

TAB B Conditional Use Permit Application Form

Lunenburg Planning Office

Application for Conditional Use Permit for **Solar Facilities**Case Number: ______(Office Use Only)

		Section 1					
Applicant Name:	Virginia Electric and Power Company (d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia)						
Owner Name:	Dixie Lee Farms, Inc. (See TAB C in the Application Materials)						
Owner Signature:	See "Power of Attorney - Property Owner" (TAB D)						
Contact Name for Application: Robin L. Lucey							
Physical and Mailing Ac	ldress:	600 E. Canal Street, 19th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219					
Phone Number: <u>804-21</u>	2-5426	3					
Email Address: robin.l.	lucey@)dominionenergy.com					
Fax Number (if applicab	le):	N/A					
Power of Attorney Name:		Robin L. Lucey					
Power of Attorney Signature: Row Lucy (See attached POA - TAB D)							
		s property, I certify that this application is complete and accurate to the best of Lunenburg County representative(s) entry on the property for purposes of	of				
Parcel Number(s):	058-0A-	Section 2 Property Information -0-68					
	465.62						
Area (ac./sq. ft.):	465.62 Columbian Grove						
Magisterial District: Address:	464 Laurel Branch Road, Kenbridge, VA 23944						
Existing Zoning:	A-1 (A	gricultural)					
Requested Use:	Dublic Hillity Major (Cuitabyard)						
Does this property have a h	nistorical	designation? If yes, describe: No					

Parcel number(s), acreage, magisterial district and existing zoning can be located at: https://lunenburggis.timmons.com/#/mwl. The address can be typed into the "By Parcel Address" search bar followed by selecting search. This will pull up the information pertaining to the parcel.

The application deadline is the 1st of the month proceeding the month in which the public hearing by the Planning Commission is to be held. The Planning Commission meeting is held on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Applications must be submitted in completed form prior to scheduling for public hearing by the Planning Commission. Notice of incomplete applications will be sent to the applicant at the listed address in Section 1.

The site plan must be submitted as described in the site plan requirements at the time of the application.

Application fee is \$2,500.00, which must be paid at the time of application submission.

Incomplete applications will be returned to the applicant and not docketed for a public hearing

Section 3

Certification of Adjoining Property Owners, Board of Supervisors, and Planning Commissioners

Applicants Certification:

[] Birth Certificate [] Other:

I certify that I have notified all adjacent property owners, to the property which is the subject of this application request, that this application is being filed. Notifications were sent via first class mail.

Adjacent property includes all property touching the project parcel, across roadways, watercourses, railroads, and/or municipal boundaries.

I further certify that the names and addresses below are those of the adjacent property owners as listed in the tax

records of the Commissioner of Revenue of Lunenburg County. Applicant's Signature: State of: Henrico County of: Andrew J. Hedrick , on this 3rd Applicant(s) Name , personally appeared, and provided verification to be the person(s) whose name(s) is/are subscribed to the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed. Given under my hand and seal of office this 3rd day of August, 2022. Notary Public's Signature Henrico Co. Location of Commission 7733786 Registration #: Commission Expiration: 10-31-2025 Verification of Identity Driver's License or Govt./State Identification Card: Number: T63258260 (AJH) Number: A67143454 (RW) State: [] U. S. Passport: [] U. S. Military ID Card [] Social Security Card

Parcel Number	Adjacent Parcel (Property) Own Name(s)	Address
rarcei Number	Name(s)	4525 Oral Oaks Road
058-0A-0-70	Bessie R. Callahan	
	James M. on Wanda S. Cample 11	Kenbridge, VA 23944
046-0A-0-39, 40 & 5A	James M. or Wanda S. Campbell	10663 Plank Road
		Kenbridge, VA 23944 P.O. Box 242
046-0A-0-38	Vicky J. Hall	Kenbridge, VA 23944
	•	<u> </u>
046-0A-0-26	Derrick Scott Hall or	1286 Fletcher Chapel Road
	Lucy Lafoon	Kenbridge, VA 23944
046-0A-025, 20, 54 & 69	Dixie Lee Farms Inc.	464 Laurel Branch Road
	Blate Lee I aims me.	Kenbridge, VA 23944
058-0A-0-65A	Theodore Bauer	1202 Sneads Store Road
000 011 0 0011	Theodore Bauer	Kenbridge, VA 23944
046-0A-0-37	Good Hope Church	8510 Oral Oaks Road
040-01 1 -0-37	Good Hope Charen	Kenbridge, VA 23944
046 04 0 29	Lucious H. Clemons, Jr. &	1600 Lakeside Avenue
046-0A-0-28	Faye C. Johnson	Henrico, VA 23228
046 04 0 22 25 8 26	Illinois Municipal Retirement	P.O. Box 1288
046-0A-0-33, 35 & 36	Fund	Mobile, AL 36633
059.04.0.67		3502 Laurel Branch Road
058-0A-0-67	Johnny K. Long	Kenbridge, VA 23944
	B . I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	716 East 6th Avenue
046-0A-0-24	Bernice Leonard Bishop	Kenbridge, VA 23944
	David S. Hoerauf or	15200 Mt. Nebo Road
058-0A-0-5	Teresa M. Cummings	Poolesville, MD 20837
		10326 Plank Road
058-0A-0-6	Robert C. or Cassie E. Daniel	Kenbridge, VA 23944
	D 4 1 C 14	10291 Plank Road
058-0A-0-71A	Doretha J. Smith	Kenbridge, VA 23944
		4022 Plank Road
058-0A-0-71	Sheila Macwelch	Kenbridge, VA 23944
		Tremeriuge, VII 255 II
	1	
		the letter that follows can be completed

^{*}If there are additional adjacent property owners, please include them on a separate sheet. Also, the letter that follows can be completed and mailed to adjacent property owners.

Section 4 Applicant's Report

Section 8.3(b) of Lunenburg Zoning Ordinance

Every application for a Conditional Use Permit shall be accompanied by a report from the applicant describing the proposed Conditional Use and explaining the manner which it complies with the requirements and standards of this article.

The following questions address the basic issues. The Planning Commission and/or Board of Supervisors may request additional information.

Dosorik	no how you plan to dayalan the property for the proposed use and any associated uses
	be how you plan to develop the property for the proposed use and any associated uses. Be attached Applicant's materials including the "Project Narrative" included in TAB E for details.
assure 1	be why the proposed use is desirable and appropriate for the area. What measures will be taken that the proposed use will not have a negative impact on the surrounding vicinity? The attached Applicant's materials including the "Project Narrative" included in TAB E for details.
Also, a	ddress the following:
Also, a a.	ddress the following: Details of Operations: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E).
a.	Details of Operations: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E).
a. b.	Details of Operations: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Hours of Operation: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E).
a.	Details of Operations: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E).
a. b. c.	Details of Operations: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Hours of Operation: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Traffic: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E).
a. b.	Details of Operations: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Hours of Operation: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E).
a. b. c. d.	Details of Operations: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Hours of Operation: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Traffic: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Noise: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E).
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a. b. c. d.	Details of Operations: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Hours of Operation: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Traffic: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Noise: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Dust/Smoke: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E).
a.b.c.d.e.f.	Details of Operations: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Hours of Operation: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Traffic: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Noise: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Dust/Smoke: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Runoff: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Intensity of Use: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E).
a.b.c.d.e.f.	Details of Operations: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Hours of Operation: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Traffic: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Noise: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Dust/Smoke: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Runoff: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E).
a.b.c.d.e.f.g.	Details of Operations: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Hours of Operation: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Traffic: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Noise: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Dust/Smoke: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Runoff: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E). Intensity of Use: Please see the "Applicant's Report" section in the "Project Narrative" (TAB E).

6.) Has a survey of the parcel(s) been conducted to include project parcel, property boundaries, existing roadways and structures, and adjoining parcels, as well as, the parcel owner? If so, is it included in the application packet? The parcel boundaries and owner information are based on publicly available data and the existing roadways and structure information has been compiled based on aerial photographs. This data is included with the project "Location Map with Property Owner Information" in TAB C.
7.) Has a site plan been included to note the information required on the survey, but also any new construction, parking, clearing, planting, etc.? Yes, please see "TAB G - Preliminary Site Plan".
8.) Has a business plan been established? If so, please provide it with application submittal. Please refer to "TAB E".
9.) Describe how the proposed project complies or refutes the goals and objectives noted in the Kenbridge-Victoria-Lunenburg Comprehensive Plan. This can be located the Lunenburg County, Virginia website. As noted in the LunenburgKenbridge/Victoria Joint Comprehensive Plan 2019-2024, some private or quasi-public facilities, as well as certain utility systems are "important resources for the local community and must be taken into account when analyzing the full range of public resources." The proposed Switchyard is necessary to provide valuable support to future Laurel Branch Solar Project and the future energy needs of the County. Further, its location is ideal in that in will be developed as part of the future laurel Branch Solar Project and is close to two, existing transmission lines. This will serve to co-locate utility infrastructure and not negatively impact other areas of the County. Please see "TAB E - Project Narrative" for additional details.

Requirements for telecom site plans can be found in Section 22 Article III, items 22-81 thru 22-112 of the Lunenburg County Code.

Section 5 Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)

VDOT and the County have identified that the construction phase of solar energy projects have an increased impact on VDOT's secondary road network. These impacts occur as VDOT's secondary road system was not designed to accommodate large numbers of truck traffic that results from the transport of the needed materials for the solar project to the construction sites. The increase in number of employees, also, impacts the roadways. To assist VDOT and the County in mitigating the increased maintenance costs associated with the increased traffic, the County requires the submission and approval of a CTMP. The outline below includes the needed elements for the required CTMP.

Construction Traffic Haul Routes

- Identify the routes to be used to transport supplies to the construction site. The plan shall begin at a VDOT maintained primary route and include all secondary routes to be used to access the site.
- The plan shall, also, include any truck routes that may be used to dispose of excess materials, clearing and grubbing debris, timber harvesting, or other activities that generate truck traffic leaving the site.

Roadway Condition Survey

- The applicant shall document by either photos, videos, or other method acceptable to VDOT and the County, the condition of the secondary roadways identified as haul routes. This condition survey will be utilized to identify areas damaged by the construction traffic that will be required to be repaired to the pre-existing conditions or better.

On-Site Storage, Unloading, and Turn-Around Areas

- The applicant shall demonstrate that they have adequate areas available on-site to unload trucks, store the materials on-site, and provide an area where trucks can turn around on-site prior to entering the VDOT roadway.

On-Site Parking Areas for Construction Employees

- The applicant shall provide an estimated number of employees to be on-site during construction and demonstrate that adequate on-site parking areas are available for the anticipated employees. Employees will not be allowed to park along roadways or within VDOT Right-of-Way (ROW) adjacent to the construction areas.

TAB C Location Map with Property Owner Information



464 LAUREL BRANCH ROAD

Parcel Information

Parcel ID: 058-0A-0-68 **PRN/Link:** 8520

Tax Map: 058 Double Circle: 0A

Block: Lot: 68

Parcel Address 1: 464 LAUREL BRANCH ROAD Parcel Address 2: N/A

 Legal Description 1:
 CROOKED CREEK 465.63 AC
 Deed:
 NONE

 Legal Description 2:
 N/A
 Will:
 NONE

 District:
 COLUMBIAN GROVE
 Plat:
 NONE

Topology: ROLLING Utilities: ELECTRICITY, SEPTIC SYSTEM, WELL

Class: AGRICULTURAL/UNDEVELOPED (99+ ACRE)

Owner Information

Owner: DIXIE LEE FARMS INC,

Owner Address: 464 LAUREL BRANCH ROAD Owner City, ST Zip: KENBRIDGE VA 23944

Current Valuation

Assessment Year:

Exempt:

Current Land: \$732,600 Current Building: \$230,600 Current Improvements: \$45,300 Current Total: \$1,008,500

Sales History

Sale Date Grantor Sale Price Instrument

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Land Segments						
Segment	Description	Size	Value	Zoning		
1	BUILDING SITE (500 -13000)	2.0000	\$16,000	R1: RESIDENTIAL - LOW DENSITY		
2	PAVED SECONDARY	297.0000	\$490,039	R1: RESIDENTIAL - LOW DENSITY		
3	PAVED SECONDARY	165.6300	\$173,906	R1: RESIDENTIAL - LOW DENSITY		
4	TIMBER/MIXED	165.6300	\$49,689	R1: RESIDENTIAL - LOW DENSITY		
5	LAKES & PONDS (100 - 2600)	1.0000	\$3,000	R1: RESIDENTIAL - LOW DENSITY		

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Main Structures:2

ear Built	Construction Sty	le Rooms	Bedrooms	Cost Per Sq Ft	Heated Sq Ft	Depreciation	Schedule
1950	CONVENTIONA	AL 10	2	38.91		RES AVG D	EPR
Building Section	ons						
Section	Year Built	Effective Year	Description	Story Hei	ght Class	Grade	Value
1	1950	1965	SINGLE FAMILY	2.00	1	C+10	\$76,165
Building A	Attributes						
Attribute 1	Гуре		Type				Number Of
CHIMNE	EYS		2 STO	RY MASONRY			1.00
EXTER	OR FINISH		WOOD.	LAP SIDING			1840.00
FLOOR			SOFT	WOOD			1840.00
FOUND	ATION		BRICK				920.00
FUEL			ELEC1	TRIC			1840.00
HVAC			CENT	RALAIR			1840.00
HVAC			CENT	RAL HEAT			1840.00
OPENIN	IGS		FIREP	LACE OPENINGS			2.00
PLUMBI	NG		3 FIXT	URE BATH			2.00
ROOF N	MATERIAL		COMP	OSITION SHINGLE			920.00
ROOFT	YPE		GABLE				920.00
WALL			DRY V	VALL			1840.00
2	1950	1965	SINGLE FAMILY	1.00	1	C+10	\$25,997
Building A	Attributes		Section and the section of	1210.00			America.
Attribute 1	7.		Туре				Number Of
	OR FINISH			LAP SIDING			648.00
HVAC			CENT	RALAIR			648.00
HVAC			CENT	RAL HEAT			648.00
3	1950	1965	OPEN MASONRY POR	RCH 1.00	106	C+10	\$1,207
4	1950	1965	ENCLOSED PORCH	1.00	107	C+10	\$1,310
Building A	11777	1555;	17117777777	1882	277	27/2073	7.017.15
Attribute 1	PARTICIONAL PROPERTY.		Type				Number Of
	OR FINISH			LAP SIDING			90.00
ear Built	Construction Sty	le Rooms	Bedrooms	Cost Per Sq Ft	Heated Sq Ft	Depreciation	Schedule
1945	CONVENTIONA	Sa Unicipality	3	34.79		RES AVG D	THE CASE OF STREET
Building Section	ons .						
Section	Year Built	Effective Year	Description	Story Hei	ght Class	Grade	Value
1	1945	1965	SINGLE FAMILY	1.50	1	C+5	\$95,395
2	1945	1965	SINGLE FAMILY	1.00	.1	C+5	\$25,186
3	1945	1965	OPEN MASONRY PO	RCH 1.00	108	С	\$2,193
4	1945	1965			104	C	200000000000000000000000000000000000000

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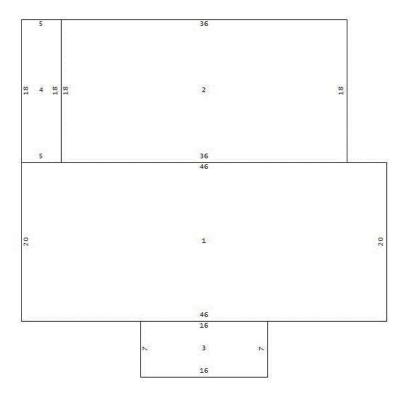


N/A STORAGE SHED 1 9 -FRAME 1 9 N/A STORAGE SHED 1 9 -FRAME 1 68 N/A BARN 1 68 N/A GRAIN BIN 1 54	SOUND VALUE SOUND VALUE SOUND VALUE	N/A N/A	SOUND VALUE	\$500
N/A -FRAME 1 9 N/A BARN 1 68 N/A GRAIN BIN 1 54		N/A	SOUND VALUE	
N/A GRAIN BIN 1 54	SOUND VALUE			\$2,500
		N/A	SOUND VALUE	\$2,000
	SOUND VALUE	N/A	SOUND VALUE	\$1,000
N/A SILO 1 58	SOUND VALUE	N/A	SOUND VALUE	\$10,000
N/A POLE SHELTER 1 48	SOUND VALUE	N/A	SOUND VALUE	\$19,663
2005 STORAGE SHED 1 9	SOUND VALUE	N/A	SOUND VALUE	\$3,154
N/A POLE SHELTER 1 48	SOUND VALUE	N/A.	SOUND VALUE	\$800
N/A OLD DWELLING 1 66	SOUND VALUE	N/A	SOUND VALUE	\$5,000
N/A GREENHOUSE - 1 115	SOUND VALUE	N/A	SOUND VALUE	N/A
N/A FENCE (WOOD) 1 16	SOUND VALUE	N/A	SOUND VALUE	\$200
N/A STORAGE SHED 1 9	SOUND VALUE	N/A	SOUND VALUE	\$500

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TAB D Power of Attorney Property Owner

SPECIAL LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that I, Robin Gunn Wrenn, am the President of Dixie Lee Farms, Inc., a Virginia corporation (the "Owner"). Owner owns in fee that certain real property located in the County of Lunenburg, Virginia (the "County") identified as Tax Map Nos. 046-0A-0-20, 058-0A-0-54, 058-0A-0-63, 058-0A-0-69, 059-0A-0-27 and 059-0A-0-56B (the "Property"). On or about February 26, 2021, Owner executed an Option to lease agreement (the "Option Agreement"), with Virginia Electric and Power Company, a Virginia public service corporation ("VEPCO"), whereby Owner granted VEPCO the option to lease the Property upon terms and conditions set forth in the Option Agreement. VEPCO proposes to develop and operate a utility-scale solar facility (the "Solar Facility") on a portion of the Property. VEPCO is required to obtain a conditional use permit ("CUP") from the County Board of Supervisors in order to develop, construct and operate the Solar Facility, and/or related facilities on the Property.

Owner of the Property, having full right and authority to do so, do hereby makes, constitutes, and appoints Robin L. Lucey, Business Development Manager, VEPCO, and M. Ann Neil Cosby, Esq., McGuireWoods, LLP, (collectively, the "Appointees"), either of whom may act, as the true and lawful attorneys in fact for the Owner in connection with the filing and approval of the CUP. The Appointees shall have full power and authority to do and perform as may be necessary to prepare and file zoning application documents (the "Application") and such other supporting information (including but not limited to conditions of development) on behalf of the Owner, to seek and obtain approval of the CUP and to agree to any and all terms and conditions as necessary for the use of the Property as requested in the Application.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this at have day of february assa
Robert When Pres Name: Title:
STATE OF Virginia COUNTY OF Lunenburg, to-wit: The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this at day of february, 2022, by Robin Gunn Wrenas, President of Dikie Lee farms Inc.
Notary Public B Bagley
My Commission Expires: 013013033 MELINDA B. BAGLEY NOTARY PUBLIC Commonwealth of Virginia Reg. ≠154836

TAB E Project Narrative

Dominion Virginia Power – Laurel Branch Switchyard CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT – PROJECT NARRATIVE

August 2022

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Section 4-11(b)(14) of the *Lunenburg County Code* (the "Code"), the Virginia Electric and Power Company (d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia) (the "Applicant" or "Dominion"), requests conditional use permit (the "CUP") approval and a §15.2-2232 substantially in accord review for a public facility. The proposed public facility will be a public utility switchyard (the "Switchyard") located on an approximately five (5) acre portion of the property located at 464 Laurel Branch Road.¹ The property is further described as Parcel Identification No. 058-0A-0-68 (the "Property").²

The proposed Switchyard and its adjacent substation (the "Substation") will be located within and as part of the proposed Laurel Branch Solar Facility, which has filed a concurrent conditional use application to permit an 80 MWac utility-scale solar facility (the "Solar Project").³ The Switchyard will remain in perpetuity even after the Solar Project is decommissioned.⁴ See details about the Switchyard in the *Background and Need* section below.

II. BACKGROUND AND NEED

Dominion Energy Virginia is a public service corporation organized under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and is responsible for furnishing electric service to the public within its Virginia and North Carolina service territory. Dominion's electric system, consisting of facilities for generation, transmission, and distribution of electric energy, as well as associated facilities, is interconnected with the electric systems of neighboring utilities, and is part of the interconnected network of electric systems serving the continental United States.

The proposed Switchyard will be an integral component of the proposed Laurel Branch Solar Project and will also serve as important infrastructure within Dominion's network. The Solar Project's Substation will serve to step up lower-voltage from the Solar Project to a higher-voltage transmission level and transfer that generated power to the Switchyard. The Switchyard taps into the transmission line via a "switch" allowing Dominion to transfer the energy from the Solar Project's Substation to the area's existing transmission system.

¹ Prior to operation, the Switchyard will be subdivided into a standalone parcel per the County ordinances.

² The Property is approximately 465.63 acres and zoned A-1, Agricultural.

³ The Solar Project will be located on the subject Property as well as twenty-four (24) additional parcels in the immediate area.

⁴ The Solar Project (including the Substation) will be subject to its decommissioning plan per the solar conditional use permit application.

Electrical switchyards are important parts of the electrical grid allowing a public utility to transfer electricity from one voltage to another. In addition, a switchyard controls the flow of power along a section of the transmission line and can adjust where power is going due to outages or breaks in a line. As such, the Switchyard will remain a part of the overall transmission system, owned and operated by Dominion, in perpetuity, even after decommissioning of the Solar Project.

III. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL (Section 4, Questions 1, 2, 3, and 8)

There are two existing transmission lines that run through the proposed Solar Project, joining on the north side of Plank Road near Oral Oaks Road. The proposed Switchyard has been strategically located within the Solar Project area to interconnect with the electrical infrastructure already in place. The Switchyard will be an important component of the Solar Project; however, following decommissioning, the Switchyard will continue to provide a valuable service for the County by providing a facility that will interconnect the existing transmission infrastructure. Being able to network multiple transmission lines together creates a robust transmission system and allows power to continue to flow if one of the transmission lines is out of service for contingency events (such as storms), maintenance, or repair. A Switchyard also helps the system operator control the power system voltage during heavy or light-load conditions. Overall, the Switchyard will help provide consistent and reliable power to the County.

The Switchyard will be approximately 284 feet x 251 feet in dimension, fenced, and include structures not exceeding 75 feet in height, breakers, and ancillary equipment. See Preliminary Site Plan (TAB G) and Switchyard and Substation Design (TAB H) for a representative depiction of the Switchyard location. The Switchyard will be set back approximately 774 feet from Oral Oaks Road and approximately 1,550 feet from Plank Road. In addition to the landscaping proposed along the Switchyard and Substation fence, they will have minimal visibility from adjacent rights-of-way after installation of the 50-foot landscape buffer and/or retention of existing vegetation along Oral Oaks and Plank Roads, which is included as part of the Solar Project. The Switchyard will be constructed, operated, and owned by Dominion.

Once constructed, the Solar Project will be monitored 24/7 via surveillance cameras and electrical system monitoring equipment. The Solar Project will be constructed over an approximate 18-month period. The Switchyard and the Substation will be constructed as part of the overall construction of the Solar Project. It is anticipated that construction will commence in 2024 and the Solar Project will be operational by the end of 2025.

IV. LOCATION, APPEARANCE AND OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS⁵

All signage on the Property will comply with the County Sign Ordinance and all noise will comply with the County Noise Ordinance. Unless approved in writing by the County, no signage shall be permitted on the Property. Signage containing notices, warnings, or other information, if required by law or deemed by the County to be in the interest of the safety and welfare of the community, shall be permitted.

During construction, temporary signage to direct deliveries, identifying the site name, address, and contact information for the contractors on a board at the various construction entrance location(s) will be needed. Safety and security signage in these locations will be posted as well. Post construction, warning and notice signs will be provided on the fence, including environmental signage for environmentally sensitive areas.

During construction of the Switchyard, any temporary construction lighting shall be directed and positioned downward, inward, and shielded to eliminate glare from all adjacent properties. Emergency and/or safety lighting shall be exempt from this construction lighting condition. Any permanent lighting shall be limited to the minimum amount necessary for security purposes. Post construction lighting shall be limited to security and/or safety lighting only. All lighting will be limited to the minimum necessary for security purposes and fixtures will be dark-sky compliant shielded away from adjacent properties and positioned downward to minimize light spillage onto adjacent properties. Emergency and/or safety lighting shall be exempt from this post construction lighting condition.

Groundcover on the site will consist of pollinator plants where practicable, and grasses, forbs, and wildflowers native to the County. No invasive plants listed by DCR will be used. All groundcover will be maintained as set forth in the Landscaping Plan, which is included in the Preliminary Site Plan (TAB G). A performance bond will be posted to ensure maintenance. If pesticides and fertilizers are applied to the Property, the operator will notify the County prior to application. Both the Substation and Switchyard will be adequately fenced for security and safety with a twelve (12) foot chain-link security fence topped with about three (3) feet of barbed wire. Fencing will be installed on the interior of the vegetative buffer and provided in sections to provide access corridors for wildlife.

Landscaping will be existing or installed vegetation as deemed necessary during CUP approval, and will be comprised of native (non-invasive, pollinator-friendly and wildlife friendly) plant materials at least three (3) feet tall at the time of planting and expected to grow to a minimum height of eight (8) feet within three years (or as otherwise approved by the Board). Vegetative buffers shall be maintained for the life of the facility. The Project will include minimum setbacks of 200 feet from adjacent

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⁵ This section addresses the requirements in Section 5 of the Solar Ordinance for the Switchyard.

property lines and the centerline of all adjoining rights-of-way. A minimum setback of 400 feet will be maintained from adjacent residential structures.⁶ Areas of the Project will be fenced separately allowing the open area between the fences to serve as wildlife corridors that will allow for the movement of migratory animals and other wildlife. These areas are also shown on the Preliminary Site Plan at TAB G (Landscape Buffer Sheet).

The County's emergency services providers will be provided materials, education, and/or training on how to safely respond to any on-site emergencies and a key or code to access the property in case of an on-site emergency. Dominion intends to grant the easements needed for inspections and other requirements to the County, as required by Section 5(A)(7) of the County's Solar Ordinance.

V. APPLICANT'S REPORT (Section 4, Question 3, a through i)

- a. Details of Operations: Please see information in the "Introduction" and "Background and Need" sections in the "Project Narrative."
- b. Hours of Operation: Once operational, the switchyard will run continuously.
- c. Traffic: Once operational, the switchyard will be unmanned and there will be no impacts to the surrounding roadways. There will be occasional visits for maintenance. Please see the "Traffic Study" included under TAB I for additional information for traffic during construction.
- d. Noise: The operation and maintenance of the switchyard will not increase noise within the area. There will be a temporary increase of noise within the area during the construction of the switchyard. Due to the temporary nature of the construction noise, no adverse or long-term effects are expected.
- e. Dust/Smoke: The operation and maintenance of the switchyard will not increase dust/smoke within the area. There may be a temporary increase of dust within the immediate area during construction activities. Dust control measures will be implemented during construction to minimize dust and erosion. Due to the temporary nature of the construction, no adverse or long-term effects are expected.
- f. Runoff: A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared in accordance with the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP), to obtain the required General VPDES Permit for discharges of stormwater from construction activities. The SWPPP outlines the steps and techniques to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff from the

⁶ Setbacks will not apply to internal property lines that are part of the Project site, including the Switchyard site. Access roads, stormwater management facilities and interconnection facilities are permitted in the setback(s) provided they are generally perpendicular to the property line, where applicable.

construction, including water quality and quantity requirements that are consistent with the VSMP permit regulations. This will be prepared prior to construction commencement.

g. Intensity of Use: The proposed switchyard will be unmanned; therefore, there will be minimal impacts to the surrounding area.

h. Hazardous Materials:

During Construction: The proposed facility will not endanger the public's health or safety. The project will require the use of fuel and lubricants for equipment and tools during construction. Contractors use absorbent materials and containment pools to catch and contain any drips or spills and provide for proper disposal.

