

SCC APPROVAL PROCESS

(138 kV Transmission Lines and Above)

SITING PROCESS

BELOW IS A GENERAL OUTLINE; A SPECIFIC METHODOLOGY IS DEVELOPED FOR EACH PROJECT.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

EXISTING DATA (GIS) CONSTRAINTS MAPPING

- Existing Landuse and Landcover
- RTE Species (data request from DCR)
- High Resolution Aerials (VA 2006-2007)
- Geological (USGS) base mapping
- Comprehensive Plans/Future Landuse mapping (Local Officials and Planning Office)
- Local (County, City, Town) Databases: parks, zoning, landfills, trails, designations, conservation easements, etc.
- DCR Conservation Lands: Parks, USFS, NPS, Nature Conservancy, Conservation Easements, Wildlife Refuges, etc.
- Water: Springs/Streams/Rivers/Water Bodies
- NWI: Wetlands
- FAA Nautical Charts (Airports)
- FEMA 100 Year Floodplain
- Wilderness Areas
- Parkways & Wild/Scenic Rivers (Federal)
- Scenic Rivers & Roads (State)
- Cultural Features: cemeteries, public blds, schools, airports, hospitals, churches, etc.
- Visual: known key observation points
- Existing Historic & Archaeological Resources (VDHR)
- Karst Features

(Degree of mapping is dependent on project & data availability)

STUDY ROUTE DEVELOPMENT

- APCo's environmental consultant develops study alternatives (Least impact on constraints data).
- APCo engineers field check proposed study alternatives.
- Alternatives modified as needed based on comments and field reviews.

SCOPING & INPUT

LOCAL OFFICIAL AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

- Local participation, input and coordination
- Review and comments
- Waste sites, conservation areas, easements, comp. plan, parks and rec, public works, planning and zoning, etc.
- Future landuse plans

AGENCY PROJECT REVIEWS

- VDHR (Archaeological & Historical review)
- DCR (rare, threatened, endangered species, karst, recreation, conservation lands)
- VDMME (Minerals)
- VA Dept. of Health (drinking water)
- VDOT (planned transportation facilities)
- USFWS (Federal RTE species)
- USDA-NRCS - District Conservationist (farmland, hydric soils, insect/plant species)
- DEQ Wetland Office
- DEQ Regional Office
- VDGIF (Listed Species)
- Federal Agencies (NPS, USFS as needed)
- US Army Corp of Engineers (water)
- VA Marine Resource Commission
- VA Aviation (Local Airports)
- VA Department of Forestry

FINAL APPLICATION

REFINE STUDY ROUTES

Based on agency, local, and public comments, update mapping and refine routes as needed.

FINALIZE IMPACT ANALYSIS

- Natural Resources
- Scenic Resources
- Cultural Resources

PREFERRED ROUTE SELECTION

- APCo engineering review (construction feasibility)
- Field Verify (APCo project team)

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS & SCC APPLICATION (if required)

VIRGINIA STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION (SCC) DESCRIPTION

What is the VA SCC?

Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) has regulatory authority over electrical utilities in Virginia. Its authority ranges from setting rates charged by investor-owned utilities to certifying transmission facilities.

What lines need VA SCC certification?

As of July 1, 2007, Virginia law requires 138 kV and larger transmission facilities to be certified by the SCC. Previously, only 150 kV and larger transmission facilities required certification.

What are the SCC's responsibilities?

The overall responsibility of the SCC is to determine if the project is needed and whether the proposed route reasonably avoids adverse impact on the environment.

How do I voice my concerns or become a participant?

- 1) **Public Workshop:** comment forms
- 2) **APCo website:** www.appalachianpower.com/news/ go to the pending project of concern. Phone or email comments.
- 3) **SCC website:** After application is filed, the SCC accepts comments electronically by following instructions at www.scc.virginia.gov/caseinfo.htm.
- 4) **In Writing:** to the SCC Clerk.
- 5) **Public Hearing:** If a public hearing is established, you may attend and sign up to express concerns directly to the Hearing Examiner.
- 6) **Participation as a Respondent:** Any person or entity may file with the Commission Clerk a notice of participation. The respondent may then file testimony and exhibits by which it expects to establish its case.

FILE WITH SCC

Transmission Line Application Submitted to SCC
DAY 1

DEQ Sufficiency Review
DAY 20

Application Accepted by SCC and Scheduling Order Issued

- Case number established
- Hearing dates set

DAY 30

Public Notice

- Local Newspaper
- Published twice in two successive weeks
- APCo required to notify public, local governments and affected landowners.

DAY 30

Preparation of SCC Staff Report

- SCC staff review
- Interrogatory questions for applicant.
- Depending on the project, the SCC may have outside consultants review the application.

DAY 30 to 120

STATE AGENCY REVIEWS

State Agency Environmental Review Begins

- Under the direction of DEQ, the environmental review of the project impacts.

DAY 30 to 90

Public Comments

- Electronically by following the instructions at www.scc.virginia.gov/caseinfo.htm
- In writing to the SCC Clerk
- Public Hearing

DAY 30 to 150

Participation as a Respondent

Any person or entity may file with the Commission Clerk a notice of participation. The respondent may then file testimony and exhibits by which it expects to establish its case.

DAY 30 to 90

SCC Staff Report Issued
DAY 120

Applicant (APCo) Rebuttal Testimony and Exhibits

- Response to testimony of participants
- Response to Staff Report

DAY 134

SCC HEARING & CONCLUSIONS

Public Hearing

Individual oral public comments accepted.

DAY 150

Formal Evidentiary Hearing

Review of evidence by the applicant, participants and Staff.

DAY 150

Hearing Examiner's Report Issued to the Commission

DAY 230

Comments on Hearing Examiner's Report

By applicant, respondents and Staff concerning report.

DAY 260

SCC Order Entered

Commission's order

DAY 300

Appeal to VA Supreme Court

Approximately 9 months

Approximately 8 to 12 months

* This is a conceptual diagram to illustrate the certification process and is in no means to be interpreted as a legal description.
* Hypothetical timeline shown. Timeline is affected by many variables, which are impossible to foresee.