

## The New View at Jamestown?



Could adding to this existing Dominion transmission line five miles away from Jamestown meet the needs of Peninsula ratepayers? © Margaret Fowler

17

Number of proposed towers across the unspoiled James River at Jamestown.

295

Height, in feet, of the four tallest transmission towers—as tall as the Statue of Liberty.

### James River Transmission Line

Dominion Virginia Power has proposed a super-sized power line that would slice across the James River at historic Jamestown. This industrial project threatens endangered native species such as the Atlantic sturgeon, which has spawned in the James for the past 120 million years, and also permanently tarnishes one of our nation's most historically significant places.



NPCA.ORG

June 2015

## Must Jamestown's Historic Character be Destroyed?

Could other options provide sufficient, reliable power without ruining this historic area? Alternatives must be analyzed and evaluated by the public.

### The Place:

Over four centuries ago, Captain John Smith sailed up the James River and set foot in North America. This settlement became the first permanent English colony, and planted the seed for the growth of America. Historic Jamestown and the nearby Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail offer unspoiled views of this culturally, historically, economically and educationally rich region, where visitors today can experience the river much as Captain Smith and the Native Americans who met him did.

### The Problem:

Dominion Virginia Power has applied for a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to build a massive 500 kV electric transmission line directly through this historic setting to fulfill the supposed energy needs of the Peninsula of Virginia. They would construct 17 towers, some nearly as tall as the Statue of Liberty, all heavily-lit day and night. This chronic eyesore would light up the pristine night skies, threaten the endangered Atlantic sturgeon, and disrupt the significant local tourism industry while permanently damaging Jamestown's historic setting.

### The Solution:

In order to protect one of our nation's most treasured places, Dominion [should be required](#) to evaluate alternative ways to supply electricity to the region and share information about current and future need in this area. An analysis by Waine Whittier of RLC Engineering identified at least six feasible alternatives worthy of further evaluation.

*Alternative 1:* Instead of closing the Yorktown and Chesterfield power plants, invest in retrofitting technology that reduces pollution

*Alternative 2:* Aggressively pursue energy efficiency and conservation initiatives in the area now served by the Yorktown and Chesterfield plants, as do progressive utilities across the country (smart monitors for air conditioning and refrigerator, energy efficient light bulbs, etc.)

*Alternative 3:* Construct a 230 kV line at the proposed river crossing location, underneath the river instead of above it

a. Cost: between \$192 million and \$224 million

b. Could add a second 230 kV line if electricity demand grows significantly

*Alternative 4:* Construct a 230 kV overhead line at James River Bridge, where overhead transmission lines already exist, as well as a substation at Surry

a. Cost: \$102 million

## The New View at Jamestown?

*Alternative 5:* Aggressively invest in distributed solar and wind sources for the region. Dominion has leased 112,000 acres off the coast of Virginia for offshore wind turbine farms, capable of generating enough electricity for 700,000 homes.

*Alternative 6:* Build new natural gas-fired generation facility on peninsula  
These alternatives must be thoroughly analyzed and considered by the public.

### What you can do:

[Add your voice](#) to the tens of thousands of park advocates who oppose this transmission line. We must be able to meet this area's energy needs without sacrificing one of the cornerstone's of American history. The Army Corps of Engineers will decide whether this transmission line will move forward. Please tell Colonel Olsen of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to require Dominion Virginia Power to complete an Environmental Impact Statement, hold public meetings, and keep this transmission line out of our national parks.

The James River needs your help—[take action now](#).

# 4

Number of national parks and historic sites that would be harmed by this power line

---

Contact Pam Goddard, Senior Manger  
Chesapeake & Virginia Programs, at  
202.454.3365, [pgoddard@npca.org](mailto:pgoddard@npca.org).



Jamestown's historic setting on the James River is at risk of being forever scarred by a new electric transmission line and 17 transmission towers. © Scott Neville