During Operations: The project will also require the use of fuel and lubricants for equipment and tools during operations.

i. Outside Storage:

During Construction: The project will store equipment, materials, and vehicles outdoors during construction. All components will be secured from public access by security fencing.

During Operations: The project will store most spare materials and equipment inside a container during operations, though some larger equipment and materials may be stored outdoors. All components will be secured from public access by security fencing.

VI. CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN (CTMP)

Please find the "Construction Traffic Management Plan" included in TAB I in the documentation for the CUP application.

VII. CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS AND REQUEST

Section 8-5 of the Lunenburg County Zoning Ordinance (the "Ordinance") sets out the general requirements for approval of conditional use permits. Responses to those requirements are set forth below.

a. Will not be contrary to the purposes stated in Section 2-3 of the Ordinance.

Response: The proposed Switchyard will serve to meet the general purposes outlined in the Ordinance by promoting the health, safety, and general welfare of the public. It will provide the necessary public utility infrastructure that will not only serve the future Solar Project, but also the County, beyond the life of the Solar Project. The proposed Switchyard will

support the provision of clean and sustainable energy, as well as provide long-lasting infrastructure that will deliver reliable power to the County.

In addition, the Switchyard will not impact light, air, convenience of access and will provide safety from fire, flood, crime, and other dangers. It will not create congestion in public streets and will facilitate a convenient community by adding to the electrical infrastructure. The Switchyard will not impact schools, police, recreations facilities, airports, historic areas, or other facilities noted in Sec. 203. The facility will not create overcrowding or impact affordable housing but will enlarge the tax base of the county. The development of the both the Solar Facility and the Switchyard will protect surface waters and ground waters as well as wetlands.

b. Will not be in conflict with the objectives of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Response: As noted in the *Lunenburg/Kenbridge/Victoria Joint Comprehensive Plan 2019-2024*, some private or quasi-public facilities, as well as certain utility systems are "important resources for the local community and must be taken into account when analyzing the full range of public resources." The proposed Switchyard is necessary to provide valuable support to the future Solar Project and the future energy needs of the County. Further, its location is ideal in that it will be developed as part of the future Solar Project and is close to two, existing transmission lines. This will serve to co-locate utility infrastructure and not negatively impact other areas of the County.

c. Conform with all applicable provisions of the County Zoning Ordinance, all other applicable requirements of the district in which such use is located, and any specific conditions applicable to the proposed conditional use specified elsewhere in this ordinance.

Response: The proposed Switchyard will meet all applicable Zoning Ordinance provisions, as well as any specific development conditions required as part of the CUP approval.

- d. Include satisfactory provision for or arrangement of the following, where applicable:
 - (1) Sewer, water, and other public utilities.
 - Response: The proposed Switchyard is a public utility and will be unmanned. As such, it will not need the sewer or water.
 - (2) Ingress and egress, including access for fire and other emergency vehicles.

Response: Adequate vehicular access will be provided off Oral Oaks Road with a recorded easement of sufficient width and character to provide access for service and emergency vehicles.

(3) Off-street parking, loading and vehicle circulation, including adequate consideration of the safety of motorists and pedestrians.

Response: Since the Switchyard will be unmanned, it will place no burden on the existing transportation infrastructure.

(4) Yards, open spaces, relationship among buildings and other elements of the site.

Response: During operation of the Solar Project, the Switchyard will be internal to the Solar Project and set back approximately 774 feet from Oral Oaks Road and approximately 1,550 feet from Plank Road. The Switchyard will be subdivided as a separate lot in accordance with the County requirements. Because the Substation and the Switchyard are interconnected, no setbacks will be provided between those facilities

(5) Retention of natural vegetation and topographic features.

Response: The Switchyard will be positioned interior to the Property. As part of the Solar Project, the preservation of existing vegetation, where available, and additional landscaping will be provided.

(6) Landscaping, buffers, screening, fences, and other features or means of separation to protect adjacent properties from potential adverse effects of the conditional use.

Response: To minimize visibility from other properties, the Switchyard will include substantial setbacks from Oral Oaks Road and Plank Road and will be extensively screened by proposed landscape buffers to be installed as part of the Solar Project. In addition, both the Substation and Switchyard will be adequately fenced for security and safety with a twelve (12) foot chain-link fence topped with about three (3) feet of barbed wire. Upon future subdivision of the Switchyard parcel, the project will meet Ordinance requirement related to screening and buffering around the perimeter of the Switchyard parcel and any conditions related to such.

For the reasons stated above, the Applicant respectfully requests approval of this CUP request.

TAB F Environmental Inventory and Impact Statement

Environmental Inventory and Impact Statement

Laurel Branch Solar Project Switchyard and Substation

August 17, 2022

Prepared for



Prepared by



4101 Cox Road, Suite 120 Glen Allen, VA 23060

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List of Attachments

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Attachment B: Threatened and Endangered Species Determination Memo

Attachment C: Cultural Resources Desktop Review Memo

i

Acronyms and Abbreviations

3D three-dimensional

BMP best management practices

CUP Conditional Use Permit

GIS geographic information system

GPS global positioning system

KOP key observation point

MW megawatts

Project Area The approximately 2,189 acres of privately-owned land where the proposed

Project is located

Project Laurel Branch Solar Project

VADEQ Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Dominion Energy Virginia (Dominion) is proposing to develop a Switchyard and Substation as part of a commercial solar energy project, Laurel Branch Solar Project (Project), on private land encompassing approximately 2,189 acres. The Project Switchyard and Substation is located on one parcel (058-0A-0-68) and will be accessible via a gated entrance off of Oral Oaks Road. The Project is in Lunenburg County, Virginia, and is largely undeveloped, and zoned agricultural, as shown on the Orthoimagery and Topographic Project Location Maps (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

1.1 Project Description

The scope of the Project will consist of all work to construct, commission, energize, and train operation staff of the Switchyard and Substation and associated infrastructure, including but not limited to the following:

- A pad containing the Switchyard and Substation
- Internal infrastructure including permanent gravel access roads and security fencing.

A desktop environmental inventory was conducted to identify environmental, wildlife, and cultural resources within and within applicable buffers off of the Project survey area. These resources include wetlands, surface water, floodplains, air quality, federal and state listed threatened and endangered species, and architectural and archaeological resources. Additionally, a preliminary assessment was conducted to evaluate the impact of the Project on environmental, wildlife, and cultural resources within a 2.5-mile radius of the Project survey area. This impact assessment was based on preliminary site plans and anticipated avoidance and minimization measures that may be implemented.

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS NARRATIVE

2.1 Existing Conditions

A desktop wetland determination memo was prepared in February 2022 to summarize the findings of publicly available desktop resources within the Project study area. The desktop wetland determination identified 29 potential streams totaling approximately 6,075 linear feet and 5 potential wetlands totaling approximately 2.9 acres. Based on desktop research, the floodplain data for the Project were obtained from Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Map Number 51111C0175B, effective July 20, 2009 (FEMA 2021). According to these data, the majority of the site is located within Zone X, area of minimal flood hazard. Bears Element Creek, located just west of the Project area parcel is mapped as Zone A, with a one percent annual chance flood hazard.

The Project is located within Lunenburg County, which is not one of Virginia's 29 coastal counties deemed "Tidewater Virginia". Therefore, the Project is not subject to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act Resource Protection Area or Resource Management Area regulatory buffers, as outline in 9 Virginia Administrative Code 25-830-80. Additional information, including references, on wetlands, surface waters, and groundwater can be found in Attachment A: Wetland Determination Memo. Wetlands, waterbodies, and floodplains have not been inventoried outside of the Project

survey area; however, off-site impacts to these potential features will be addressed under the direct and indirect impacts section.

Primary air quality standards protect the public health, including the health of "sensitive populations, such as people with asthma, children, and older adults." Secondary air quality standards protect public welfare by promoting ecosystems health and preventing decreased visibility and damage to crops and buildings. The EPA has set national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for the following six criteria pollutants: ozone (O3), particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO2), and lead (Pb). The AirNow Interactive Map of Air Quality (AirNow 2022) was used to identify nearby monitoring locations and determine the current estimated air quality index (AQI). According to the AirNow map, the nearest Ozone monitoring location to the Project survey area is the Prince Edward County EPA Office of Atmospheric Programs. This air quality monitoring station identified that the ozone daily AQI level was considered in good standing (29) at the issuance of this report. There were no results for the five other criteria pollutants.

2.2 Direct and Indirect Impacts

The desktop wetland determination identified 29 potential streams, and 5 potential wetlands within the Project study area (Figure 3). The Project is currently designed to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands and streams as they are currently desktop mapped within the Project Area to the extent practicable. These features have not yet been confirmed by the USACE or VADEQ and are subject to change. Pending any changes to mapped features, impacts to jurisdictional features will be permitted through the proper regulatory agency. Wetlands, waterbodies, and floodplains have not been inventoried outside of the Project survey area; however, there are no anticipated direct impacts to any features outside of the Project survey area. Through the use of stormwater and erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) during construction, as well as routine stormwater inspections, no indirect impacts to adjacent water resources are anticipated from the Project. These BMPs, in tandem with temporary and permanent soil stabilization, will minimize erosion and sedimentation to protect water quality of these aquatic resources. The Project will abide by all erosion and sediment control regulations as outlined by the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Program.

The Project may result in a minor centralized increase of air emissions during construction; however, construction air emissions would be temporary. To reduce temporary impacts to air quality, the construction contractors may water down construction areas to control dust when necessary. Emissions from fuel-burning internal combustion engines (e.g. heavy equipment and earthmoving machinery) could temporarily increase the levels of some of the criteria pollutants, including CO, NO₂, O₃, PM₁₀, and non-criteria pollutants such as volatile organic compounds. To reduce the emission of criteria pollutants, fuel-burning equipment running times should be kept to a minimum and engines should be properly maintained. Additional best management practices for construction include using low or ultra-low sulfur fuel (including biodiesel) and using electric-powered tools (instead of gaspowered tools) wherever feasible. The operations and maintenance of the Project are not anticipated to have any long-term effects on air quality or increased air emissions.

3.0 WILDLIFE IMPACTS NARRATIVE

3.1 Existing Conditions

A desktop threatened and endangered species determination memo was prepared in May 2022 to summarize the findings of publicly available desktop resources within the Project study area.

According to the threatened and endangered species determination memo, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information Planning and Consultation (IPaC) System indicated that the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), which is listed as both federally threatened and state threatened, is expected to occur within the Project study area.

The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. According to the Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) Bald Eagle Nest Locator, the closest known bald eagle nest is approximately 15 miles to the southeast of the proposed Project study area. A field assessment is recommended to confirm the presence and/or absence of bald eagle nests on the Project study area. If bald eagle nests are identified during the recommended field assessments and work is anticipated to be conducted during the breeding season (October 1 through May 15), a 660-foot buffer is recommended around active nests. The buffer may be reduced to 330 feet for special circumstances.

The USFWS Bald Eagle Conservation Area (BECA) Map did not indicate a bald eagle concentration area within the Project study area. The closest bald eagle concentration is approximately 58 miles southwest of the Project study area.

No federally listed critical habitat was documented on the USFWS Critical Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species Mapper as occurring within or in the vicinity of the proposed Project study area. The Project study area is approximately 8 miles south of the closest critical habitat for Yellow lance (Elliptio lanceolata).

The Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR) northern long-eared bat (NLEB) mapping application shows that there are no known NLEB winter hibernacula or roost trees in the vicinity of the Project. The nearest winter hibernacula and roosting habitat is located approximately 99 miles northwest of the Project study area.

The VDWR mapping system of the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) and tri-colored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) shows that the nearest winter hibernacula and roosting habitat are located approximately 80 miles northwest of the Project study area.

The VDWR Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Service (VaFWIS) indicates no state threatened or endangered species with confirmed occurrences within the Project study area and a 2-mile radius from the Project study area boundary. Please note that the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has recently changed its name to the VDWR, but the VaFWIS database search results still show the outdated department name.

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Resources Natural Heritage Data Explorer identified two state threatened species, loggerhead shrike (*Lanius Iudovicianus*) and Atlantic pigtoe (*Fusconaia*

masoni), as possibly occurring within the Project study area watersheds, Meherrin River-Mason Creek (12-digit Hydrologic Unit Code [HUC] 030102040301), Meherrin River – Crooked Creek (HUC 030102040302), and Flat Rock Creek (HUC 030102040303).

Additional information, including references, on biological resources is included in Attachment B: Threatened and Endangered Species Determination Memo.

3.2 Direct and Indirect Impacts

The Desktop Threatened and Endangered Species Determination identified several federal and state listed species that have the potential to occur within the vicinity of the Project study area. Upon a review of the information gathered from publicly available resources, the following actions or avoidance measures are recommended for the Project to ensure potential impacts to listed wildlife species that have potential to occur are avoided:

- Based on the results of the environmental field assessment, potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and their habitats can be reduced by avoiding and minimizing Project impacts to wetlands, forested areas, streams, and riparian corridors; and
- Informal consultation with state and federal agencies is recommended after the completion of the environmental field assessments to better determine the need for species-specific onsite surveys and the need for avoidance or mitigation measures.

4.0 CULTURAL IMPACTS NARRATIVE

4.1 Existing Conditions

A cultural resources desktop review memo was prepared in August 2022 to summarize the findings of publicly available desktop resources within the Project study area. This assessment reviewed the Project survey area and a 0.5-mile radius around the Project survey area.

According to the cultural resources memo, a review of Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) Virginia Cultural Resources Information System (VCRIS) records identified 6 previously recorded architectural resources within a 0.5-mile radius of the Project study area. Among the resources are 4 dwellings, a wagon shed, and a church/chapel. The resources range in date from the early-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. VDHR #055-5132 (Good Hope Christadelphian Chapel) has been determined to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

Two resources are located partially within the Project study area. These resources include: VDHR #055-5132 (Good Hope Christadelphian Chapel) and VDHR #055-5138 (Samuel A. Wallace, Jr. House). As mentioned above, VDHR #055-5132 (Good Hope Christadelphian Chapel) has been determined to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and VDHR #055-5138 has been determined to not be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

The Project study area excludes the majority of VDHR #055-5132 and VDHR #055-5138. Likewise, VDHR #055-0117 is located within a parcel which is excluded from the Project study area.

Additional information on cultural resources can be found in Attachment C: Cultural Resources Desktop Review Memo.

In accordance with the Lunenburg County solar ordinance, a supplemental desktop review was conducted for resources in a 2-mile radius from the previously assessed area in the May 2022 cultural resources desktop review memo to assess a total 2.5-mile radius around the Project survey area. The supplemental desktop review of the VDHR VCRIS for resources identified an additional 23 architectural resources and one historic district, Broad Branch Creek Rural Historic District (VCRIS, 2022). Archaeological resources were not assessed during the supplemental desktop review.

4.2 Direct and Indirect Impacts

Preparation of a Phase IA cultural resources assessment (Phase IA), including a research design to guide a subsequent Phase I identification survey, is recommended for the Project study area. The Phase IA should include further consideration of site soils, historic maps, and existing field conditions and result in the development of a stratified testing strategy for identifying archaeological resources within the project area. The completed Phase IA should be submitted to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and VDHR for review and comment prior to initiation of Phase I identification survey of the site in accordance with the recommended testing strategy. There are no anticipated direct impacts to cultural resources outside of the 0.5-mile radius of the Project survey area, including the architectural resources and mapped historic district. Archaeological resources outside of the 0.5-mile radius of the Project survey area were not evaluated as there are no anticipated ground disturbing activities that would directly or indirectly impact these resources.

5.0 PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Erosion and Stormwater

The Project will be developed predominately on agricultural and forested lands and will require the detention and release of stormwater. The Project will meet construction and post construction stormwater quantity requirements in accordance with Chapter 840 (9VAC25-840-40.19) and 870 (9VAC25-870.66) of the Virginia Administrative Code. Where applicable all post construction stormwater technical criteria will be implemented across the Project. The following conditions will be reviewed and analyzed when applicable, Channel protection for concentrated flows shall be met via the application of the Energy Balance Method. Flood protection for concentrated flows shall be met by reducing the 10-year 24-hour runoff totals. Sheet flow requirements will be met via no additional increases in sheet flow volumes and may at times require the installation of energy dissipaters. Additionally, permissible stormwater runoff velocities will be analyzed at the point of discharge and when applicable within the immediate receiving channel.

The Solar Ordinance Section 5.D.4.e states: "Access, erosion & stormwater structures, and interconnection to the electrical grid may be made through setback areas provided that such are generally perpendicular to the property line." Virginia regulations emphasizes the placement of temporary and permanent erosion & stormwater facilities adjacent to a natural stormwater conveyance system to further decrease a potential impact to the environment and downstream

properties. When performing work within the setback area, this Project intends to meet Virginia water quantity regulations by returning runoff to a sheet flow condition (9VAC25-870-66.D). The need to place stormwater facilities within the setback area is to effectively convey the stormwater runoff to an adequate natural stormwater conveyance system and its placement will be based on natural topography. Natural topography can be parallel or perpendicular to setbacks and property lines. These facilities will be designed to further assure that sheet flow conditions and non-erosive velocities are maintained when stormwater runoff leaves the Project area. Meaning that the stormwater runoff can be discharged into a main channel of a natural stream/waterbody or within the flood-prone area (e.g. wetland edge) adjacent to the main channel.

When discharging stormwater runoff directly into a natural stormwater conveyance system an outfall will be constructed to allow for the runoff to be released perpendicular to the contours and will flow through an energy dissipater (e.g. level spreader, flow diffuser). It should be noted that an energy dissipator is a device that is used to convert concentrated stormwater runoff into sheet flow so that it is released in such a manor to decrease the likelihood of downstream impacts to the environment and neighboring properties. The design of an energy dissipator is to maintain sheet flow prior to entering an existing natural stormwater conveyance channel. This existing channel may be within the setback and be perpendicular or parallel to the setback based on natural topographic contours.

Additionally, minimal clearing and grading will be performed within the setback areas to allow for the adequate construction and installation of erosion & stormwater facilities. Any area disturbed outside of the footprint of an erosion & stormwater facility will be restored to a natural vegetative state.

During the site planning process, a comprehensive and detailed engineered erosion & stormwater plan will be submitted for review and consideration by the County and VADEQ.

5.2 Visual Impacts

This Project will utilize materials that will have the least negative impact on the surrounding environment. Proposed vegetative plantings will reduce any potential visibility of the Switchyard and Substation from Oral Oaks Road, and Sneads Store Road.

Additionally, a visual impact assessment has been conducted to determine visual impacts from potentially sensitive visual resources within the surrounding community. It was determined that visual impacts would vary depending on several factors, such as the distance of the viewer from the Project, whether the viewer is stationary or in motion, and whether views toward the Project are unobstructed or screened by vegetation, topography, or existing structures. Project views can be very different from one location to another, including in proximity, because of the rolling terrain and dense vegetation. In all cases, the Switchyard would be located 700 feet or more from public roadways, limiting viewing opportunities.

Additional information on visual impacts can be found in Tab H – Switchyard and Substation Design.

6.0 REFERENCES

AirNow. 2022. AirNow Interactive Map of Air Quality. Available online at:

https://gispub.epa.gov/airnow/?xmin=-

8772280.263742598&ymin=4344250.063163923&xmax=-

8623564.381510958&ymax=4438305.776892184&clayer=ozonepm&mlayer=none

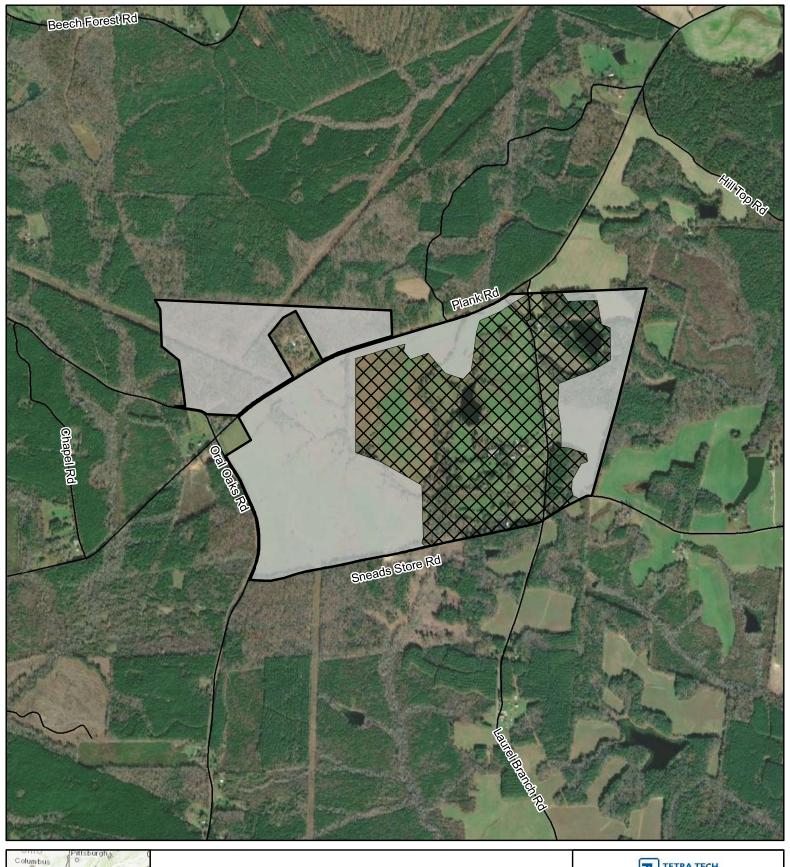
VCRIS (Virginia Cultural Resources Information System) 2022. VCRIS Mapping Tool. Available online at: https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/v/cris/

FIGURES

Figure 1: Orthoimagery Project Location Map

Figure 2: Topographic Project Location Map

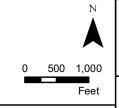
Figure 3: Wetlands and Other Waters Map





Project Study Area

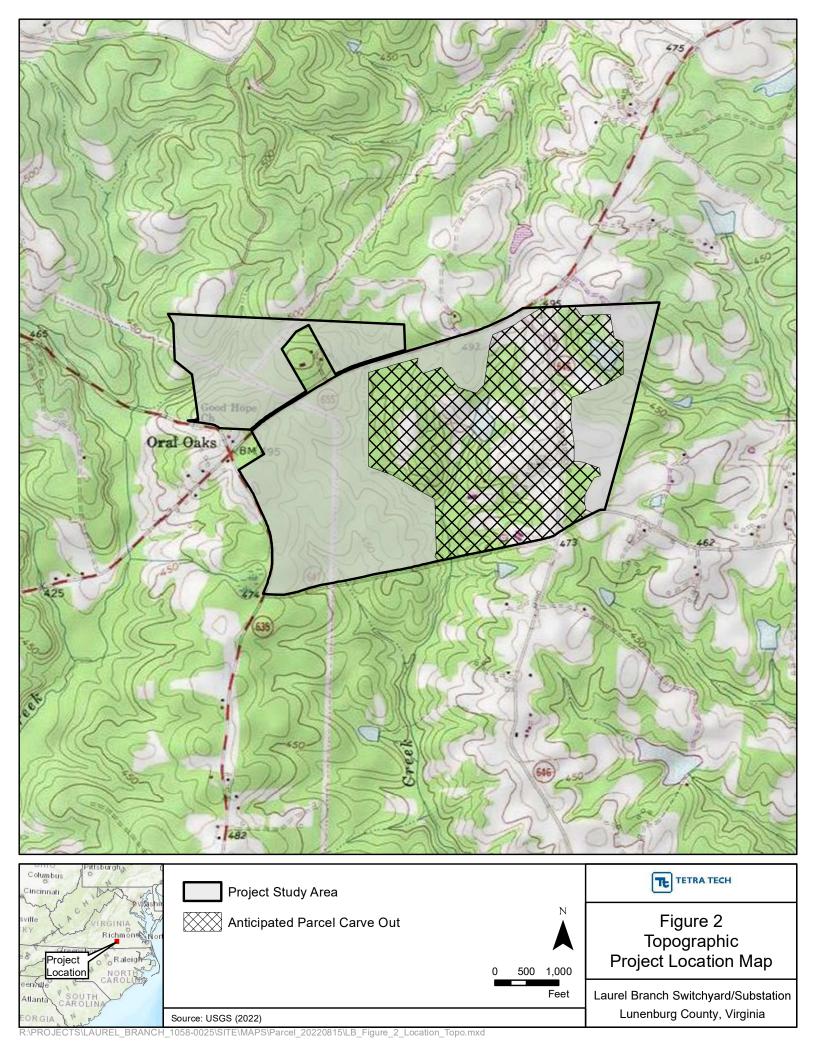
Anticipated Parcel Carve Out

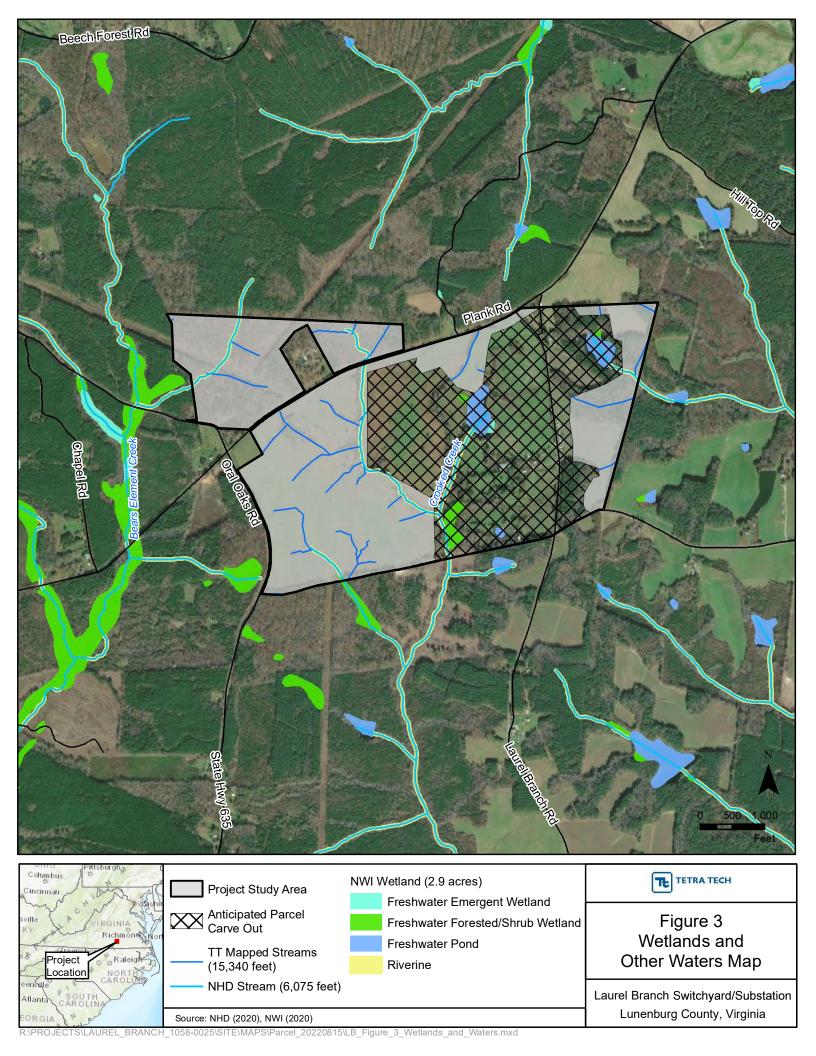


TETRA TECH

Figure 1 Orthoimagery Project Location Map

Laurel Branch Switchyard/Substation
Lunenburg County, Virginia





Laurel Branch Solar Project	Environmental Inventory and Impact Statement
ATTACHMENT A: WETLAND DE	TERMINATION MEMO

Desktop Wetland Determination Report

Laurel Branch Solar Project Switchyard and Substation

August 15, 2022

Prepared for



Prepared by



4101 Cox Road, Suite 120 Glen Allen, VA 23060

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

3D three-dimensional

CUP Conditional Use Permit

GIS geographic information system

GPS global positioning system

KOP key observation point

MW megawatts

Project Area The 2,189± acres of privately-owned land where the proposed Project is

located

Project Laurel Branch Solar Project

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Dominion Energy Virginia (Dominion) is proposing to develop a Switchyard and Substation as part of a commercial solar energy project, Laurel Branch Solar Project (Project), on private land encompassing approximately 2,189± acres. The Project Switchyard and Substation is located on one parcel (058-0A-0-68) and will be accessible via a gated entrance off of Oral Oaks Road. The Project is in Lunenburg County, Virginia, and is largely undeveloped, and zoned agricultural, as shown on the Orthoimagery and Topographic Project Location Maps (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

Tetra Tech, on behalf of Dominion, prepared this Desktop Wetland Determination Memo summarizing the findings of publicly available desktop resources for the Project study area (Figures 3 through 5) for the presence of potential wetland and surface water feature constraints. Tetra Tech made preliminary wetland determinations utilizing methods detailed in the United States Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Wetland Delineation Manual (1987 Manual; Environmental Laboratory 1987).

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The primary objective of the desktop wetland determination and delineation is to identify the potential wetlands and surface waters on or adjacent to the Project study area. Information from Google Earth Pro®, United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (NRCS 2019), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetland Inventory (NWI; USFWS 2021), United States Geological Survey (USGS) National Hydrography Dataset (NHD; USGS 2021), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs; FEMA 2021) was consulted to create Figure 3 (Wetlands and Other Waters Map), Figure 4 (Flood Hazard Map), and Figure 5 (NRCS Soils Map). These maps were reviewed by a Tetra Tech Natural Resource Specialist who identified and classified wetlands and other surface waters within the Project study area. The Tetra Tech–identified wetlands and surface waters are summarized in Table 1 and depicted on Figure 3.

3.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The desktop wetland determination identified several riverine wetlands, which appear to be associated with the Bears Element Creek, and Crooked Creek, and Flat Rock Creek. The NWI and NHD mapping applications identified 4 potential streams within the Project study area totaling approximately 6,075 linear feet. The NWI and NHD mapping applications identified 5 potential palustrine forested (PFO) or riverine wetlands totaling approximately 2.9 acres within the Project study area (USFWS 2021). In addition to the NWI and NHD mapped features, Tetra Tech identified an additional 25 potential streams totaling approximately 15,340 linear feet using the USGS topographic map, Google Earth Pro orthoimagery, and NRCS Soils database. These desktops identified features can all be found on Figure 3.

3.1 Findings

The Desktop Aquatic Resources Table (Table 1) summarizes the stream and wetland information for all features identified during the desktop wetland determination. The desktop wetland determination identified 29 potential streams totaling approximately 6,075 linear feet and 5 potential wetlands totaling approximately 2.9 acres (Figure 3).

Based on desktop research, the floodplain data for the Project were obtained from FEMA FIRM Numbers 51111C0175B, effective July 20, 2009 (FEMA 2021). According to these data, the majority of the site is located within Zone X, area of minimal flood hazard. Bears Element Creek, located just west of the Project area parcel is mapped as Zone A, with a one percent annual chance flood hazard (Figure 4).

The Project is located within Lunenburg County, which is not one of Virginia's 29 coastal counties deemed "Tidewater Virginia." Therefore, the Project is not subject to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act (CBPA) Resource Protection Area or Resource Management Area regulatory buffers, as outlined in 9 Virginia Administrative Code 25-830-80.

3.2 Recommendations

The desktop wetland determination identified 29 potential streams, and 5 potential wetlands within the Project study area. Figure 3 illustrates the wetland and stream locations in relation to the Project study area and the Project boundary. Upon a review of the information gathered from the cursory desktop surveys of the proposed Project study area, Tetra Tech recommends the following actions to expedite permit timelines:

- Conduct a formal wetland and stream delineation for the proposed Project utilizing methods detailed in the USACE's 1987 Manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987); and
- Submit an request for a jurisdictional determination with the USACE based on the results of the formal delineation.

This Desktop Wetland Determination Memo represents our best professional judgment and is based on publicly available desktop resources for the Project study area. All designations, classifications, and boundaries should be considered preliminary and should not be considered to be final. Using boundaries of features provided in this memo (and associated shapefiles) should only be utilized for preliminary Project design and may be changed upon the completion of formal delineations.

4.0 REFERENCES

- FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency). 2021. National Flood Hazard Layer. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, Generated January 3, 2022. Available at: https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/national-flood-hazard-layer
- NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service, United States Department of Agriculture). 2019. *Web Soil Survey*. Updated July 31, 2019. Available at: https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/
- Environmental Laboratory. 1987. *Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual,* Wetlands Research Program Technical Report Y-87-1. Vicksburg, MS: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station.
- USFWS (United States Fish and Wildlife Service). 2021. National Wetlands Inventory website. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. Updated May 1, 2021. Available at: https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/Mapper.html
- USGS (U.S. Geological Survey). 2020. *National Hydrography Dataset Best Resolution for Virginia*. Available online at: https://viewer.nationalmap.gov/basic/?basemap=b1&category=nhd&title=NHD%20View.

TABLES

Table 1: Desktop Aquatic Resources Table

Location ID	Area Description
	Unnamed tributary to Bears Element Creek, appears to be intermittent stream
Stream 1	(R4SBC)
Stream 2	Crooked Creek, perennial stream (R5UBH)
Stream 3	Unnamed tributary to Flat Rock Creek, appears to be intermittent stream (R4SBC)
Stream 4	Unnamed tributary to Crooked Creek, appears to be intermittent stream (R4SBC)
Stream 5	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 6	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 7	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 8	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 9	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 10	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 11	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 12	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 13	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 14	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 15	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 16	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 17	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 18	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 19	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 20	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 21	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 22	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 23	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 24	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 25	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 26	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 27	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 28	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Stream 29	Tetra Tech mapped stream.
Wetland 1	NWI mapped freshwater forested/shrub wetland (PFO1A) with hydrological connection to Bears Element Creek
Wetland 2	NWI mapped freshwater forested/shrub wetland (PFO1A) with hydrological connection to Crooked Creek
Wetland 3	NWI mapped freshwater forested/shrub wetland (PFO1A) with hydrological connection to Crooked Creek
Wetland 4	NWI mapped freshwater forested/shrub wetland (PFO1A) with hydrological connection to Crooked Creek
Wetland 5	NWI mapped freshwater forested/shrub wetland (PFO1A) with hydrological connection to Flat Rock Creek

FIGURES

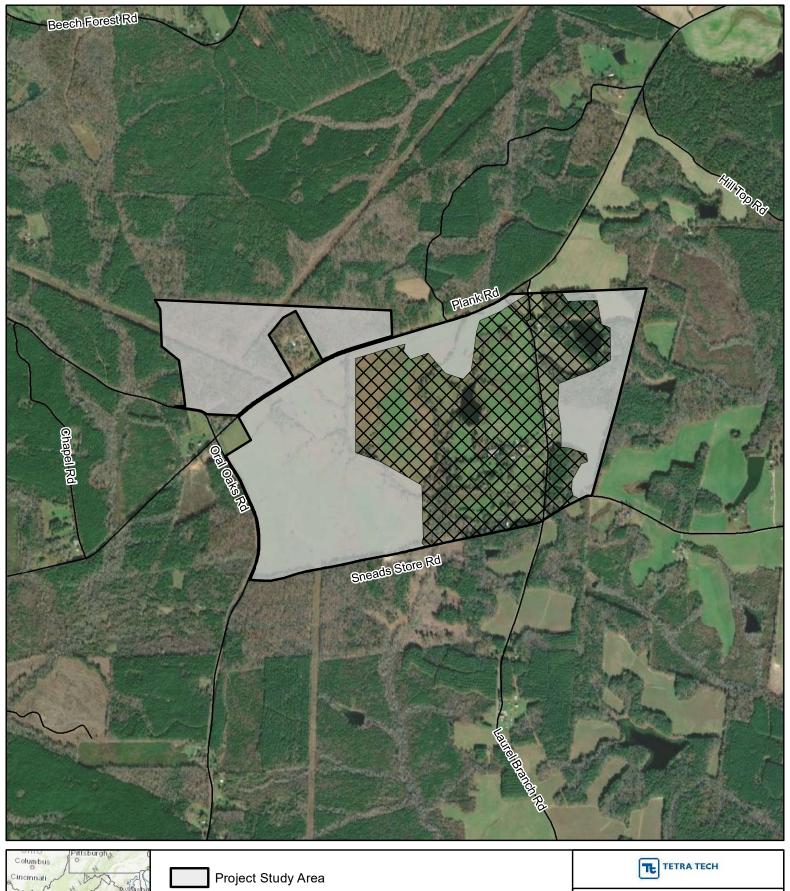
Figure 1: Orthoimagery Project Location Map

Figure 2: Topographic Project Location Map

Figure 3: Wetlands and Other Waters Map

Figure 4: Flood Hazard Map

Figure 5: NRCS Soils Map

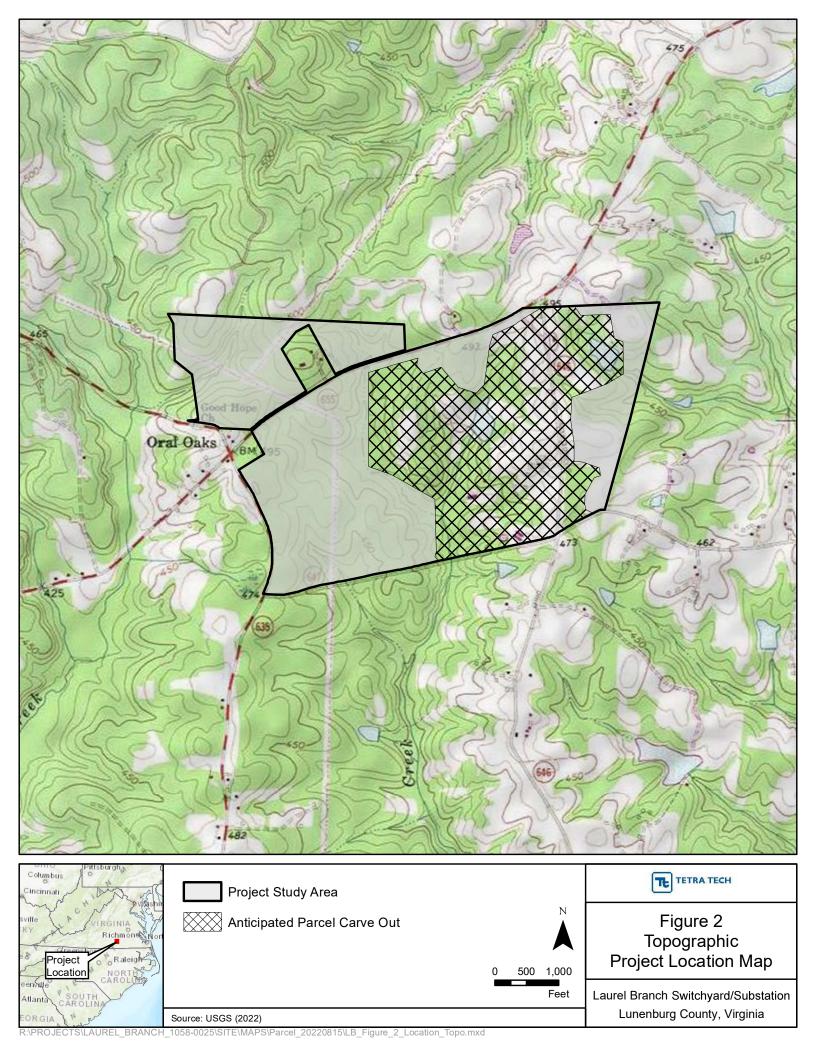


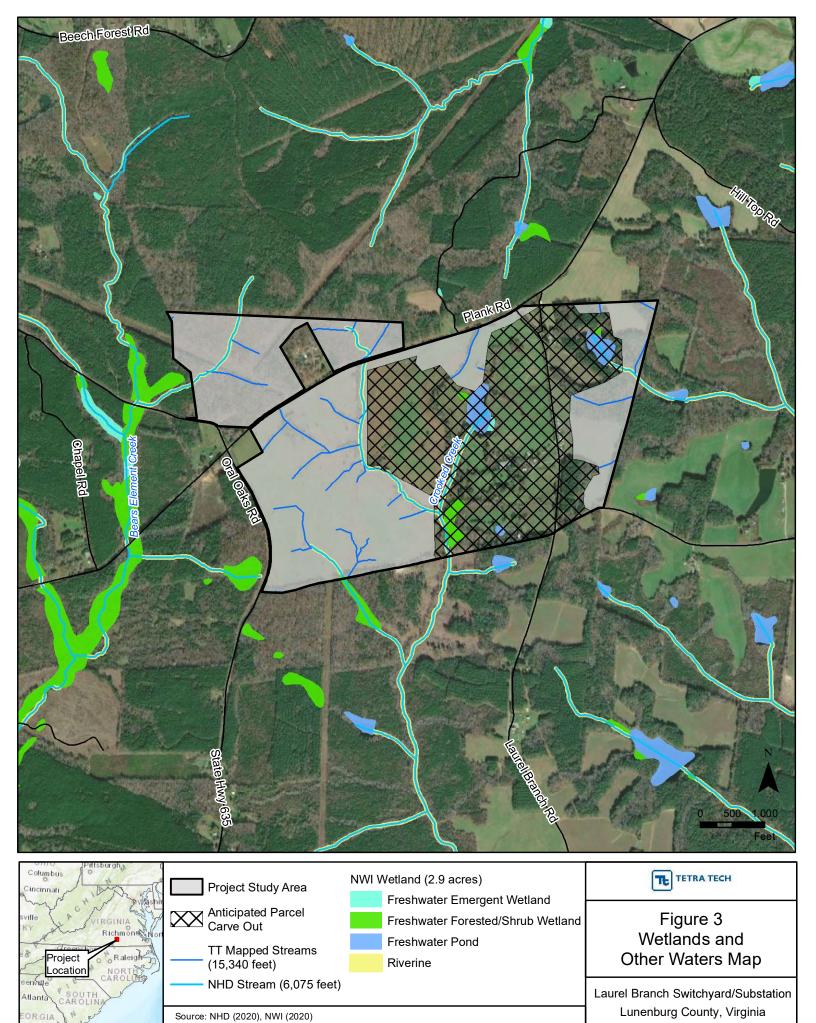


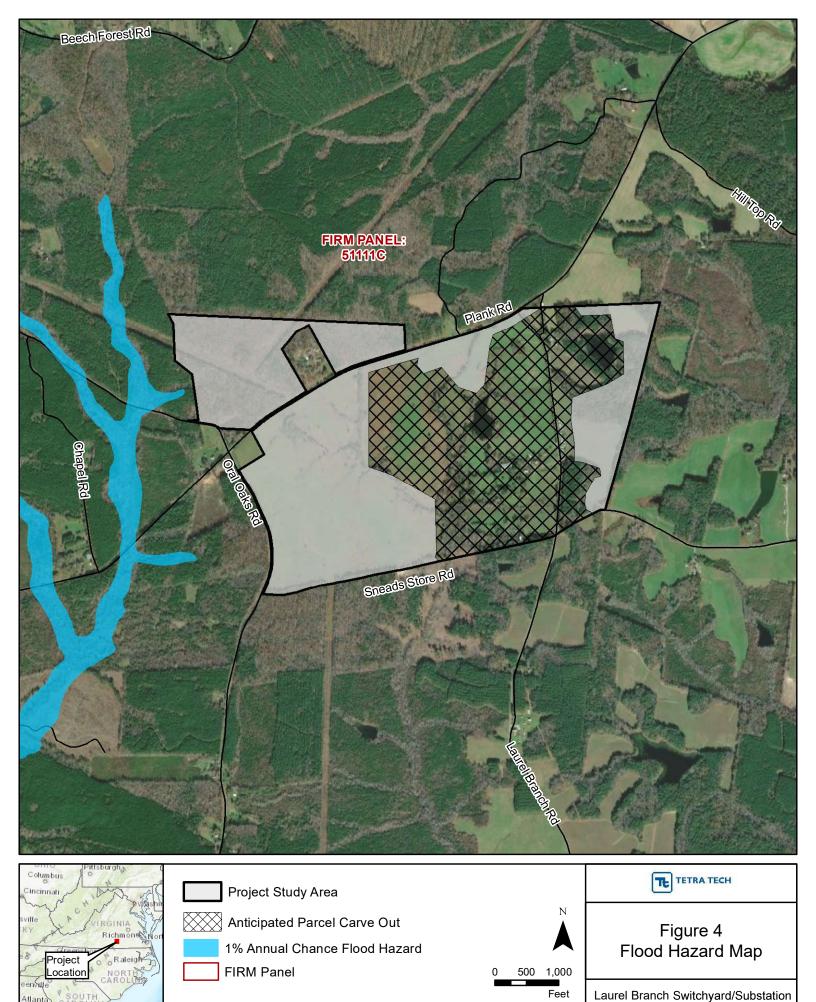
Anticipated Parcel Carve Out

0 500 1,000 Feet Figure 1 Orthoimagery Project Location Map

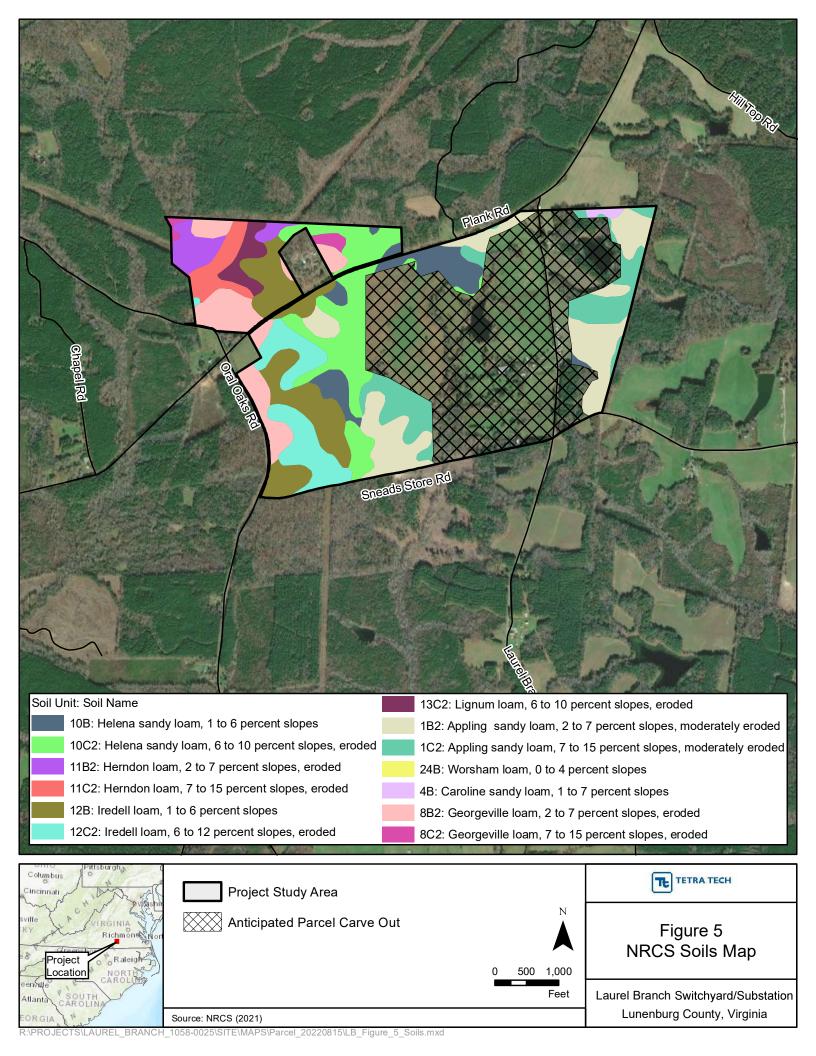
Laurel Branch Switchyard/Substation
Lunenburg County, Virginia







Lunenburg County, Virginia



ATTACHMENT B: THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES DETERMINATION MEMO

Desktop Threatened and Endangered Species Determination Report

Laurel Branch Solar Project Switchyard and Substation

August 15, 2022

Prepared for



Prepared by



4101 Cox Road, Suite 120 Glen Allen, VA 23060

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List of Attachments

Attachment A: USFWS Ipac and Federally Listed Species Informal Review Attachment B: State Listed Species Informal Review

Acronyms and Abbreviations

3D three-dimensional

CUP Conditional Use Permit

GIS geographic information system

GPS global positioning system

KOP key observation point

MW megawatts

Project Area The 2,189± acres of privately-owned land where the proposed Project is

located

Project Laurel Branch Solar Project

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Dominion Energy Virginia (Dominion) is proposing to develop a Switchyard and Substation as part of a commercial solar energy project, Laurel Branch Solar Project (Project), on private land encompassing approximately 2,189 acres. The Project Switchyard and Substation is located on one parcel (058-0A-0-68) and will be accessible via a gated entrance off of Oral Oaks Road. The Project is in Lunenburg County, Virginia, and is largely undeveloped, and zoned agricultural, as shown on the Orthoimagery and Topographic Project Location Maps (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

Tetra Tech, on behalf of Dominion, prepared this Desktop Threatened and Endangered Species Determination Memo summarizing the findings of publicly available desktop resources for the Project study area. Additional resources were evaluated to make preliminary determinations for habitat suitability, including the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetland Inventory (Figure 3). Additionally, Tetra Tech utilized publicly available desktop resources to identify additional areas of potential wetlands and surface waters that may also provide suitable habitat for listed species. These potential features are also included on Figure 3.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

The primary objective of the Desktop Threatened and Endangered Species Determination is to identify the potential for the Project to impact federal and state protected species and designated critical habitat. The following state and federal natural resource databases were reviewed:

- USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC; USFWS 2021a);
- USFWS Critical Habitat for Threated and Endangered Species Map (USFWS 2021b);
- USFWS Bald Eagle Concentration Area (BECA) Map (USFWS 2021c);
- Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) Bald Eagle Nest Locator for Virginia (CCB 2021);
- Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources (VDWR) Northern-Long Eared Bat (NLEB; *Myotis septentrionalis*) Winter Habitat and Roost Trees Map (VDWR 2021a);
- VDWR Little Brown Bat and Tri-colored Bat Winter Habitat and Roosts (VDWR 2021b);
- VDWR Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Services (VaFWIS) (VDWR 2021c); and
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VDCR) Natural Heritage Data Explorer (NHDE) (VDCR 2021).

3.0 FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Tetra Tech prepared this Desktop Threatened and Endangered Species Determination Memo for Dominion based on evaluations made by qualified biologists that are experienced within the region. The Threatened and Endangered Species List for the Project study area (Table 1) summarizes federal and state listed species within and adjacent to the Project study area. Federal resources reviewed, including the IPaC System, USFWS Critical Habitat for Threated and Endangered Species Map, CCB Bald Eagle Nest Locator, and the BECA map are found in Attachment A. State resources evaluated,

which include the NLEB Winter Habitat & Roost Tree Application Map, VDWR VaFWIS, VDCR NHDE, and the Little Brown and Tri-Colored Bat Winter Habitat & Roost Tree Application Map, are found in Attachment B.

3.1 Findings

The IPaC System (USFWS 2021a) indicated that the Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), which is listed as both federally threatened and state threatened, is expected to occur within the Project study area.

The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) is protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. According to the CCB Bald Eagle Nest Locator, the closest known bald eagle nest is approximately 15.42 miles to the southeast of the proposed Project study area. A field assessment is recommended to confirm the presence and/or absence of bald eagle nests on the Project study area. If bald eagle nests are identified during the recommended field assessments and work is anticipated to be conducted during the breeding season (October 1 through May 15), a 660-foot buffer is recommended around active nests. The buffer may be reduced to 330 feet for special circumstances.

The USFWS BECA Map did not indicate a bald eagle concentration area within the Project study area. The closest Bald Eagle concentration is approximately 58 miles southwest of the Project area.

No federally listed critical habitat was documented on the USFWS Critical Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species Mapper as occurring within or in the vicinity of the proposed Project study area. The Project study area is approximately 8 miles south of the closest critical habitat for Yellow lance (Elliptio lanceolata).

The VDWR NLEB mapping application shows that there are no known NLEB winter hibernacula or roost trees in the vicinity of the Project. The nearest winter hibernacula and roosting habitat is located approximately 99 miles northwest of the Project study area.

The VDWR mapping system of the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) and tri-colored bat (*Perimyotis subflavus*) shows that the nearest winter hibernacula and roosting habitat are located approximately 80 miles northwest of the Project study area.

The VDWR VaFWIS indicates no state threatened or endangered species with confirmed occurrences within the Project study area and a ± 2 -mile radius from the Project study area boundary. Please note that the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has recently changed its name to the VDWR, but the VaFWIS database search results still show the outdated department name.

The VDCR NHDE identified two state threatened species, loggerhead shrike (*Lanius Iudovicianus*) and Atlantic pigtoe (*Fusconaia masoni*), as possibly occurring within the Project study area watersheds, Meherrin River - Mason Creek (12-digit Hydrologic Unit Code [HUC] 030102040301), Meherrin River - Crooked Creek (HUC 030102040302), and Flat Rock Creek (HUC 030102040303).

Threatened and Endangered Species List for the Project Study Area Table 1.

	medica and Financia observed Figure 1 of the car		دود وروع کا دع		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Status ¹	Potential to Occur at Project study area	Habitat Description	Database ²
Birds					
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius Iudovicianus	ST	Medium	Agricultural fields, open pastures, riparian areas, and prairies characterized by barbed wire fences and/or vegetation typically with spines or thorns.	NHDE
Bivalves					
Atlantic pigtoe	Fusconaia masoni	FP, ST	Medium	Small creeks to large rivers with excellent water quality and coarse sand to gravel substrate.	NHDE
Mammals					
Northern long-eared bat	Myotis septentrionalis	FT, ST	Medium	Underneath bark, in cavities or in crevices of both live trees and snags (dead trees)	IPaC
1.00.0					

1. FT: Federally Threatened; ST: State Threatened
2. IPaC: Information for Planning and Consultation; VaFWIS: VDWR Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Services; NHDE: VDCR Natural Heritage Data Explorer

3.2 Recommendations

The Desktop Threatened and Endangered Species Determination identified several federal and state listed species that have the potential to occur within and in the vicinity of the Project study area. Upon a review of the information gathered from publicly available resources, Tetra Tech recommends the following actions or avoidance measures;

- Conduct an environmental field assessment to determine habitat suitability for listed species potentially present within Project study area;
- Conduct a pedestrian bald eagle nest survey, concurrent with the habitat suitability field assessment, by visually inspecting canopy trees within the study area were for the presence of large stick nests;
- Based on the results of the environmental field assessment, potential impacts to threatened and endangered species and their habitats can be reduced by avoiding and minimizing Project impacts to wetlands, forested areas, streams, and riparian corridors; and
- Informal consultation with state and federal agencies is recommended after the completion of
 the environmental field assessment to better determine the need for species-specific onsite
 surveys and the need for avoidance or mitigation measures. Tetra Tech will coordinate with
 VDCR once the final project boundary is determined to obtain an accurate species list for the
 Project-specific area.

This Desktop Threatened and Endangered Species Determination Memo represents our best professional judgment and is based on publicly available desktop resources for the Project study area.

4.0 REFERENCES

- CCB (The Center for Conservation Biology) 2021. CCB Mapping Portal. Accessed December 1, 2021. Available online at: https://www.ccbbirds.org/maps/
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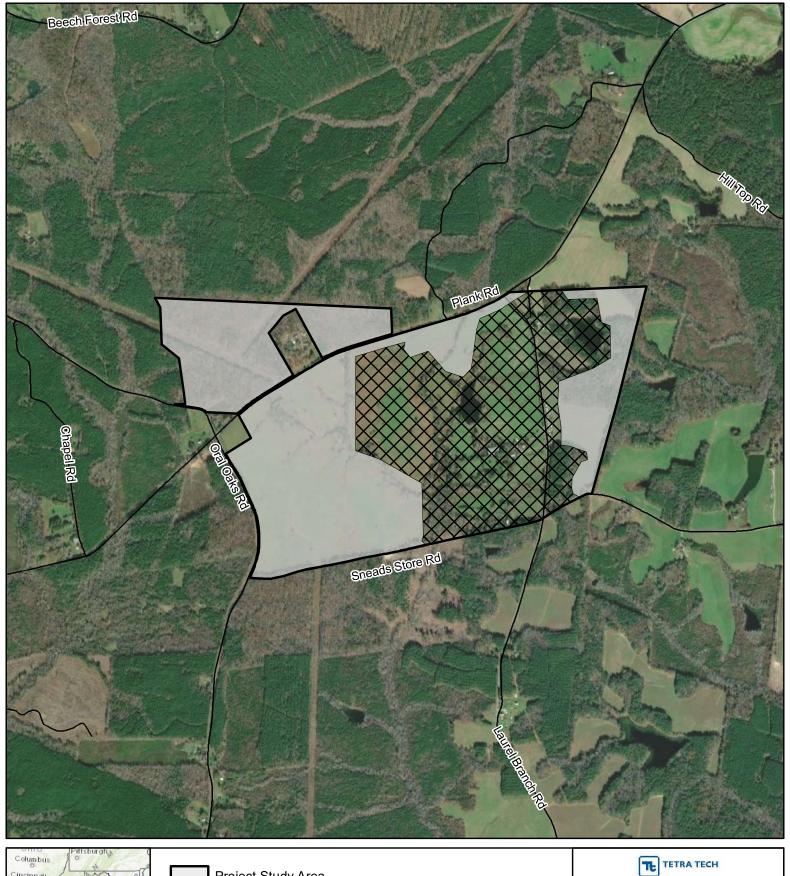
VDWR. 2021c. Virginia Fish and Wildlife Information Service (VaFWIS). Accessed January 3, 2022. Available online at: https://vafwis.dgif.virginia.gov/fwis/

FIGURES

Figure 1: Orthoimagery Project Location Map

Figure 2: Topographic Project Location Map

Figure 3: Wetlands and Other Waters Map





Project Study Area

Anticipated Parcel Carve Out

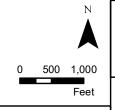
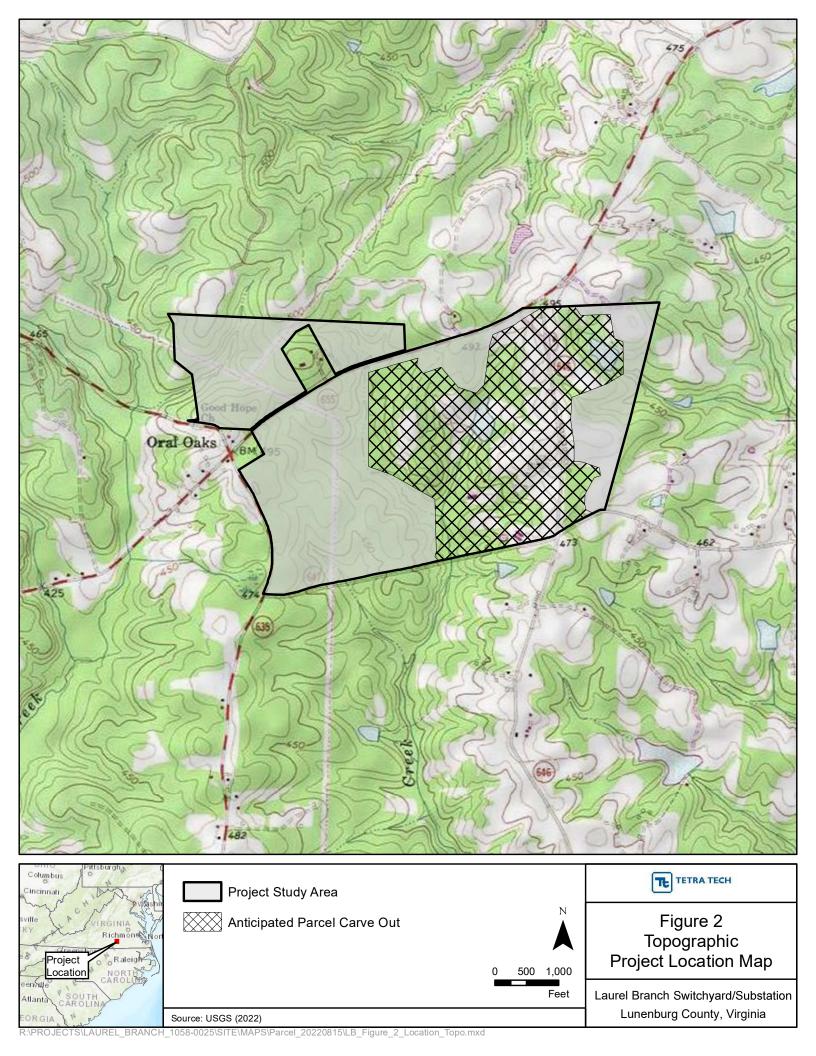
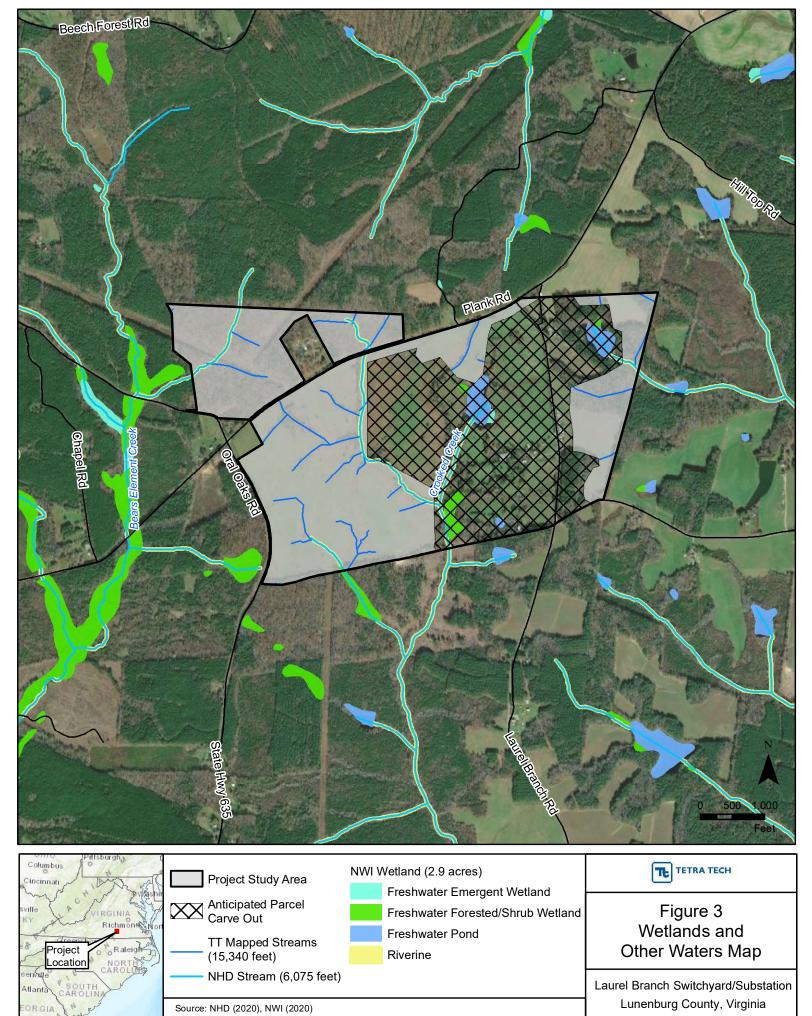


Figure 1 Orthoimagery Project Location Map

Laurel Branch Switchyard/Substation Lunenburg County, Virginia

Source: ESRI/Vivid Imagery (2020)





ATTACHMENT A: USFWS IPAC AND FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES INFORMAL REVIEW



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Virginia Ecological Services Field Office 6669 Short Lane Gloucester, VA 23061-4410 Phone: (804) 693-6694 Fax: (804) 693-9032

Phone: (804) 693-6694 Fax: (804) 693-9032 http://www.fws.gov/northeast/virginiafield/

In Reply Refer To: May 17, 2022

Project Code: 2022-0043762 Project Name: Laurel Branch

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project

location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). Any activity proposed on National Wildlife Refuge lands must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the ECOS-IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the ECOS-IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

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A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2) (c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/TOC-GLOS.PDF

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts see https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations.php.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures see https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds.php.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/birds/policies-and-regulations/executive-orders/e0-13186.php.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Project Code in the header of this

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letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List
- USFWS National Wildlife Refuges and Fish Hatcheries
- Migratory Birds

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Official Species List

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Virginia Ecological Services Field Office 6669 Short Lane Gloucester, VA 23061-4410 (804) 693-6694

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as trust resources) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

Lunenburg County, Virginia



Local office

Virginia Ecological Services Field Office

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can only be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

- 1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
- 2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
- 3. Log in (if directed to do so).
- 4. Provide a name and description for your project.
- 5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries 2).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are not shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

- 1. Species listed under the <u>Endangered Species Act</u> are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the <u>listing status page</u> for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
- 2. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Northern Long-eared Bat Myotis septentrionalis Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9045	Threatened
Insects NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species	Candidate

Critical habitats

https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

Migratory birds

NAME

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty $Act^{\underline{1}}$ and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection $Act^{\underline{2}}$.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described helow.

- 1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
- 2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-birds/species
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratony-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the <u>USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern</u> (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ <u>below.</u> This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the <u>F-bird data mapping tool</u> (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found <u>below.</u>

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

BREEDING SEASON

Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1626	Breeds Sep 1 to Jul 31
Chimney Swift Chaetura pelagica This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 25
Eastern Whip-poor-will Antrostomus vociferus This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds May 1 to Aug 20

Prairie Warbler Dendroica discolor

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Red-headed Woodpecker Melanerpes erythrocephalus

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Wood Thrush Hylocichla mustelina

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Breeds May 10 to Aug 31

Breeds May 10 to Sep 10

Breeds May 1 to Jul 31

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

- 1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
- 2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
- 3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (=)

Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area

Survey Effort (I)

Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

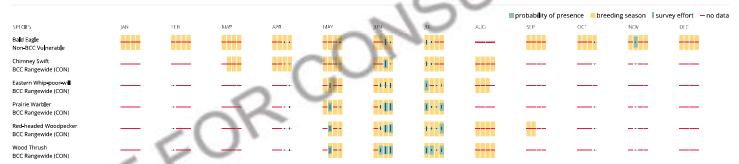
To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (-)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site,

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (<u>Fagle Act</u> requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the RALL Tool and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

 $\label{thm:migratory} \mbox{ Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern: } \\$

- 1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
- 2. "BCC BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
- 3. "Non-BCC Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeline and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outro Continental Shelf project webbase.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the <u>Diving Bird Study</u> and the <u>nanotag studies</u> or contact <u>Caleb Spiegel</u> or <u>Pam Loring</u>.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does !PaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location." Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cells() that overlap your project, not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory bird rust resources page.

Coastal Barrier Resources System

Projects within the <u>John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System</u> (CBRS) may be subject to the restrictions on federal expenditures and financial assistance and the consultation requirements of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) (16 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.). For more information, please contact the local <u>Ecological Services Field Office</u> or visit the <u>CBRA Consultations website</u>. The CBRA website provides tools such as a flow chart to help determine whether consultation is required and a template to facilitate the consultation process.

There are no known coastal barriers at this location.

Data limitations

The CBRS boundaries used in IPaC are representations of the controlling boundaries, which are depicted on the official CBRS maps. The boundaries depicted in this layer are not to be considered authoritative for in/out determinations close to a CBRS boundary (i.e., within the "CBRS Buffer Zone" that appears as a hatched area on either side of the boundary). For projects that are very close to a CBRS boundary but do not clearly intersect a unit, you may contact the Service for an official determination by following the instructions here: https://www.tms.gov/service/coastab-barrier-resources-synthem-property-documentation

Data exclusions

CBRS units extend seaward out to either the 20- or 30-foot bathymetric contour (depending on the location of the unit). The true seaward extent of the units is not shown in the CBRS data, therefore projects in the offshore areas of units (e.g., dredging, breakwaters, offshore wind energy or oil and gas projects) may be subject to CBRA even if they do not intersect the CBRS data. For additional information, please contact CBRA@fws.gov.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

There are no refuge lands at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local <u>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District</u>.

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

This location overlaps the following wetlands:

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

<u>Palustrine</u>

RIVERINE Riverine

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the <u>National Wetlands Inventory website</u>

NOTE: This initial screening does not replace an on-site delineation to determine whether wetlands occur. Additional information on the NWI data is provided below.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the Interticial and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

NOT FOR CONSULTATION

ATTACHMENT B: STATE LISTED SPECIES INFORMAL REVIEW

Brun swic miles southeast of known NLEB roost. Powh atan 472 FF Project study area approximately 99 Fluvanna Prince Buckingham Ch arlotte H alifax schburg Campbell Botetour Roanoke Blacksburg Froyd

NLEB Locations and Roost Trees

12/1/2021, 6:08:29 AM

NLEB Known Occupied Maternity Roost (Summer Habitat)

Danville

Martinsville

NLEB Hibernaculum 5.5 Mile Buffer

NLEB Hibernaculum Half Mile Buffer

VA Dept. Game & Inland Fisheries Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, USGS, NGA, EPA, NPS

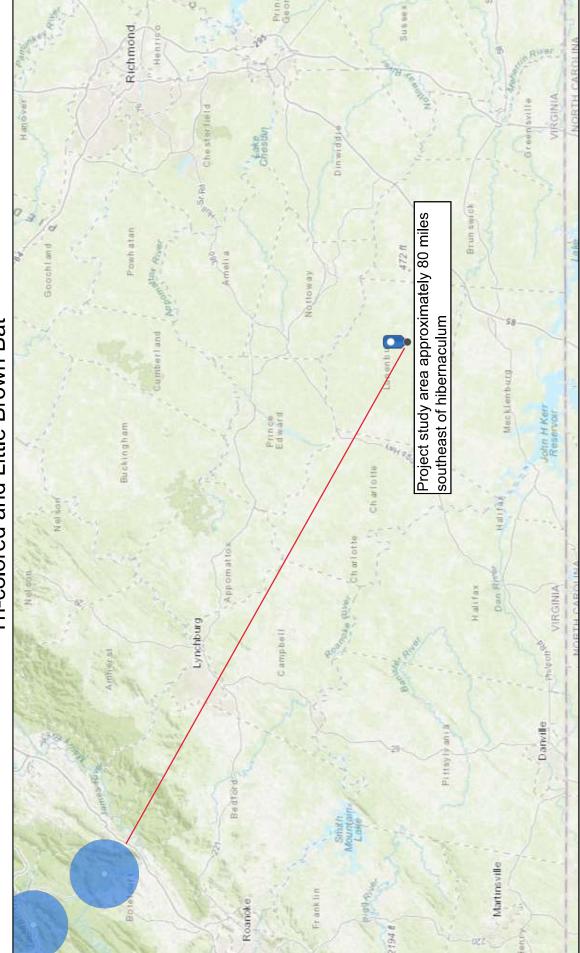
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0 12.5 25 Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, USGS, NGA, EPA, NPS

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Medklenburg

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Tri-colored and Little Brown Hibernaculum Half Mile Buffer

Tri-colored and Little Brown Hibernaculum 5.5 Mile Buffer

Dept. Game and Inland Fisheries Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, USGS, NGA, EPA, NPS

50 km

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1:1,155,581 20 mi

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Known or likely to occur within a 2 mile buffer around polygon; center 36,54,56.0 -78,10,26.0 in 111 Lunenburg County, VA

View Map of Site Location

395 Known or Likely Species ordered by Status Concern for Conservation (displaying first 21) (21 species with Status* or Tier I** or Tier II**)

BOVA Code	Status*	Tier**	Common Name	Scientific Name	Confirmed	Database(s)
060003	FESE	la	Wedgemussel, dwarf	Alasmidonta heterodon		BOVA
010214	FESE	lla	Logperch, Roanoke	Percina rex		BOVA
050022	FTST	la	Bat, northern long-eared	Myotis septentrionalis		BOVA
060173	FTST	la	Pigtoe, Atlantic	Fusconaia masoni		BOVA,Habitat
060029	FTST	lla	Lance, yellow	Elliptio lanceolata		BOVA
050020	SE	la	Bat, little brown	Myotis lucifugus		BOVA
050027	SE	la	Bat, tri-colored	Perimyotis subflavus		BOVA
060006	SE	I b	Floater, brook	Alasmidonta varicosa		BOVA
040293	ST	l a	Shrike, loggerhead	Lanius Iudovicianus		BOVA
040385	ST	la	Sparrow, Bachman's	Peucaea aestivalis		BOVA
060081	ST	lla	Floater, green	Lasmigona subviridis		BOVA
010070	ST	IIc	Shiner, whitemouth	Notropis a l borus		BOVA
040292	ST		Shrike, migrant loggerhead	Lanius Iudovicianus migrans		BOVA
030063	СС	Illa	Turtle, spotted	Clemmys guttata		BOVA
010174		la	Bass, Roanoke	Ambloplites cavifrons		BOVA,Habitat
020002		lla	Treefrog, barking	Hy l a gratiosa		BOVA
040052		lla	Duck, American black	Anas rubripes		BOVA
040320		lla	Warbler, cerulean	Setophaga cerulea		BOVA
040140		lla	Woodcock, American	Scolopax minor		BOVA
060071		lla	Lampmussel, yellow	Lampsilis cariosa		BOVA
040105		IIb	Rail, king	Rallus elegans		BOVA

To view All 395 species View 395

Virginia Widlife Action Plan Conservation Opportunity Ranking:
a - On the ground management strategies/actions exist and can be feasibly implemented.; b - On the ground actions or research needs have been identified but cannot feasibly be implemented at this time.; c - No on the ground actions or research needs have been identified or all identified conservation opportunities have been exhausted.

Bat Colonies or Hibernacula: Not Known

Anadromous Fish Use Streams

^{*}FE=Federal Endangered; FT=Federal Threatened; SE=State Endangered; ST=State Threatened; FP=Federal Proposed; FC=Federal Candidate; CC=Collection Concern

^{**}I=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier I - Critical Conservation Need; II=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier II - Very High Conservation Need; III=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier III - High Conservation Need; IV=VA Wildlife Action Plan - Tier IV - Moderate Conservation Need

N/A

Colonial Water Bird Survey

N/A

Threatened and Endangered Waters

N/A

Managed Trout Streams

N/A

Bald Eagle Concentration Areas and Roosts

N/A

Bald Eagle Nests

N/A

Habitat Predicted for Aquatic WAP Tier I & II Species (3 Reaches)

View Map Combined Reaches from Below of Habitat Predicted for WAP Tier I & II Aquatic Species

O Name				Tier 9	Species		
Stream Name	Highest TE*	BOVA	Code, S	Status	*, Tier ^{**} , Commo	n & Scientific Name	View Map
Crooked Creek (03010204)	FTST	060173	FTST	la	Pigtoe, Atlantic	Fusconaia masoni	<u>Yes</u>
Flat Rock Creek (03010204)	FTST	010174		la	Bass, Roanoke	Ambloplites cavifrons	<u>Yes</u>
Flat Nock Creek (03010204)	FISI	060173	FTST	la	Pigtoe, Atlantic	Fusconaia masoni	165
tributary (03010204)		010174		la	Bass, Roanoke	Ambloplites cavifrons	<u>Yes</u>
tributary (03010204)		010174		la	Bass, Roanoke	Ambloplites cavifrons	<u>Yes</u>

Habitat Predicted for Terrestrial WAP Tier I & II Species

N/A

Public Holdings:

N/A

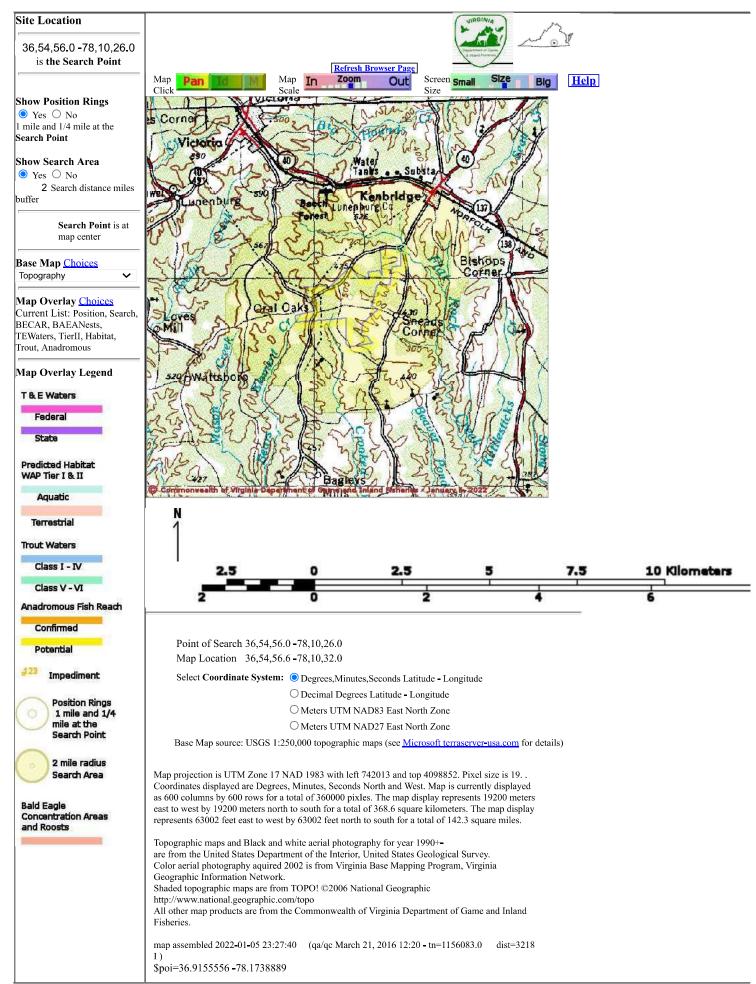
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PixelSize=64, Anadromous=0,022343, BECAR=0,020883; Bats=0,019899; Buffer=0,176827; County=0,008899; Impediments=0,02188; Init=0,219707; PublicLands=0,028983; SppCbs=0,316101; TEWaters=0,030388; TerReaches=0,069425; Ter Terrestrial=0,133065; Total=1,159496; Tracking_BOVA=0,17934; Trout=0,026451

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1/5/22, 11:27 PM VaFWIS Map



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Natural Heritage Resources

Your Criteria

Taxonomic Group: Select All

Global Conservation Status Rank: Select All

State Conservation Status Rank: Select All

Federal Legal Status: Select All

State Legal Status: Select All

County: Lunenburg

Watershed (8 digit HUC): 03010204 - Meherrin River

Subwatershed (12 digit HUC): CM08 - Meherrin River-Mason Creek, CM09 - Meherrin River-Crooked Creek, CM10 - Flat Rock Creek

Search Run: 12/5/2021 9:00:46 AM Result Summary

Total Species returned: 2

Total Communities returned: 0

Click scientific names below to go to NatureServe report.

Click column headings for an explanation of species and community ranks.

Common Name/Natural Community Lunenburg	Scientific Name	Scientific Name Linked	Global Conservation Status Rank	Global Conservation State Conservation Status Rank Status Rank	Federal Legal Status State Legal Status		Statewide Occurrences	Virginia Coastal Zone
Merletini Flat Rock Creek BIRDS Loggerhead Shrike Lanius Meherrin River-Mason Creek	verlerini Flat Rock Creek SIRDS Goggerhead Shrike Lanius Iudovicianus Aeherrin River-Mason Creek	<u>Lanius Iudovicianus</u>	45	S1B,S2N	None	L	40	z
Atlantic Pigtoe	Fusconaia masoni	Fusconaia masoni	G 1	S2	PT LT	L	29	z

ATTACHMENT C: CULTURAL RESOURCES DESKTOP REVIEW MEMO

Cultural Resources Desktop Review

Laurel Branch Solar Project Switchyard and Substation

August 16, 2022

Prepared for



Prepared by



4101 Cox Road, Suite 120 Glen Allen, VA 23060

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Figure 4	Detail of architectural resources (blue hatched) which are partially within the project area (orange)4
Figure 5	Detail of the proposed carved out area in which VDHR #055-0117 is located. The orange outlined proposed carved out area is not included within the project area

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report provides a summary of the cultural resource management events registered at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) through May 2022 that have taken place to date within the proposed Laurel Branch Solar Project Switchyard and Substation area. Additionally, all previously identified architectural resources and archaeological sites located within the project area, as well as within 0.5 mile of the project area, are provided. Information on previously conducted surveys and previously identified resources and sites were accessed through VDHR's Virginia Cultural Resources Information System (VCRIS) on May 17, 2022. The memo was drafted based off the current Laurel Branch Solar Project Switchyard and Substation boundary.

2.0 PREVIOUS SURVEYS RELEVANT TO THE PROJECT AREA

Research undertaken through VDHR's VCRIS demonstrated that no Phase I archaeological surveys have been conducted within 0.5 mile of the project area (Figure 1).

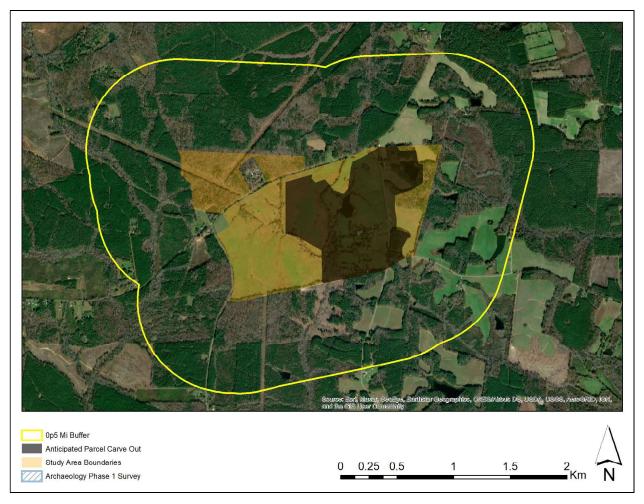


Figure 1. Previous surveys (gray) conducted in relation to the 0.5-mile buffer (yellow) around the project area (orange). Source: VCRIS 2022

3.0 PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITHIN 0.5 MILE OF THE PROJECT AREA

There are no previously recorded archaeological sites located within 0.5 mile of the project area (Figure 2). No archaeological sites are located within the project area.

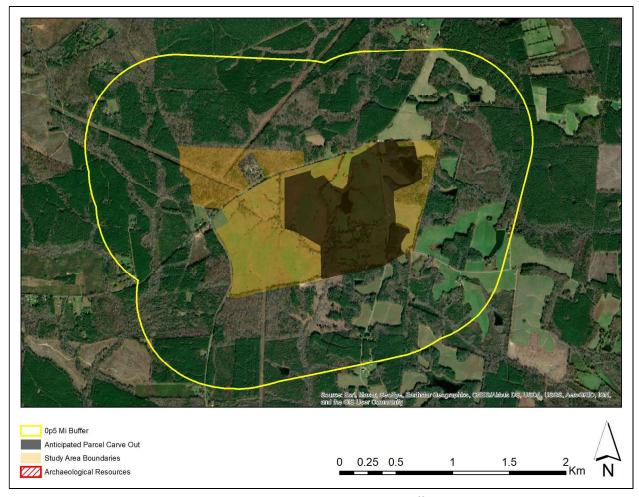


Figure 2. Archaeological resources (red) in relation to the 0.5-mile buffer (yellow) around the project area (orange). Source: VCRIS 2022.

4.0 PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES WITHIN 0.5 MILE OF THE PROJECT AREA

Review of VDHR VCRIS records identified six previously recorded architectural resources within 0.5 mile of the project area (Figure 3, Table 1). Among the resources are four dwellings, a wagon shed, and a church/chapel. The resources range in date from the early nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. VDHR #055-5132 (Good Hope Christadelphian Chapel) has been determined to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

Two resources are located partially within the project area. These resources include: VDHR #055-5132 (Good Hope Christadelphian Chapel) and VDHR #055-5138 (Samuel A. Wallace, Jr. House). As mentioned above, VDHR #055-5132 (Good Hope Christadelphian Chapel) has been determined to be

eligible for inclusion in the NRHP and VDHR #055-5138 has been determined to not be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

As demonstrated in Figure 4, the project area excludes the majority of VDHR #055-5132 and VDHR #055-5138 (Figure 4). Likewise, VDHR #055-0117 is located within a parcel which is excluded from the project area, as shown in Figure 5.

Table 1. Previously identified architectural resources located within 0.5 mile of the project area.1

VDHR ID#	Property Name	NRHP Eligibility Status	Туре	Year
055-0117	Oral Oaks (Historic/Current)	<null></null>	Single Dwelling	1840
055-5132	Good Hope Christadelphian Chapel (Historic)	DHR Staff: Eligible	Church/Chapel	1825Ca
055-5133	House on Route 655 (Function/Location), Wathall House (Historic)	DHR Staff: Not Eligible	Single Dwelling	1860Ca
055-5138	Samuel A. Wallace, Jr., House (Current)	DHR Staff: Not Eligible	Single Dwelling	1953
055-5139	Charles E. Wallace House (Current)	DHR Staff: Not Eligible	Single Dwelling	1955a
055-5140	Wagon shed (Descriptive)	DHR Staff: Not Eligible	Wagon Shed	1925Ca

¹ Resources highlighted in orange are eligible for listing in the NRHP or have a NRHP and VLR listing. Bolded resources are partially within the project area boundary.

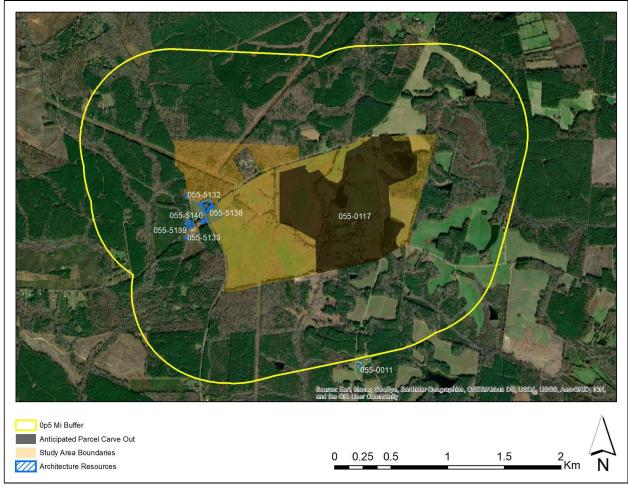


Figure 3. Map detailing all architectural resources (blue hatched) within 0.5 mile (yellow) of the project area (orange). Source: VCRIS 2022

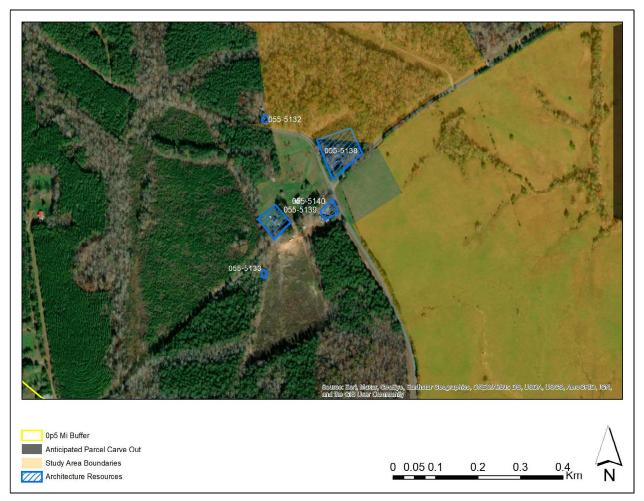


Figure 4. Detail of architectural resources (blue hatched) which are partially within the project area (orange). Source: VCRIS 2022

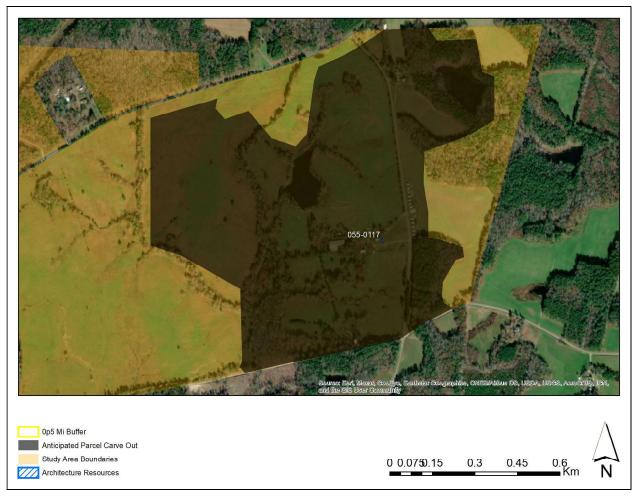


Figure 5. Detail of the proposed carved out area in which VDHR #055-0117 is located. The anticipated parcel carveout area is not included within the project area. Source: VCRIS 2022

5.0 RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

Preparation of a Phase IA cultural resources assessment (Phase IA), including a research design to guide a subsequent Phase I identification survey, is recommended for the Laurel Branch Solar Project Switchyard and Substation area. The Phase IA should include further consideration of site soils, historic maps, and existing field conditions and result in the development of a stratified testing strategy for identifying archaeological resources within the project area. The completed Phase IA should be submitted to the VDHR for review and comment prior to initiation of Phase I identification survey of the site in accordance with the recommended testing strategy.

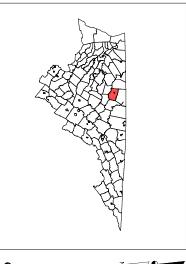
TAB G Preliminary Site Plan

PRELIMINARY - NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION SWITCHYARD AND SUBSTATION PROJECT CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT SITE PLAN LAUREL BRANCH

LUNENBURG COUNTY, VIRGINIA

AUGUST 2022





ИКGINIA

LUNENBURG COUNTY

SUBSTATION PROJECT **GMATCHYARD AND** LAUREL BRANCH

STATE VICINITY MAP LAUREL BRANCH SWITCHYARD AND SUBSTATION PROJECT LUNENBURG COUNTY , VIRGINIA



Dominion Energy®

COUNTY VICINITY MAP DISTRICT: COLUMBIAN GROVE CASE NUMBER: CUP 2-22

600 E CANAL STREET, RICHMOND, VA 2321













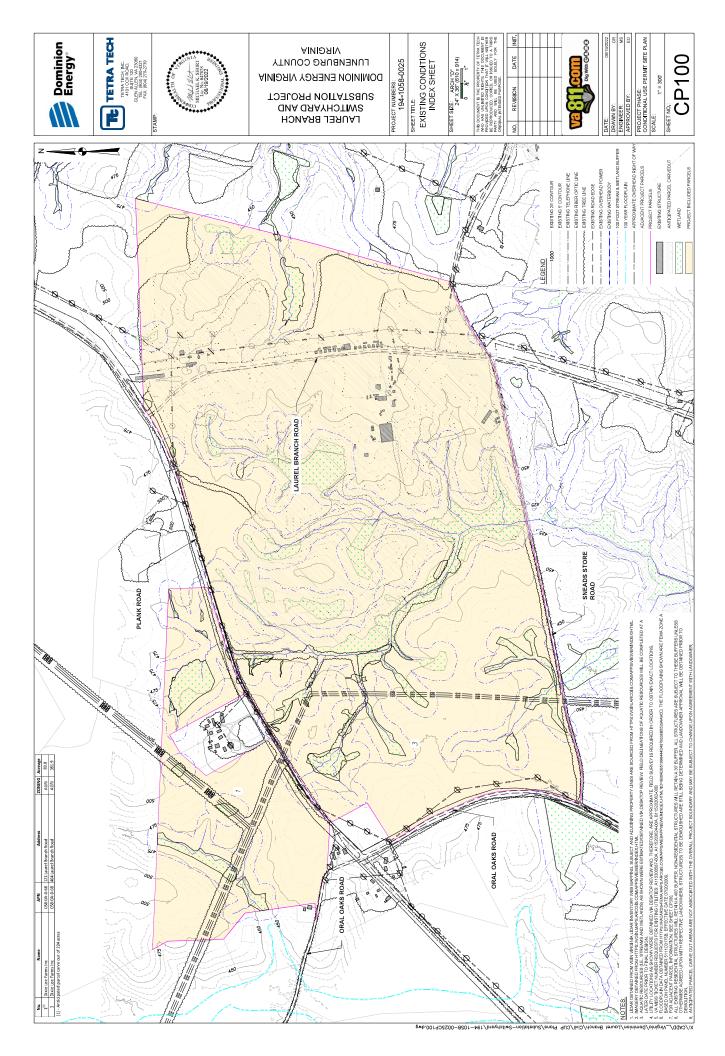
r numbers: 194-1058-0025 DOMINION ENERGY VIRGINIA

COVER SHEET

complex world | CLEAR SOLUTIONS"

TETRA TECH

PROJECT PHASE: SONDITIONAL USE PERMIT SITE PLAN



TETRA TECH Dominion Energy TETRA TECH INC. 4101 COX ROAD, SUITE 120 GLEN ALLEN VA 23060 TEL: (804) 290-4321 FAX: (804) 270-2739

VIRGINIA LUNENBURG COUNTY DOMINION ENERGY VIRGINIA

SWITCHYARD AND SUBSTECT LAUREL BRANCH

ROJECT NUMBERS: 194-1058-0025

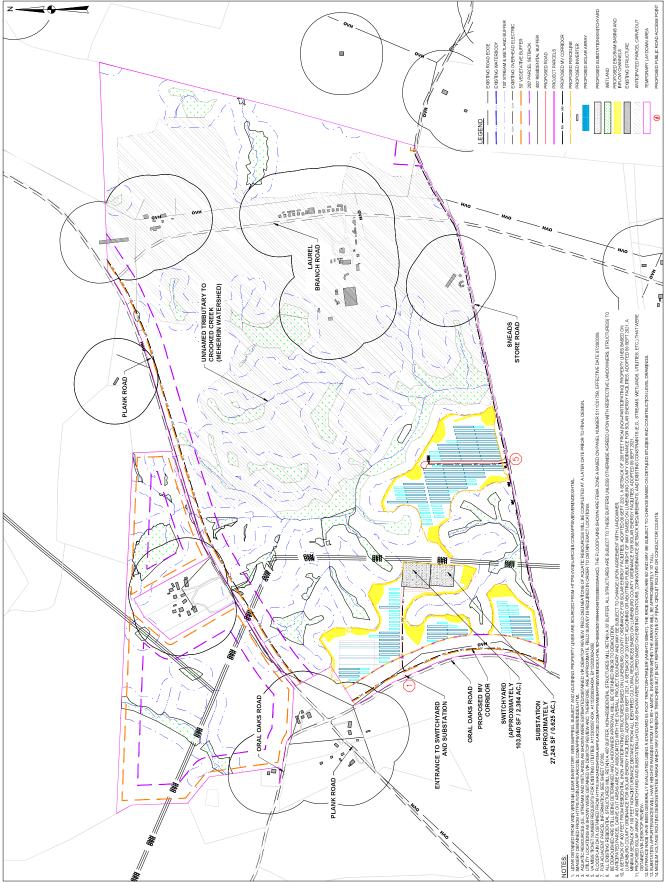
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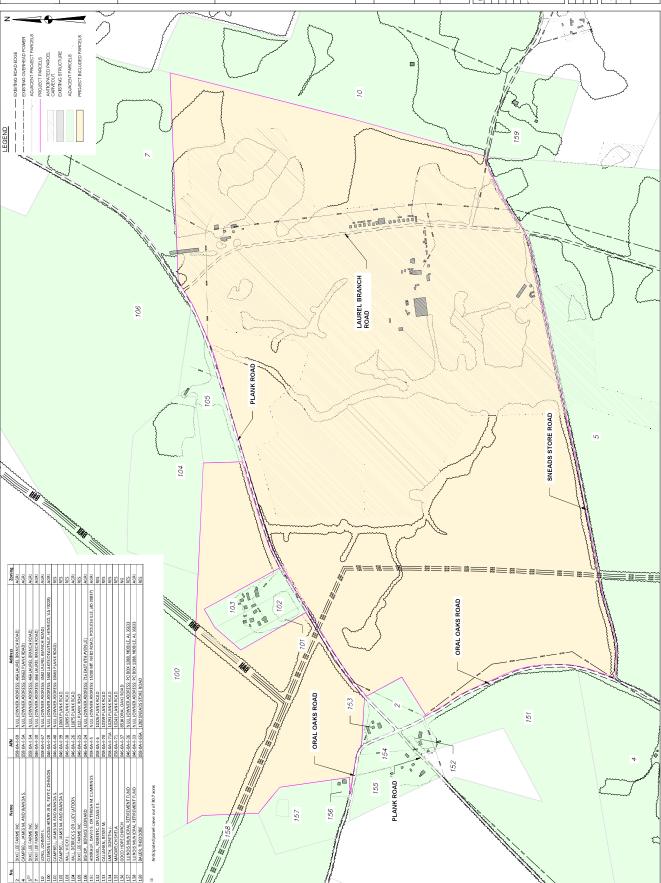
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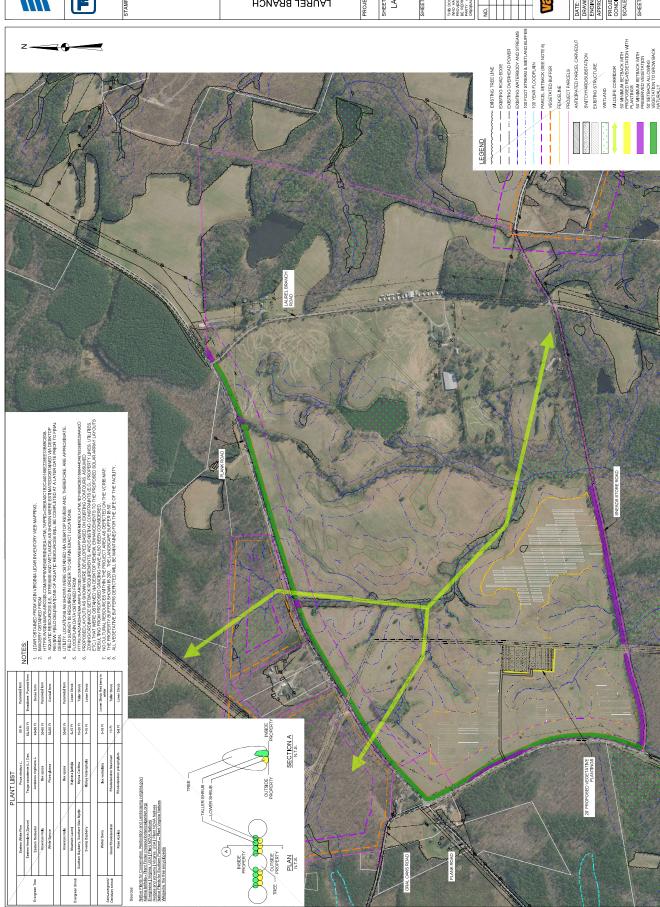
LAUREL BRANCH SWITCHYARD AND SUBSTATION PROJECT

ROJECT NUMBERS: 194-1058-0025

ADJACENT PARCEL INFORMATION SHEET

PROJECT PHASE: CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT SITE PLAN SCALE:











DOMINION ENERGY VIRGINIA LAUREL BRANCH SWITCHYARD AND SUBSTATION PROJECT

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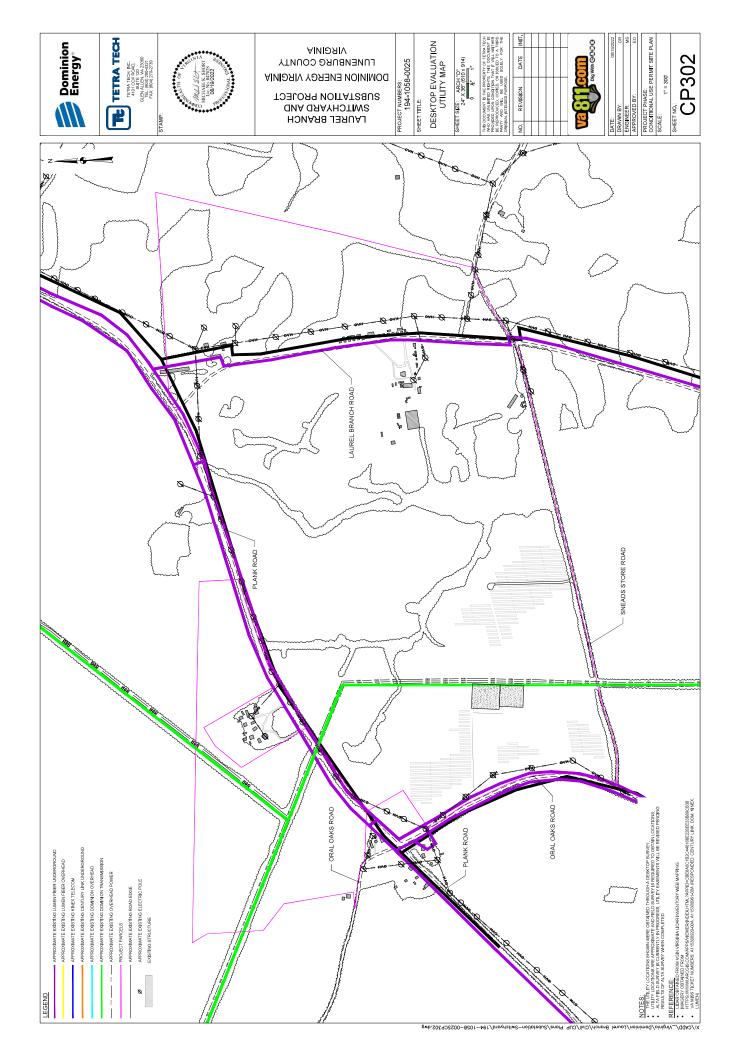
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LANDSCAPE BUFFER
SHEET

PROJECT PHASE: CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT SITE PLAN

1" = 300"



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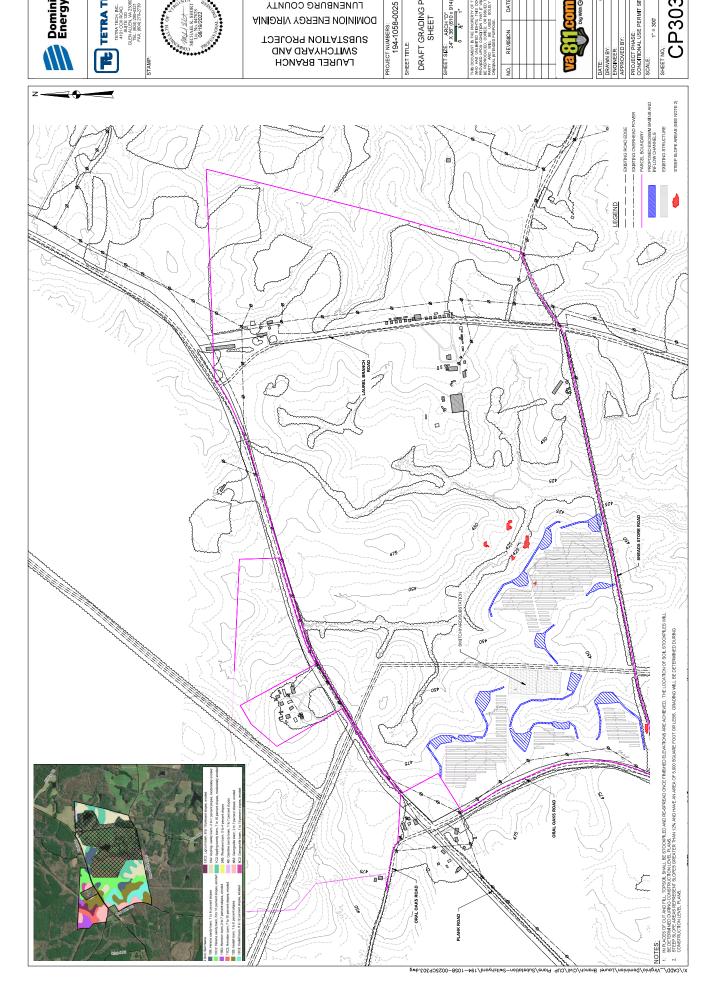




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LAUREL BRANCH SWITCHYARD AND SUBSTATION PROJECT

DRAFT GRADING PLAN SHEET









LUNENBURG COUNTY VIRGINIA DOWINION ENERGY VIRGINIA

LAUREL BRANCH SWITCHYARD AND SUBSTATION PROJECT

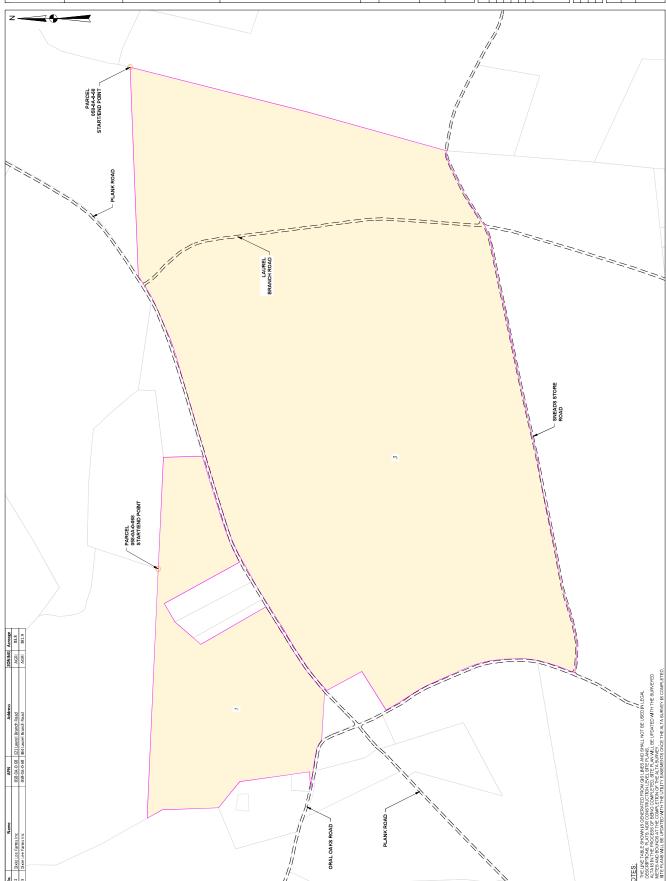
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PROJECT PHASE: CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT SITE PLAN SCALE:









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SWITCHYARD AND SUBCT LAUREL BRANCH

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PROJECT PHASE: CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT SITE PLAN

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П		13	03' 47"W	10'34'W	42' 41"W	45' 12"W	36" 18"W	3			3 8	8	M.96.76	1 5	2	20' 01"W	11' 22'W	D4' 48"W	14' 28"W			N I	28.37E	200.00	23 15'E	7. 23'E	51.43°E	S21° 00' 39'E	6' 23'E	S1.03.50'E	2 42W		13° 16°W	56° 55°W	8:21"W	386* 49* 35°E		50' 17'E	09' 08'E	14' 27'E		40' 18'E	15' 18'E	35' 48'E	39' 41'E		03°38°E	7.05°E		100 OC	22, 20,E		
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	Line #	145	L46	L47	148	149	150	52	122	123	5	8	8 6	85	F29	09 1	197	T93	F97	F94	F65	99 5	/97	8 8	120	151	172	L73	174	176	127	L78	627	P80	E 6	83 25	184	185	981	187	3 8	1 067	163	T67	193	F34	195	96]	à a	8 8	667	101	L102

TAB H Switchyard and Substation Design

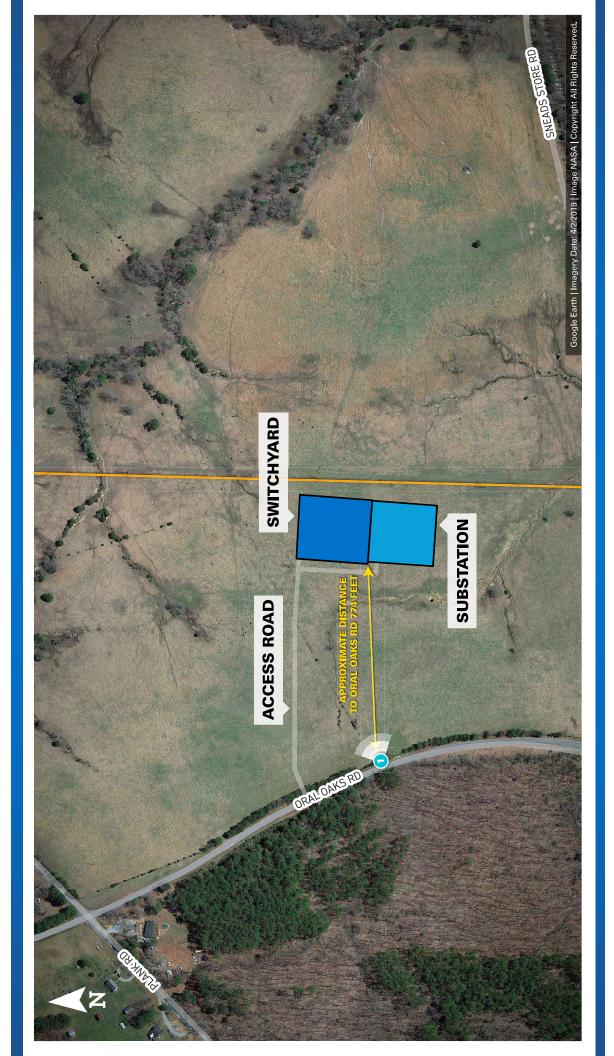
LAUREL BRANCH Substation/Switchyard Project

Photo Location Map



Switchyard Footprint

Existing Transmission Line Substation Footprint







PROPOSED CONDITIONS - INITIAL PLANTING

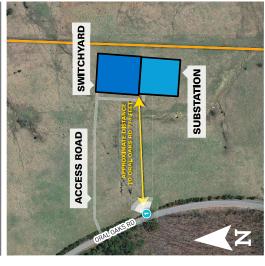
LAUREL BRANCH Substation/Switchyard Project

Simulation

Date: 01/27/2022 **Time:** 10:58 am

Viewing Direction:

East from Oral Oaks Rd.



Switchyard Footprint

--- Existing Transmission Line Substation Footprint





PROPOSED CONDITIONS - 5 YEAR GROWTH

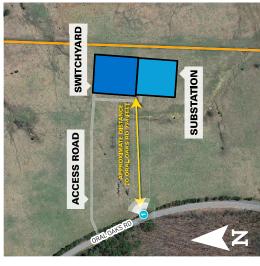
LAUREL BRANCH Substation/Switchyard Project

Simulation

Date: 01/27/2022 **Time:** 10:58 am

Viewing Direction:

East from Oral Oaks Rd.



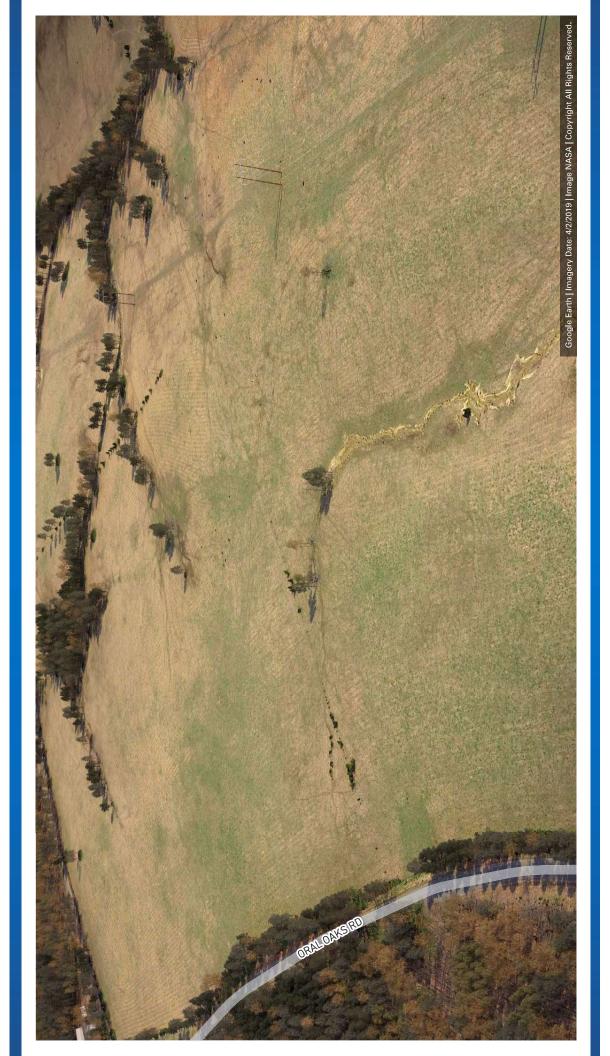
Switchyard Footprint

--- Existing Transmission Line



LAUREL BRANCH Substation/Switchyard Project

3D Rendering 1

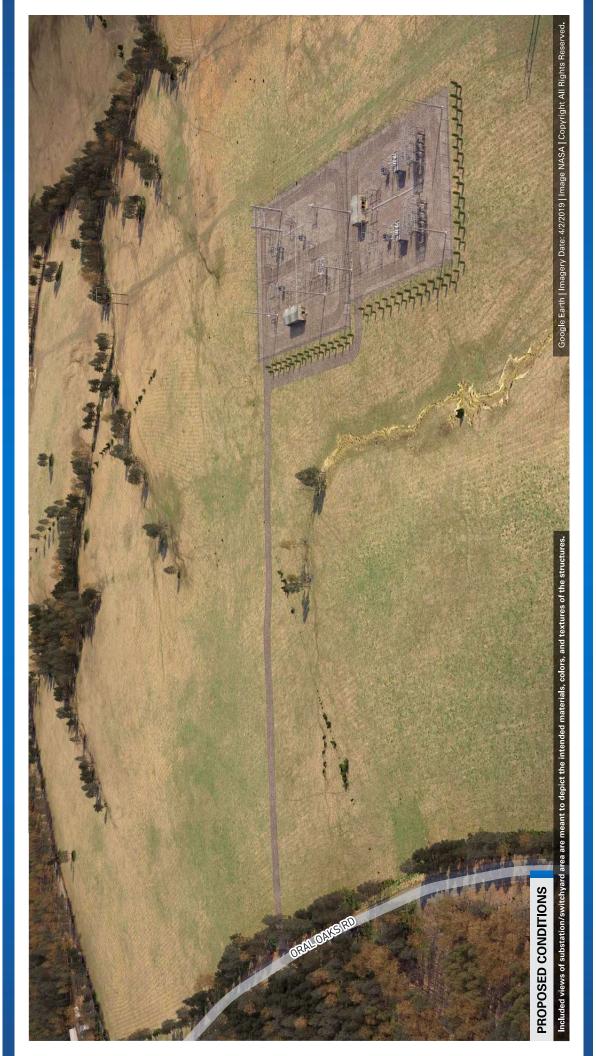




LAUREL BRANCH Substation/Switchyard Project

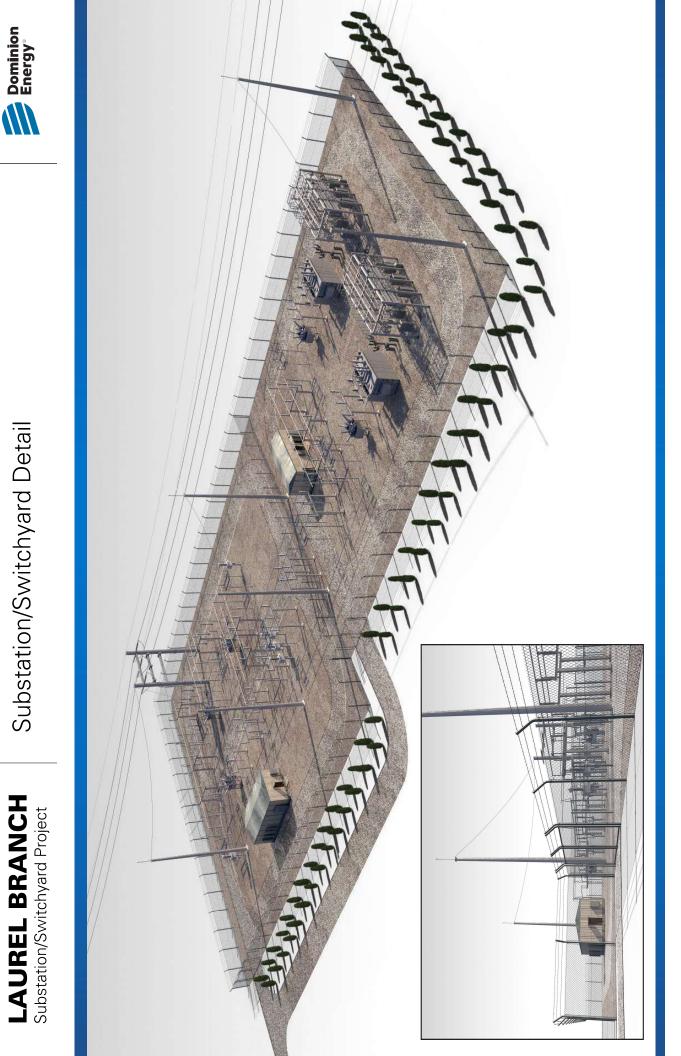
3D Rendering 1







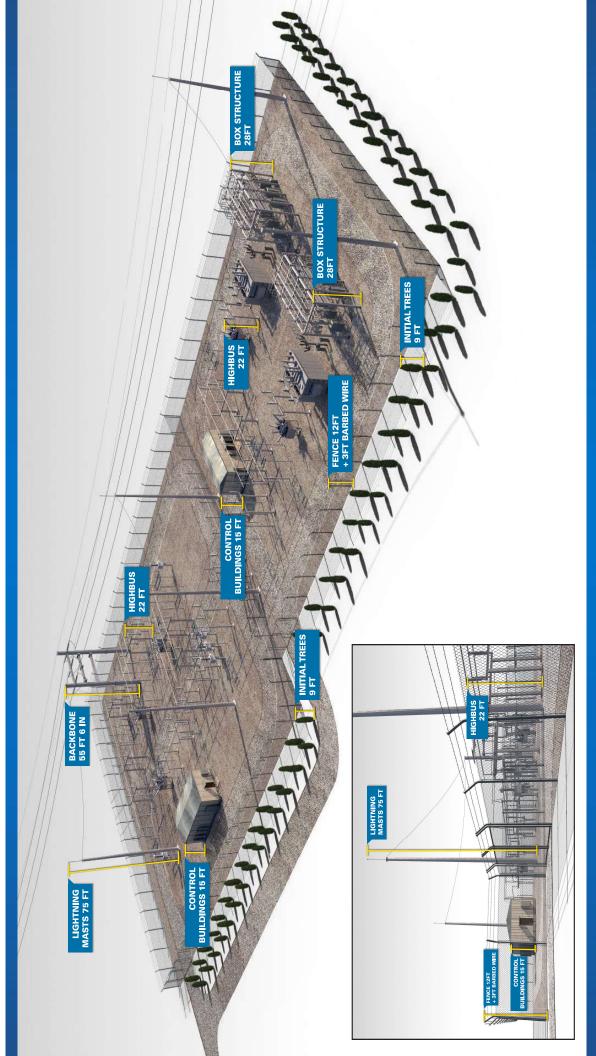
Substation/Switchyard Detail





Substation/Switchyard Detail

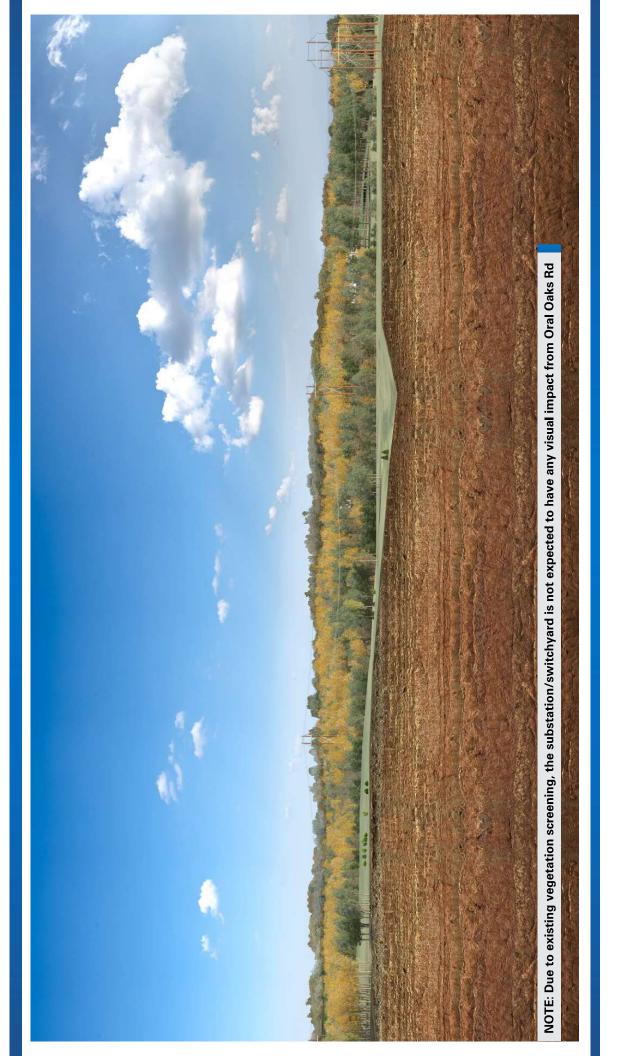
LAUREL BRANCH Substation/Switchyard Project









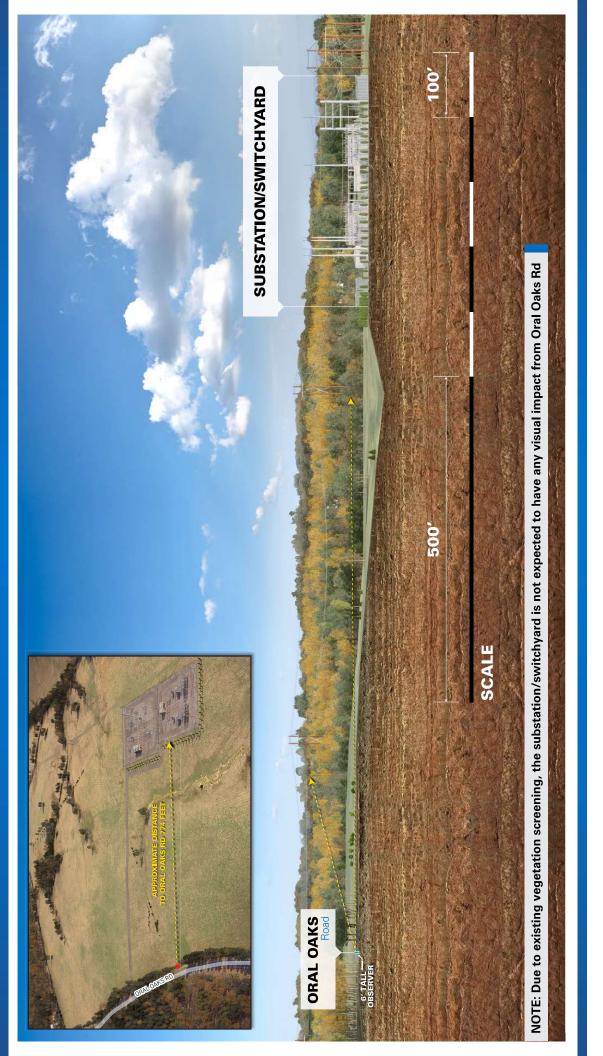




LAUREL BRANCH Substation/Switchyard Project

Terrain Viewpoint Analysis





TABI Traffic Study

Transportation Assessment

Laurel Branch Solar Project: Switchyard and Substation

August 15, 2022

Prepared for



Prepared by



4101 Cox Road, Suite 120 Glen Allen, VA 23060

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Appendix B: Trip Generation Calculations
Appendix C: Public Transportation Information
Appendix D: Construction Management Plan

Acronyms and Abbreviations

3D three-dimensional

ADT average daily traffic

BABS Blackstone Area Bus System

CUP Conditional Use Permit

GIS geographic information system

GPS global positioning system

KOP key observation point

MWac megawatts (alternating current)

O&M operations and maintenance

Project Area The 2,189± acres of privately-owned land where the proposed Project is

located

Project Laurel Branch Solar Project

STAA Surface Transportation Assistance Act
VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

vpd vehicles per day

1.0 OVERVIEW

Virginia Electric and Power Company (d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia) ("Dominion") is proposing a Substation and Switchyard as part of an 80 MWac utility-scale solar facility known as "Laurel Branch Solar" (the "Project") in Lunenburg County, Virginia (the "County"). The project will be located to the southwest of the Town of Kenbridge on 2,189 acres of land. Access to the site parcels is currently provided via several driveways and agricultural access ways, with the most direct access to the Substation and Switchyard located off of Oral Oaks Road. The proposed project calls for the redevelopment of existing agricultural land to support the construction of an 80 megawatt (MWac) solar photovoltaic power generation facility. Some of the existing single-family homes and several agricultural buildings on-site will be removed. As part of the project, 28 driveways will be constructed on the adjacent roadway system to provide temporary construction access and permanent operations and maintenance (O&M) access to the site.

As part of this assessment, Tetra Tech developed vehicle trip generation estimates associated with the proposed project's anticipated peak construction workforce levels (estimated at up to 150 construction workers). Tetra Tech also reviewed existing traffic volumes and public transportation in the vicinity of the project site. Potential truck haul routes were also identified between the site parcels and the regional highway system to reduce construction-related traffic impacts.

The project is anticipated to generate approximately 486 vehicle trips on a typical weekday day with 149 vehicle trips occurring during the weekday morning and weekday evening commuter peak hours. This equates to approximately two to three new vehicle trips per minute during peak commuting hours. These estimates conservatively assume that all construction workers would arrive within the same hour and depart within the same hour. Additionally, there are several routes connecting the site to the regional roadway system thereby reducing impacts to any single roadway segment or intersection. Peak construction activities are currently anticipated to occur for a period of approximately two to three months. The remainder of the construction period is anticipated to generate fewer vehicle trips. The adjacent roadways are anticipated to have ample capacity to accommodate the temporary increase in daily and peak hour traffic. These trip generation estimates assume 50 daily delivery trips and six delivery trips during each of the peak hours during the peak two to three months of construction activity.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project calls for the construction of a proposed 80 MWac solar photovoltaic power generation facility to be located on Routes 635 (Oral Oaks Road), 646 (Laurel Branch Road), 647 (Sneads Store Road), 655 (Plank Road) and 637 (Craig Mill Road) and Hilltop Road in Lunenburg County, Virginia. The project site location in the context of the surrounding area roadways is shown in Figure 1. The project site currently supports agricultural fields and several single-family homes. Access to the site parcels is currently provided via several driveways and agricultural access ways.

The proposed project calls for the redevelopment of existing agricultural land to support the construction of an 80 MWac solar photovoltaic power generation facility. Some of the existing single-

family homes and agricultural buildings on-site will be removed. As part of the project, 28 driveways will be constructed on the adjacent roadway system to provide temporary construction access and permanent O&M access to the site including three driveways on Oral Oaks Road, six driveways on Laurel Branch Road, three driveways on Plank Road, nine driveways on Sneads Store Road, one driveway on Craig Mill Road and six driveways on Hilltop Road.

2.1 Existing Traffic Volumes

The site parcels are accessed by Routes 635 (Oral Oaks Road), 646 (Laurel Branch Road), 647 (Sneads Store Road), 655 (Plank Road) and 637 (Craig Mill Road) and Hilltop Road. These primary roadways serving the site are under Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) ownership and allow for two-way travel.

The estimated Average Daily Traffic (ADT) volume estimates for the study area roadways are summarized in Table 1 based on the most recent publicly available data from VDOT. VDOT traffic volume data is provided in Appendix A.

Table 1 Estimated Average Daily Traffic (ADT) Volumes

Roadway	ADT (vehicles per day)
Route 637 (east of Route 655)	1,100
Route 655	540
Route 637 (south of Route 655)	580
Route 635 (south of Route 655)	440
Route 635 (north of Route 655)	310
Sneads Store Road (east of Route 646)	100
Route 646	70
Route 647	20
Hilltop Road	40

Source: VDOT

2.2 Vehicle Trip Generation

The project will consist of three phases: construction, O&M, and decommissioning. The highest volume of site-related trips will occur during the peak construction phase of the project. Therefore, the trip generation for the peak construction phase workforce levels were estimated for this assessment.

Vehicle trip generation estimates for the project were developed based on anticipated construction operations for the project. Construction of the proposed solar facility is expected to include grading, panel installation, inspections, and equipment deliveries. It is anticipated that, at peak operations, the site could experience construction workforce levels of up to 150 construction workers at one time. Construction hours of operation are assumed to generally be 7 AM to 5 PM with construction workers arriving prior to 7 AM and departing after 5 PM. Since the peak hours of the adjacent street traffic are expected to occur sometime during the peak commuting periods of 7 AM to 9 AM and 4 PM to 6 PM, it is expected that the majority of construction workers would be arriving and departing the site outside of the typical weekday morning and weekday evening commuter peak hours of the adjacent street.

However, to present a conservative assessment of potential traffic increases associated with the project, it is assumed that all the construction workers would arrive during the weekday morning peak hour and depart during the weekday evening peak hour. The supporting trip generation calculations and assumptions for the proposed project's peak construction workforce levels are provided in Appendix B.

The Blackstone Area Bus System (BABS) operates public transit service in nearby Lunenburg County. BABS operates the Town and Country bus service on Route 637 which travels from Kenbridge to Victoria. The site is approximately 2 miles southwest of this public transportation service with the closest stop located at the W. 7th Avenue and Broad Street intersection in Kenbridge. For the purposes of this assessment, it was assumed that no construction workers would use public transit to access the site. Public transportation information is provided in Appendix C.

It is anticipated that some construction workers would arrive and depart the site together (carpooling). For purposes of this assessment, it was assumed that 10 percent of the construction workers will carpool to travel to/from the site with two workers per vehicle. Table 1 presents a summary of the trip generation estimates for the project's peak construction workforce activities.

Table 2 Trip Generation Summary – Peak Construction Period

		Project	Trips	
Time Period/ Direction	Workforce Trips ¹	Non-Heavy Vehicle Deliveries ²	Heavy Vehicles ³	Total
Weekday AM Peak Hour				
Enter	143	1	2	146
Exit	0	1	2	3
Total	143	2	4	149
Weekday PM Peak Hour				
Enter	0	1	2	3
Exit	143	1	2	146
Total	143	2	4	149
Weekday Daily				
Enter	218	5	20	243
Exit	218	5	20	243
Total	436	10	40	486

¹ Assumed 150 construction workers per day. Conservatively assumed trips overlap with adjacent street peaks. Peak construction activities are currently anticipated to occur for a period of approximately two to three months. The remainder of the construction period is anticipated to generate fewer vehicle trips. 2 Assumed 5 deliveries per day with 40 percent of trips occurring during peak hours.

As shown in Table 1, the peak construction activity for the proposed solar facility is expected to generate 486 new vehicle trips (243 entering and 243 exiting) on a typical weekday, with approximately 149 new vehicle trips (146 entering and 3 exiting) during the weekday morning peak hour and 149 new vehicle trips (3 entering and 146 exiting) during the weekday evening peak hour. These trip generation estimates assume 50 daily delivery trips and six delivery trips during each of the peak hours. The adjacent roadways are anticipated to have ample capacity to accommodate the temporary increase in daily and peak hour traffic with the project estimated to generate

³ Assumed 20 deliveries per day spread evenly throughout day.

approximately two to three additional trips every minute during peak hours. Additionally, there are several routes connecting the site to the regional roadway system thereby reducing impacts to any single roadway segment or intersection.

Post-Construction Conditions. Routine post-construction O&M activities at the site are not anticipated to result in a measurable increase in vehicle traffic. The number of maintenance workers traveling to the site is anticipated to be low and impacts to local traffic are not expected. The proposed solar facility will be unmanned during routine O&M and would only be inspected periodically. Therefore, the site is not expected to add a noticeable increase to existing traffic under typical O&M conditions. Personnel would be on site as necessary for any maintenance and repairs. Additionally, impacts resulting from decommissioning of the project are expected to be similar to or less than those experienced during construction.

2.3 Truck Haul Routes

The construction of the proposed solar facility will require large vehicle deliveries for a variety of materials that may include concrete, solar panels, earth materials, building materials, etc. Tetra Tech identified potential truck haul routes between the site parcels and the regional roadway system for these larger vehicles. For purposes of this assessment, it was assumed that the deliveries would originate from three primary geographical areas: Richmond, VA, Lynchburg, VA, and Raleigh, NC. Factors considered in developing potential truck haul routes are summarized below. Separate inbound and outbound travel routes are provided where appropriate.

- Prioritize designated Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) truck routes from the VDOT database.
- Avoid roadway segments having bridge height and weight limitations based on a review of the VDOT database.
- Minimize impacts to schools, traffic signals, and areas with pedestrian activity.
- Minimize turns at locations with geometric limitations.

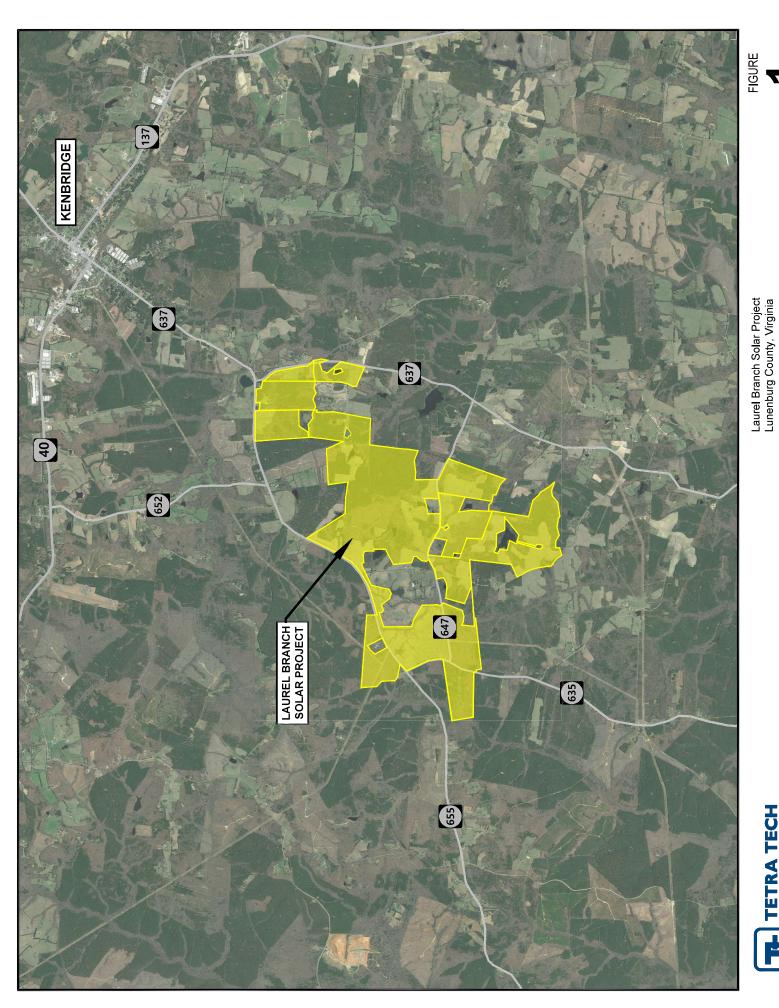
The potential regional truck haul routes are shown in Figure 2. The potential local truck haul routes to/from the proposed site driveways are shown in Figure 3. A preliminary Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) has been prepared for the project and is provided in Appendix D.

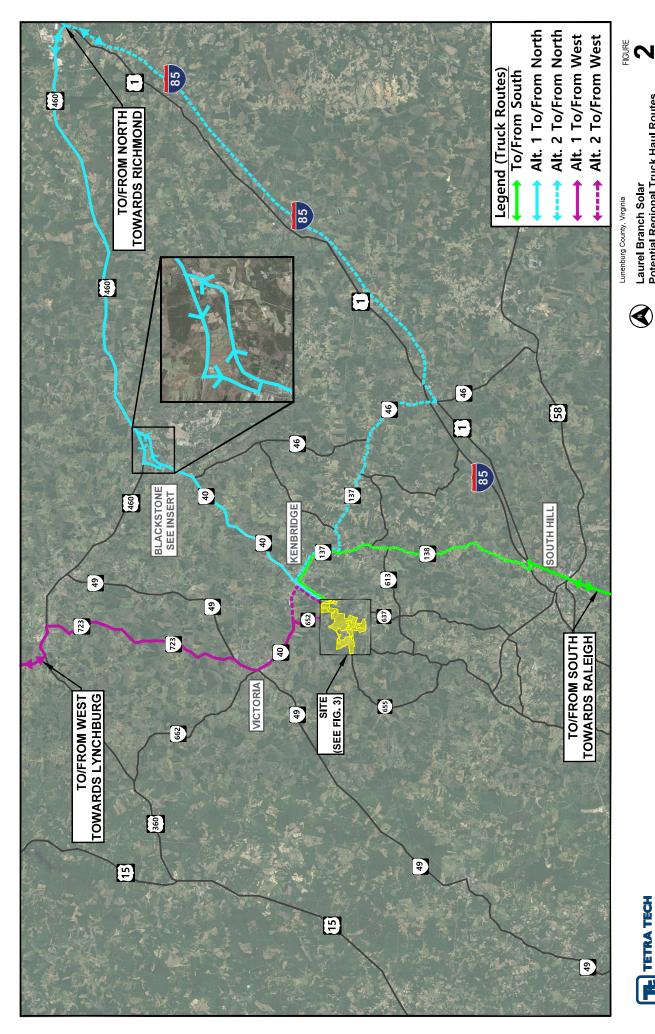
3.0 CONCLUSIONS

The peak construction workforce levels for the proposed 80 MWac solar photovoltaic power generation facility is expected to generate approximately 149 trips during the weekday morning peak hour and 149 trips during the weekday evening peak hour during peak construction workforce activity. This equates to approximately two to three new vehicle trips per minute during peak hours. Peak construction activities are currently anticipated to occur for a period of approximately two to three months. The remainder of the construction period is anticipated to generate fewer vehicle trips. These trip generation estimates are conservative as the majority of peak hour trips are likely to occur outside of the typical weekday commuter peak hours of the adjacent street traffic and do not take credit for possible vehicle trip reductions associated with use of available public transportation. The

project will generate even less traffic post construction with routine inspection and maintenance of the solar panels and supporting equipment. Additionally, there are several routes connecting the site to the regional roadway system thereby reducing impacts to any single roadway segment or intersection. As part of the project, 28 driveways will be constructed to provide temporary construction access and permanent O&M access to the site from the public roadway network including three driveways on Oral Oaks Road, six driveways on Laurel Branch Road, three driveways on Plank Road, nine driveways on Sneads Store Road, one driveway on Craig Mill Road and six driveways on Hilltop Road. The adjacent roadways are anticipated to have ample capacity to accommodate the temporary increase in daily and peak hour traffic with existing daily traffic volumes of 20 vehicles per day (vpd) to 1,100 vpd. Potential truck haul routes were identified between the site parcels and the regional highway system to reduce construction-related traffic impacts.

FIGURES









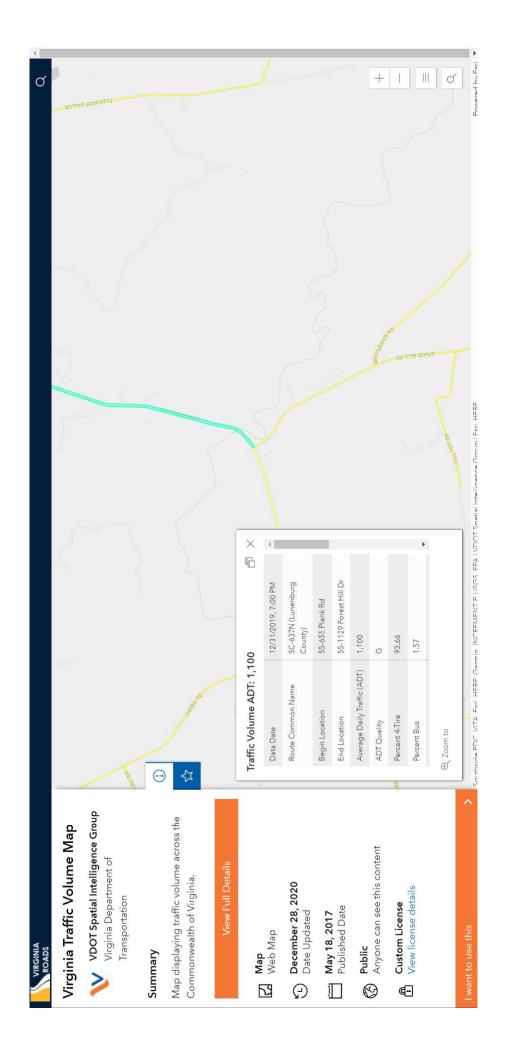
Lunenburg County, Virginia Laurel Branch Solar Potential Local Truck Haul Routes

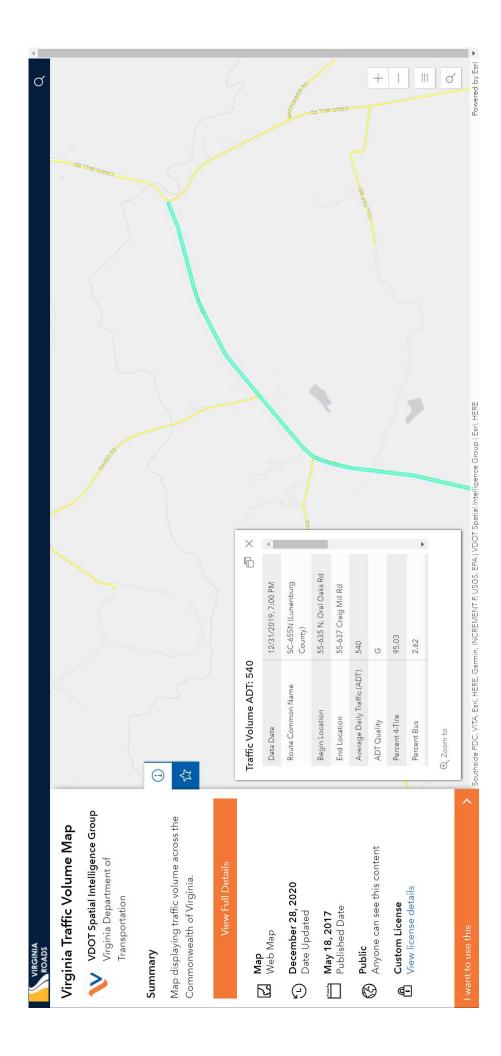


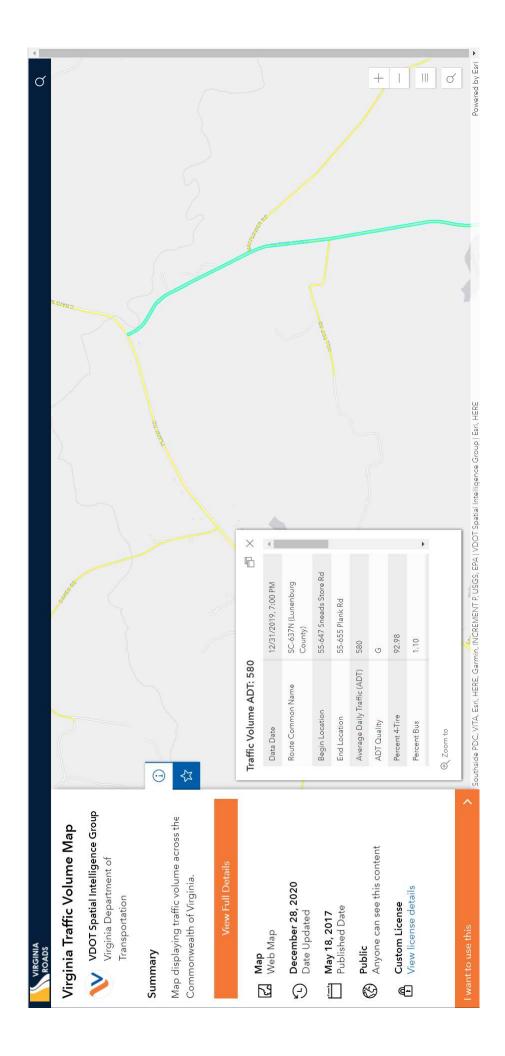
Laurel Branch Solar Project

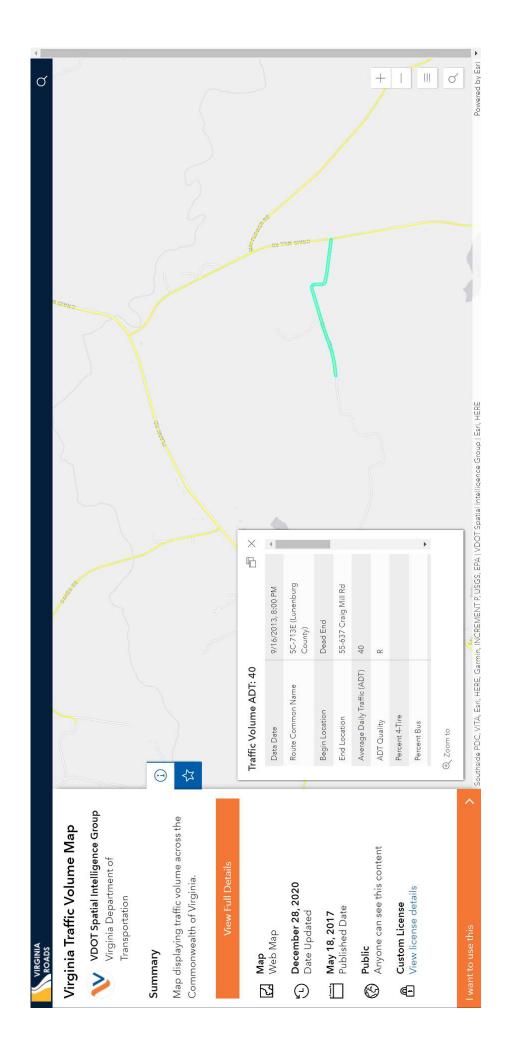
Transportation Assessment

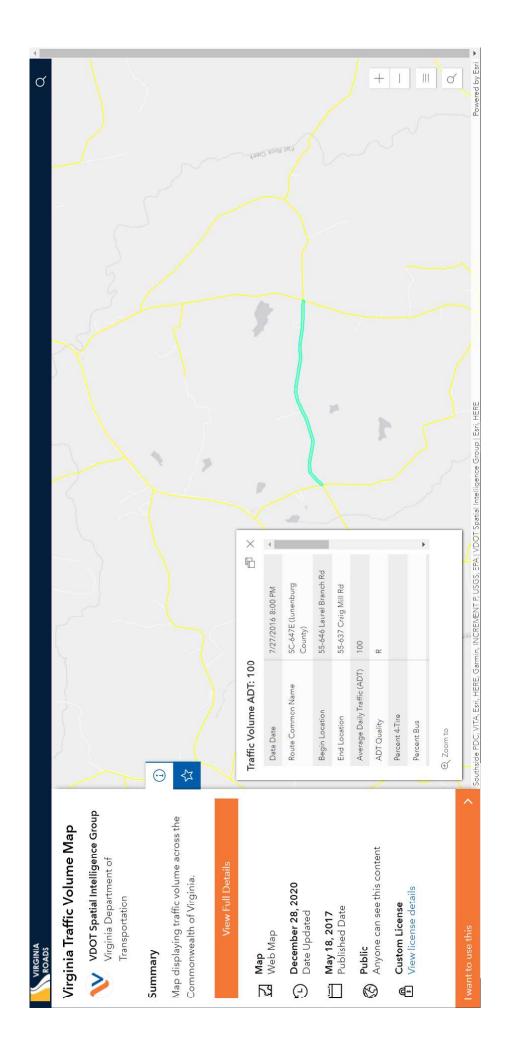
APPENDIX A: VDOT TRAFFIC VOLUME DATA

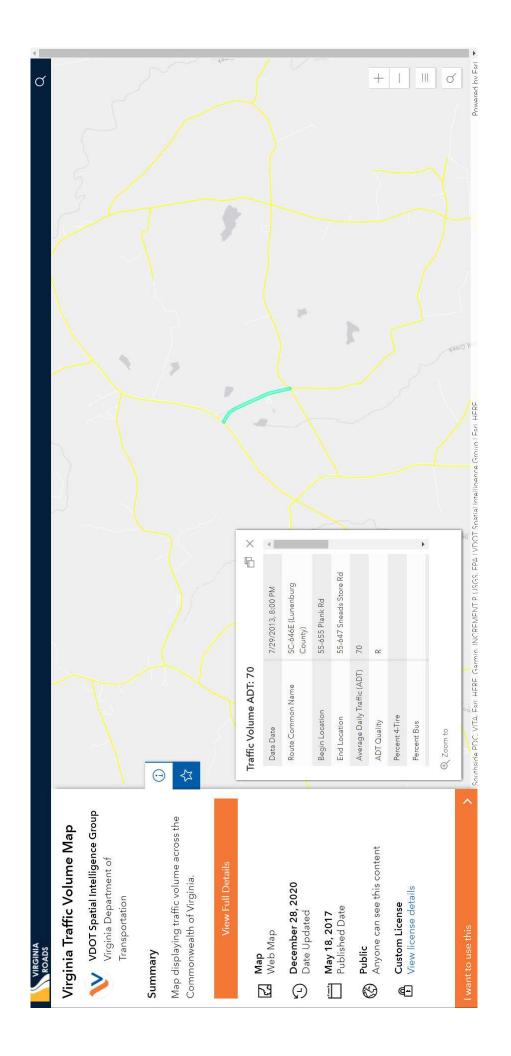


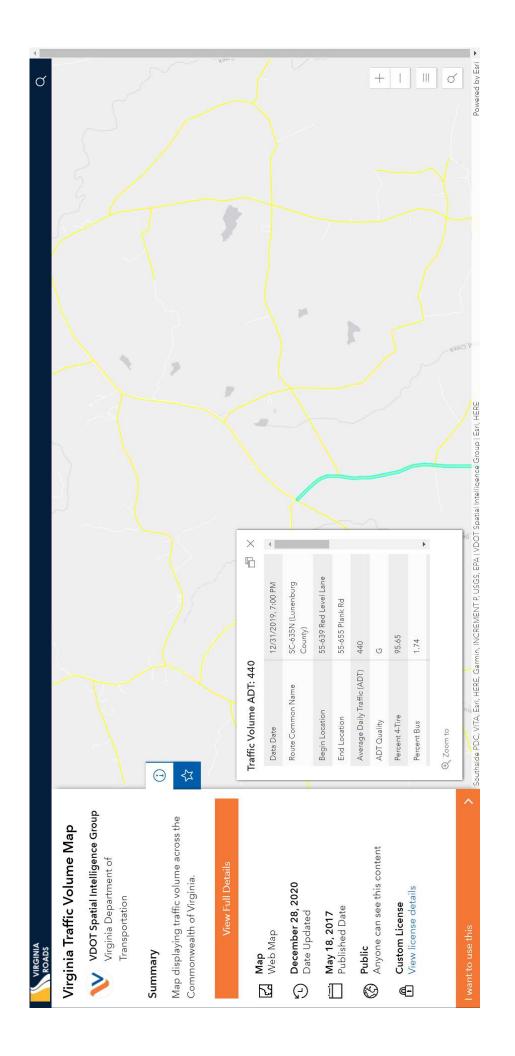


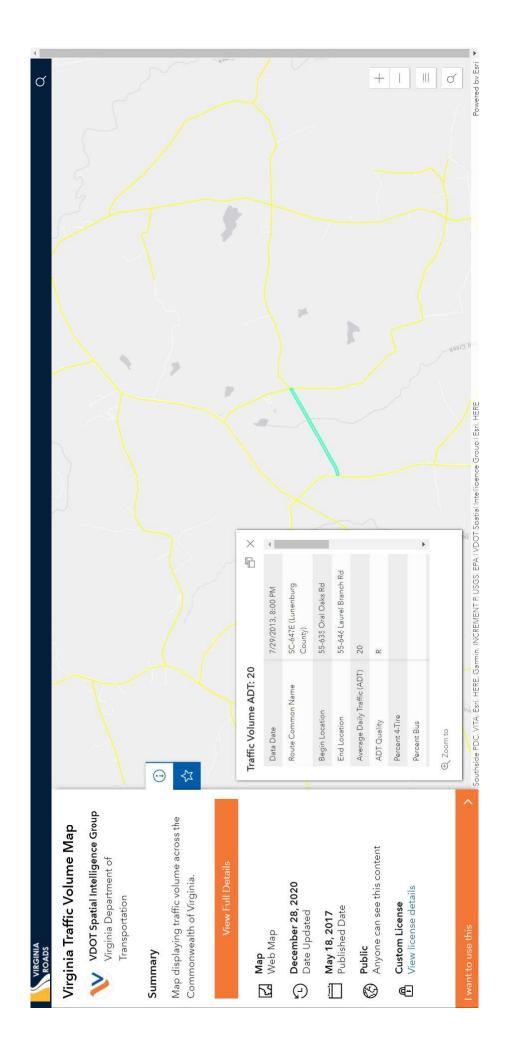


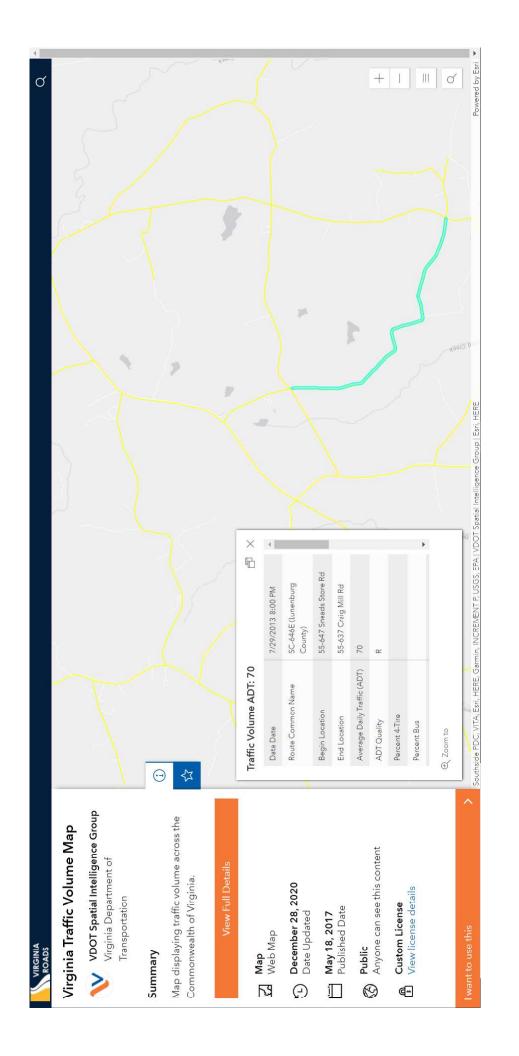


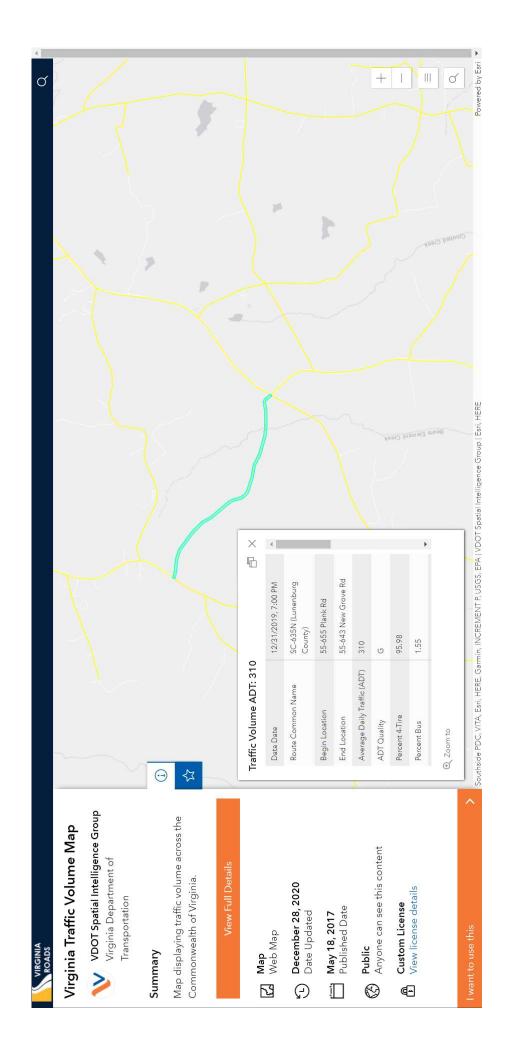












Laurel Branch Solar Project

APPENDIX B: TRIP GENERATION CALCULATIONS

Transportation Assessment

Peak Construction Workforce Trip Generation Calculations and Assumptions Proposed Dominion Laurel Branch Solar Facility - Lunenburg County, VA

		CALCULATIONS		(150 workers x 100% arrive x (100% - 10% carpool x 1 vehicle/2 carpool workers)) + (3 Delivery Vehicles arrive) = 146	(150 workers x 0% depart) + (3 Delivery Vehicles depart) = 3			(150 workers x 0% arrive) + (3 Delivery Vehicles arrive) = 3	(150 workers x 100% depart x (100% - 10% carpool x 1 vehicle/2 carpool workers)) + (3 Delivery Vehicles depart) = 146			(150 workers x 100% arrive in AM x (100% - 10% carpool x 1 vehicle/2 carpool workers) + (150 workers x 50% return from lunch/errands midday) + (25 Delivery Vehicles arrive) = 243	(150 workers x 100% depart in PM x (100% - 10% carpool x 1 vehicle/2 carpool workers)) + (35 workers x 50% leave for lunch/errands midday) + (25 Delivery Vehicles depart) = 243	
				(150 workers:	(150 workers			(150 workers	(150 workers			(150 workers	(150 workers)	
		Total		146	ന	149		ĸ	146	149			243	486
Driveway Trips	Heavy Vehicle	Deliveries		2	2	4		2	2	4		20	<u>20</u>	40
Construction Site Driveway Trips	Non-Heavy	Vehicle Deliveries		1	디	2		1	₽	2		2	ιΛΙ	10
		Workforce Trips Vehicle Deliveries		143	ol	143		0	143	143		218	218	436
			AM Peak Hour:	Enter	Exit	Total	PM Peak Hour:	Enter	Exit	Total	Weekday Daily:	Enter	Exit	Total

Construction Assumption	AM Peak Hour	PM Peak Hour	Off-Peak	Notes
# of Peak Workers On-Site at One Time:	150	150	150	Assume 1.90 tradespeciple per day
% Workers Arriving:	100%	%0	20%	Accorded by any special process of the moning peak hours of adjacent street traffic assumed to occur between is "Jam-Sam and dapa fine for the moning peak hour of adjacent street traffic and some major that the evening peak hour however, as a conservative measure, assumed traffic and some major that the evening peak hour however, as a conservative measure, assumed half of workforce depart and return once during of peak times. Assumed none of the workers get peaked up/dropped off.
% Workers Departing:	%0	100%	20%	Assumed hours of operation 3am Spm (may be longer). Peak Hours of adjacent street traffic assumed to occur between is 7am 3am and 4pm 6pm. Therefore the majority of construction worker traffic is likely to occur outside of the morning peak hour of adjacent secure, as conscribing to exemption of the workers get packed up/dropped off.
% Carpool ¹ :	10.0%	10.0%	%0:0	Assumed 10% carpoding during commuting
Carpool VOR ² :	2.00	2.00	1.00	Assumed two workers per car during commuting.
# Shuttle Trips:	0	0	0	Assumed all workers and deliveries will occur via the construction drheway, no laydown site is proposed
#Truck Deliveries:	2	2	16	Assumed worker hours of operation 7am-5pm and assumed 20 deliveries per day that would be distributed evenly throughout the day.
# Non-Truck Deliveries:	1	1	3	Occasionally, non-heavy vehide deliveries will occur. For trip generation analysis purposes, assumed 5 deliveries per day, Conservatively assumed some occurs during peak hours of adjacent street traffic.

¹Enter % per population - formulas above account for VOR
²VOR for carpoolers only
NOTE. Assumes an 80 MW AC facility with 9 months of peak construction and 2 to 3 months of ramp-up/ramp-down construction activity
Source: Tetra Tech

APPENDIX C: PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

TOWN & COUNTY TRANSIT

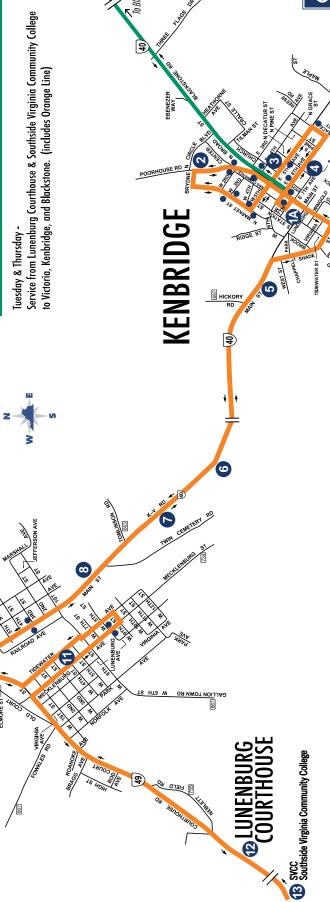
Monday, Wednesday & Friday Service from Kenbridge through Victoria to
Lunenburg Courthouse & Southside Virginia
Community College

VICTORIA

Scheduled stops and times are shown in the chart and on the map. The bus will stop at locations denoted on the map by a smaller circle [●], if there are passengers waiting at the stops.

BLACKSTONE AREA BUS SYSTEM

TOWN & COUNTY TRANSIT GREEN LINE



Accessible

Servicing the County of Lunenburg and the Towns of Kenbridge and Victoria, this route operates from 7:00 AM to 4:15 PM on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and on Tuesday and Thursday until 4:45 PM. On Tuesday and Thursday this route travels to the Town of Blackstone.

ORANGE LINE Mon, Wed, Fri	Σ⇒						∑ ⇒				
🕼 W. 7th St. & Broad St.	7:00	9:00	_	10:15	ı	11:30	1:00	2:20	ı	4:15	
2 Kenbridge Elementary	7:02	8:53	9:02	10:13	10:17	11:27	1:02	2:13	2:22	4:13	
Mildred's Meals	7:04	8:51	9:04	10:11	10:19	11:25	1:04	2:11	2:24	4:11	
🙆 Kenbridge Family Practice	7:06	8:49	9:06	10:09	10:21	11:23	1:06	5:09	2:26	4:09	
Southside Shopping Center	7:10	8:45	9:10	10:05	10:25	11:19	1:10	2:05	2:30	4:05	
👩 Community Health Center 📗	7:15	8:40	9:15	10:00	10:30	11:14	1:15	2:00	2:35	4:00	
🕝 Village Estates Apts.	7:18	8:37	9:18	85:6	10:32	11:12	1:18	1:58	2:37	3:58	
🔞 Food Lion, Victoria	7:20	8:35	9:20	6:55	10:35	11:09	1:20	1:55	2:40	3:55	
🧐 Victoria Public Library	7:22	8:33	9:22	9:53	10:37	11:07	1:22	1:53	2:42	3:53	
🕕 Vaughn's Grocery	7:25	8:30	9:25	9:50	10:40	11:00	1:25	1:50	2:45	3:50	
🕕 Victoria Place Apts.	7:28	8:27	9:28	9:47	10:43	10:59	1:28	1:47	2:48	3:47	
😢 Lunenburg Co. Courthouse	7:35	8:20	9:40	ı	10:50	ı	1:40	ı	2:55	3:40	
(B) SVCC	8:00	-	_	ı	1	ı	1	ı	3:25	ı	

GREEN LINE Tues. Thurs	¥⇒						Σ			
(B) Walmart, Blackstone	1	1	1	10:35	1	1	1	2:35	ı	ı
W. 7th St. & Broad St.	7:00	9:00	ı	10:15	10:50	12:10	1:00	2:20	2:50	4:45
Kenbridge Elementary	7:02	8:53	9:02	10:13	10:52	12:08	1:02	2:13	2:52	4:43
Mildred's Meals	7:04	8:51	9:04	11:01	10:54	12:06	1:04	2:11	2:54	4:4]
4 Kenbridge Family Practice	90:/	8:49	90:6	60:01	10:56	12:04	1:06	5:09	2:56	4:39
⑤ Southside Shopping Center	01:/	8:45	9:10	50:01	11:00	12:00	1:10	2:05	3:00	4:35
© Community Health Center	7:15	8:40	9:15	10:00	11:05	11:55	1:15	2:00	3:05	4:30
(7) Village Estates Apts.	81:/	8:37	9:18	85:6	11:07	11:52	1:18	1:58	3:07	4:28
8 Food Lion, Victoria	1:20	8:35	9:20	55:6	11:10	11:49	1:20	1:55	3:10	4:25
Victoria Public Library	7:72	8:33	9:22	6:53	11:12	11:47	1:22	1:53	3:12	4:23
1 Vaughn's Grocery	7:25	8:30	9:25	9:50	11:15	11:40	1:25	1:50	3:15	4:20
(1) Victoria Place Apts.	7:28	8:27	9:28	6:47	11:18	11:37	1:28	1:47	3:18	4:17
😢 Lunenburg Co. Courthouse	7:35	8:20	9:40	ı	11:30	ı	1:40	ı	3:25	4:10
(13) SACC	8:00	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	ı	3:50	ı

Laurel Branch Solar Project	Transportation Assessment

APPENDIX D: CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT PLAN



1.1 Introduction

Virginia Electric and Power Company (d/b/a Dominion Energy Virginia) ("Dominion") is proposing a Substation and Switchyard as part of an 80 MWac utility-scale solar facility known as "Laurel Branch Solar" (the "Project") in Lunenburg County, Virginia (the "County"). The project will be located to the southwest of the Town of Kenbridge on 2,189 acres of land. The Substation and Switchyard is located along Routes 635 (Oral Oaks Road) in Lunenburg County, Virginia. Project construction is projected to begin the second quarter of 2024 and last approximately 12 months with nine months of typical construction and two to three months of ramp up/ramp down activity. Peak construction activity is anticipated to occur over a two to three-month period.

1.2 Construction Traffic Haul Routes

The construction of the proposed solar facility will require large vehicle deliveries for a variety of materials that may include concrete, solar panels, earth materials, building materials, etc. Tetra Tech identified potential truck haul routes between the site parcels and the regional roadway system for these larger vehicles. For purposes of this assessment, it was assumed that the deliveries would originate from three primary geographical areas: Richmond, VA, Lynchburg, VA, and Raleigh, NC. Factors considered in developing potential truck haul routes are summarized below. Separate inbound and outbound travel routes are provided where appropriate.

- Prioritize designated Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) truck routes from the VDOT database.
- Avoid roadway segments having bridge height and weight limitations based on a review of the VDOT database.
- Minimize impacts to schools, traffic signals, and areas with pedestrian activity.
- Minimize turns at locations with geometric limitations.

The potential regional truck haul routes are shown in Figure 1. The potential local truck haul routes to/from the proposed site driveways are shown in Figure 2.

When accessing the site via Route 406 to the north, all construction traffic (employees, subcontractors, delivery companies, etc.) associated with the project will be instructed to use N West Avenue (Route 606) when entering the site and Cox Road when exiting the site. This will minimize disruptions to downtown Blackstone and avoid potential safety issues with the limited queue storage for Route 406 westbound left-turn movements onto Cox Road.

The final approved truck route map will be distributed to all construction employees and subcontractors to ensure the appropriate routes will be used to access the site. Signage is proposed to guide project-related traffic and make existing roadway users aware of the increased traffic levels and trucking activity during the construction phase. A preliminary signage plan is presented in the Attachments. The signage plan will be subject to review and approval by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT).

1.3 Construction Office, Staging and Employee Parking

The project is currently at the conceptual level. It is anticipated that parking for the construction-related activity (employees and deliveries) will occur entirely on-site. The construction entrance to access the proposed Substation and Switchyard is located at Oral Oaks Road. Laydown yards are currently proposed, all of which will be located within the project boundaries. The laydown yards are typically dimensioned 350 feet by 55 feet. The layout and configuration of the laydown yards' appurtenances such as construction trailers, parking layout, porta johns, dumpsters, material storage and drop-off, etc. will be determined during the construction level plan preparation. The proposed signage plan will also be updated, if needed, during the development of the construction-level plans.

A central parking field is not proposed since the project will consist of numerous solar panel pods. Employees are expected to park at the pod in which they are assigned to on each day of construction. The pods will be accessed via 28 proposed driveways including three driveways on Oral Oaks Road, six driveways on Laurel Branch Road, three driveways on Plank Road, nine driveways on Sneads Store Road, one driveway on Craig Mill Road and six driveways on Hilltop Road. Delivery vehicles will also use the proposed driveways to deliver materials. The proposed signage plan provided in the Attachments includes warning signs to alert motorists of slower moving heavy vehicles in the area.

The project will consist of three phases: construction, O&M, and decommissioning. The highest volume of site-related trips will occur during the peak construction phase of the project. A Transportation Assessment was prepared as part of the Lunenburg County conditional use permit (CUP) review process which included a detailed vehicle trip generation analysis for the peak construction activity anticipated for the project. A summary of the vehicle trip generation estimates provided in the May 2022 Transportation Assessment is provided in Table 1 for reference. These estimates conservatively assume that all construction workers would arrive within the same hour and depart within the same hour. Additionally, there are several routes connecting the site to the regional roadway system thereby reducing impacts to any single roadway segment or intersection. Peak construction activities are currently anticipated to occur for a period of approximately two to three months. The remainder of the construction period is anticipated to generate fewer vehicle trips.

Table 1 Trip Generation Summary – Peak Construction Period

		Project [*]	Trips	
Time Period/ Direction	Workforce Trips ¹	Non-Heavy Vehicle Deliveries ²	Heavy Vehicles ³	Total
Weekday AM Peak Hour			-	
Enter	143	1	2	146
Exit	0	1	2	3
Total	143	2	4	149
Weekday PM Peak Hour				
Enter	0	1	2	3
Exit	143	1	2	146
Total	143	2	4	149
Weekday Daily				
Enter	218	5	20	243
Exit	218	5	20	243
Total	436	10	40	486

¹ Assumed 150 construction workers per day. Conservatively assumed trips overlap with adjacent street peaks. Peak construction activities are currently anticipated to occur for a period of approximately two to three months. The remainder of the construction period is anticipated to generate fewer vehicle trips.

Over the course of the approximate 12-month construction schedule, the volume of daily truck counts will vary, but is anticipated to be up to 20 trucks per day during peak construction days.

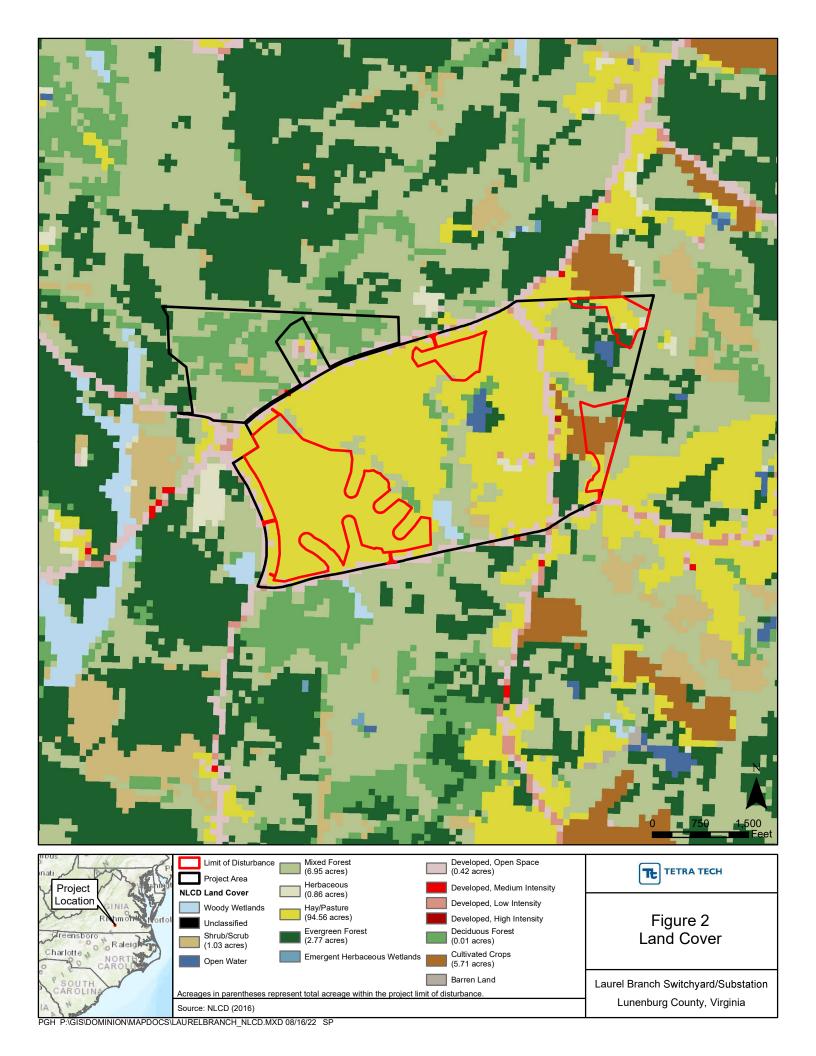
1.4 Public Road Evaluation: Pre- and Post-Construction

The project commits to conducting a photographic and video evaluation of the condition of the existing secondary roadways immediately leading to the site as shown in Figure 3. The project is anticipated to begin construction during second quarter 2024. The pre-construction road evaluation on the roadways shown in Figure 3 will be conducted closer to the beginning of the project's construction activity. The specific date of the evaluation will be determined in consultation with VDOT staff during the construction plan preparation phase.

² Assumed 5 deliveries per day with 40 percent of trips occurring during peak hours.

³ Assumed 20 deliveries per day spread evenly throughout day.

TAB J Land Cover Map





COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Stephen C. Brich, P.E. COMMISSIONER

RICHMOND DISTRICT 2430 Pine Forest Drive COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834 www.VDOT.Virginia.gov

September 8, 2022

Ms. Taylor N. Newton
Director of Planning and Economic Development
County of Lunenburg
11413 Courthouse Road
Lunenburg, VA 23952

(Sent Via E-mail)

SUBJECT:

Dominion Energy Virginia – Laurel Branch Switchyard Rte. 637, Craig Mill Rd. & S. Broad St., Rte. 655, Plank Rd.

Lunenburg County, VA

CUP #6-22 Application Review Comments, Submission Pkg. Date 8/22

Dear Ms. Newton:

The Virginia Department of Transportation, South Hill Residency Southern Region Land Development Office has reviewed the subject submission received by email on August 26, 2022. At this time we offer the below comments to the county.

- In Tab I, Traffic Study part of the package the main secondary routes they describe to be used for haul routes is Rte. 637, Craig Mill Rd. When actually according to their maps it will be Rte. 637, Craig Mill Rd. & S. Broad St. and Rte. 655, Plank Rd. They need to revise the package to reflect this.
- In Appendix D: Construction Management Plan, Section 1.2, in the 3rd paragraph the route description refers to Hwy. 406. That should read Hwy. 460. Also in Figure 2 that is referenced here does not have the Blackstone Insert map of this area as it calls for.
- I understand that section TAB I, Traffic Study in the submission package will be used for the entire Laurel Branch Solar Site as well for this Switch Station CUP. All the construction and permanent entrances associated with the solar farm will be reviewed with the site plan for the solar farm project. This CUP application was strictly for the switch station, the construction/permanent entrance, traffic impact and construction traffic haul routes for the switch station construction. The location of the combined construction and permanent entrance in the preliminary plans in this submission appears adequate for a private entrance. The geometrics and final location will be addressed at switchyard site plan stage.

Dominion Energy Virginia – Laurel Branch Switchyard 9/8/22 Page 2 of 2

• I did not see anything in the submission addressing maintenance of all secondary routes effected by construction traffic. I believe as part of the CUP application submission, Lunenburg County requires this to be addressed in it.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 434-774-2310 or by email, todd.cage@vdot.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

Digitally signed by C. Todd Cage DN: C=US, E-todd.Cage@ydot.virginia.gov, CN=C; Todd Cage CN=C; Todd Cage Ressort I am the author of this document Date: 2022.09.08 14:34:47-04:00'

C. Fodd Cage

Land Development Engineer
Southern Region Land Development
Richmond District/South Hill & Petersburg Residencies

CC: Paul Hinson, P.E., LEED AP, VDOT Southern Region Area Land Use Engineer John Legg, VDOT Southern Region Permits/Subdivision Specialist Sr. Tommy Johnson, VDOT South Hill Residency Administrator Kevin Smith, VDOT South Hill Assistant Residency Administrator

Staff Report

Report on Conditional Use Permit CUP-6-22 Laurel Branch Switchyard (Virginia Electric and Power Company) with Respect to Article 15.2-2232 of the Code of Virginia

Purpose of Review and Scope of Hearing

Purpose: To determine whether the request of Dominion Energy Virginia for a Conditional Use Permit for a proposed switchyard ("the Application"), as a "public utility facility" under Virginia Code Section 15.2-2232(A), is substantially in accord with the *Lunenburg/Kenbridge/Victoria Joint Comprehensive Plan 2019-2024* ("the Comprehensive Plan") relative to the general or approximate location, character, and extent of the proposed facility.

Scope of Hearing: Staff has recommended that the Planning Commission review the request for determination under Virginia Code Section 15.2-2232 prior to any review of a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application. Therefore, the subject hearing is limited in scope to the determination of whether the request made in the Application, file number CUP-6-22, is 'substantially in accord' with the Comprehensive Plan. During this hearing phase, only those facts that pertain to the broader issues of the Comprehensive Plan will be discussed. Should the request be found to be in accord with the Comprehensive Plan, detailed examination of the Application as a Conditional Use Permit will be addressed in additional hearings before the Planning Commission, with a subsequent hearing before the Board of Supervisors. Should the request be found not to be in accord with the Comprehensive Plan, the Application will be dismissed, and no further hearing nor consideration of the Conditional Use Permit will be conducted; the facility proposed in the Application will not receive approval or permissions to build. The Applicant may appeal this action to the Board of Supervisors.

Project Description and Existing Conditions

Description: The proposed facility will be a public utility switchyard (the "Switchyard") located on an approximately five (5) acre portion of the property located at 464 Laurel Branch Road. The proposed Switchyard and its adjacent substation (the "Substation") will be located within and as part of the proposed Laurel Branch Solar Facility, which has filed a concurrent conditional use application to permit an 80 MW utility-scale solar facility (the "Solar Project").

The Switchyard will be approximately 284 feet x 251 feet in dimension, fenced, and include structures not exceeding 75 feet in height, breakers, and ancillary equipment. There are two existing transmission lines that run through the proposed Solar Project, joining on the north side of Plank Road near Oral Oaks Road. The proposed Switchyard has been strategically located within the Solar Project area to interconnect with the electrical infrastructure already in place. The Switchyard will be an important component of the Solar Project; however, following decommissioning, the Switchyard will continue to provide a valuable service for the County by providing a facility that will interconnect the existing transmission infrastructure.

Preexisting Site Use/Economic Considerations: Preexisting or recent use of the site is not addressed within the Application; however, it appears that timber was harvested. Adjacent uses and uses within the area are comprised of residential and agricultural uses.

Existing Topography: The Application contains a *Slopes* plan indicating topography of the site. Generally, the site slopes downward from south to north and east to west and it is expected that stormwater would generally flow in these directions. Slopes generally range between 0% to 15%.

Soils: According to the Application, on-site soils are moderately fine-grained sands, humus, and clay, including USGS soil category of Ultisols (red clay soils with high acidity). Soil types found on the property include the following classifications: 10B: Helena sandy loam, 10C2: Helena sandy loam, 11B2: Herndon loam, 11C2: Herndon loam, 12B: Iredell loam, 12C2: Iredell loam, 13C2: Lignum loam, 18B: Orange loam, 1B2: Appling sandy loam, 1C2: Appling sandy loam.

Transportation: The Project will have a limited impact on existing transportation infrastructure once constructed. The Switchyard and the Substation will be constructed as part of the overall construction of the Solar Project. It is anticipated that construction will commence in 2024 and the Solar Project will be operational by the end of 2025.

Existing Air Quality: Given the sparseness of development and traffic, existing air quality should be acceptable. While no sampling has been done, one can expect low levels of degradation in the area due to its limited accessibility and use.

Existing Demand for Emergency Services: The site and existing use pose no unique demands on emergency services at present.

Adjacent and Surrounding Uses: The areas surrounding the proposed project area share the same land use and zoning characteristics – rural, agricultural, forestry uses – as well as the same land use classifications.

Comprehensive Plan Citations

The Comprehensive Plan includes a *Special Policy Areas* discussion and recommendations on solar facilities (Chapter V, *Special Policy Areas*), as follows:

Policy Area: Solar Facilities

Solar Facilities are acres of raw farm land covered with solar panels which enable the owner of the solar facilities to capture sunlight, convert that sunlight into electrical energy and then sell that electricity to the utility company.

Solar facilities are located in areas with availability of large tracts of land at low costs as well as available infrastructure (transmission lines) to support additional capacity. The existing land use of Lunenburg County could make the county's open areas an option for Solar Facilities. The County and the Towns should consider the development of alternative energy production while protecting agriculture, forestry lands and watersheds that the county enjoys.

Alternative energy production may be considered by the County and Towns as an attraction to expand employment opportunities and for companies interested in supporting solar development in communities where they are located.

Recommendations:

The County and Town Planning Commissions should consider safe development of solar energy that minimizes impacts to land uses, properties, and the environment, particularly for economic development purposes. They should develop reasonable conditions for the development of Solar Facilities which will protect the character of surrounding properties and will not limit future property development. Any County or Town planning measures which address Solar Facilities siting should also have an effective decommissioning plan developed and funded by the Solar developer before installation.

Additionally, the following Comprehensive Plan citations should be considered:

- Chapter V, Special Policy Areas, Policy Area: Loss of Agricultural Land and Open Space, references that "Future residential, commercial and industrial development should be encouraged to locate in areas where adequate public services are available or planned. Any development that does occur in the rural areas should be designed to incorporate significant open spaces and designed to minimize environmental impacts on the land and water resources," and that "Environmental impacts of any newly planned development area should be considered. It is essential to maintain a balance between development and preservation objectives throughout the area." This section recommends that "Commercial and/or industrial developments that are approved in the rural portions of the County should be consistent with the best interest of the community."
- Chapter V, Special Policy Areas, Policy Area: Protection of Water Resources, references that surface water resources within the County "provide recreational opportunities and are a critical component of the County's infrastructure and quality of life. As such, protection and enhancement of these water resources should be a primary object of the County and the Towns."
- Chapter VI, Goals, Objectives, and Strategies, B., Economy and Employment:
 - o Goal: Promote the expansion of a diversified economy.
 - Objective 1: Encourage quality industries to locate within the County and Towns.
 - Strategy 4: County Government, and other parties, to promote the area to environmentally friendly industries.
 - Objective 2: Provide adequate land and resources for commercial and industrial uses.
 - Strategy 5: Guide community and industrial uses into areas with adequate public utilities and transportation access.

- Chapter VI, Goals, Objectives, and Strategies, C., Land Use:
 - o Goal: Promote a balance of land uses that meet economic and demographic needs of Lunenburg County, the Town of Kenbridge and the Town of Victoria.
 - Objective 4: Encourage quality industries to locate within the County and Towns.
 - Strategy 1: Encourage industries to locate in the County and Towns' industrial parks or in areas where they are compatible to adjacent uses.
 - Strategy 2: Guide community and industrial uses into areas with adequate public utilities and transportation access.
 - Strategy 3: Work with interest groups to attract new industries to the locality. Encourage industries to locate in the industrial parks or in areas where they are compatible to adjacent uses.
 - Strategy 4: Liaise with the Chamber of Commerce, and other parties, to promote the area to environmentally friendly industries.
- Chapter VI, Goals, Objectives, and Strategies, F., Natural Resources:
 - o Goal: Protect and preserve the natural resources of the community.
 - Objective 1: Prevent development in areas of critical environmental importance.
 - Strategy 1: Restrict development in flood plains, swamps and drainage ways.
 - Strategy 2: Restrict development on soils that will not adequately support structures.
 - Strategy 4: Identify and protect all open spaces which have recreational potential or which would enhance the environment in Lunenburg County, the Town of Kenbridge and the Town of Victoria.
 - Strategy 5: Promote the preservation and planting of trees, shrubs and other natural foliage.

Staff Analysis and Comments

Staff has reviewed and analyzed the Application and the above referenced Comprehensive Plan citations to determine whether the project is substantially in accord with the Comprehensive Plan.

With respect to the *Solar Facilities* policy area, Staff is of the opinion that the proposed facility can be characterized as safe development that minimizes, or will minimize through reasonable conditions, impacts to land uses, properties, and the environments.

With respect to the *Loss of Agricultural Land and Open Space* policy area, significant areas of the Solar Project will remain undeveloped and the project is designed to minimize environmental impacts, and/or such impacts will be minimized through reasonable conditions.

With respect to the *Protection of Water Resources* policy area, Staff is of the opinion that the project will be subject to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality regulations and permitting, which will work to ensure protection of the County's water resources.

With respect to applicable *Economy and Employment* goals, objectives, and strategies. Staff is of the opinion that the proposed development works to expand a diversified economy within the County, and would constitute an environmentally friendly industrial use, primarily due to the proposed scale of operation, generally sited in an area with adequate and necessary utility access.

With respect to applicable *Land Use* goals, objectives, and strategies, while the area has adequate and necessary utility access and constitutes a more environmentally friendly industrial use, it is not inherently compatible with adjacent uses, which are almost entirely residential and agricultural. Significant setbacks and buffers/screening work to mitigate for this incompatibility and additional reasonable conditions should be considered as part of the review of the Conditional Use Permit.

With respect to applicable *Natural Resources* goals, objectives, and strategies, Staff is of the opinion that the proposed development does not negatively impact natural resources of the County, especially areas of critical environmental importance.

Staff Conclusions and Recommendations

Staff has analyzed the applicable elements of the Comprehensive Plan referenced above, and the proposed location, character, and extent of the project appears to be consistent with the overall policies, goals, objectives, and strategies of the Comprehensive Plan, or reasonably expected with the imposition of conditions as part of the review of the Conditional Use Permit. Subject to further review of the Conditional Use Permit, Staff is of the opinion and recommends that the proposed switchyard facility is substantially in accord with the Comprehensive Plan, or parts thereof.

As noted at the beginning of this Report, the question before the Planning Commission with this 2232 review is whether the general location or approximate location, character, and extent of the proposed solar energy facility <u>is substantially in accord</u> with the Comprehensive Plan or part thereof. Staff suggests that the Planning Commission consider all relevant portions of the Comprehensive Plan in its analysis, and carefully and thoroughly document the reasons and basis for the action which the Commission takes. Options for Commission action are as follows:

- 1. By motion, determine that the application is substantially in accord with the Comprehensive Plan, with written reasons for the decision;
- 2. By motion, determine that the application is not substantially in accord with the Comprehensive Plan, with written reasons for the decision; or
- 3. By motion, defer action on the review at this time and continue for further discussion and consideration (within the 60-day window).

Planning Commission Actions

Option 1 - Applicant's proposal is substantially in accord with the Comprehensive Plan

I move that Dominion Energy Virginia's proposed 5-acre switchyard and substation facility, as described in the conditional use permit application CUP-6-22, is substantially in accord with the Lunenburg County Comprehensive Plan, or parts thereof, for the following reasons:

- 1. The proposed facility can be characterized as safe development that minimizes, or will be expected to minimize through conditions, impacts to land uses, properties, and the environments.
- 2. The project will be subject to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality regulations and permitting, which will work to ensure protection of the County's water resources.
- 3. The proposed development works to expand a diversified economy within the County, and would constitute an environmentally friendly industrial use, primarily due to the proposed scale of operation, generally sited in an area with adequate and necessary utility access.
- 4. The area of the proposed project has adequate and necessary utility access and the project constitutes a more environmentally friendly industrial use; while not inherently compatible with adjacent uses, which are almost entirely residential and agricultural, significant setbacks and buffers/screening will work to mitigate for this incompatibility and additional conditions can considered as part of the review of the Conditional Use Permit.
- 5. The proposed development does not negatively impact natural resources of the County, especially areas of critical environmental importance. Further, the project works to promote the preservation of existing trees by retaining existing vegetated areas along the periphery of the site.

The Secretary of the Planning Commission is directed to communicate the Planning Commission's findings to the Board of Supervisors.

Option 2 - Applicant's proposal is not substantially in accord with the Comprehensive Plan

I move that Dominion Energy Virginia's proposed 5-acre switchyard and substation facility, as described in the conditional use permit application CUP-6-22, is not substantially in accord with the Lunenburg County Comprehensive Plan, or parts thereof, for the following reasons:

- 1. The proposed facility cannot be characterized as safe development and does not minimize impacts to land uses, properties, and the environment.
- 2. The location of the proposed facility is a rural area, the amount of undeveloped area within the project is insufficient and the project is not designed to minimize environmental impacts.
- 3. Despite being subject to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality regulations and permitting, the project will have negative effects on the County's water resources.
- 4. The proposed development does not work to expand a diversified economy within the County, and, given the scale of the proposal, would not constitute an environmentally friendly industrial use; furthermore, utility and transportation access to support the development are inadequate.
- 5. The proposed project is not compatible with adjacent residential and agricultural uses; setbacks and buffers/screening are insufficient, and cannot be improved in a manner that would improve the compatibility of the project with adjacent uses.
- 6. The proposed development negatively impacts natural resources of the County, especially areas of critical environmental importance such as existing stands of trees and the isolated wetland to the east of the project site.

The Secretary of the Planning Commission is directed to communicate the Planning Commission's findings to the Board of Supervisors.

Option 3 – Deferral of the application

described in the conditional use permit application CUP-6-22, until the Planning Commission			
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under Va. Code § 15.2-2232 regarding its proposed 5-acre switchyard and substation facility,	8		aurel Branch Switchyard's request

Public Comment Received

Other Business

County Attorney Update

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 4th, 20223, at 7:00 p.m.

(If the time needs to be changed, you will be contacted prior to confirm if it works with your schedule.)