

W&OD Trail Project Update
Underground Electric Transmission Lines
January 7, 2010

Project Schedule

The trail detour was expected to open in December 2009 but final construction was delayed by heavy snow and freezing temperatures. The temporary detour now has been paved from the wayside shelter near Mile Marker 36 to Canongate Drive, and from the Canongate Drive cul-de-sac to the 4H driveway. From this point, trail users will resume use of the existing paved bike trail heading north. **The detour will open on Monday, January 11, 2010.**

The portion of the existing W&OD gravel trail between the 4H driveway and the Dry Mill Road crossing near Mile Marker 38 is now closed to trail users while it is being prepared for detour trail paving; this segment of the detour is expected to open in March 2010, so all trail users will be on the original paved trail in this area until then. Trail users should use caution through these areas and pay close attention to directional signage along the existing and new trail detour routes.

Starting Monday, January 11, 2010, Dominion Virginia Power foresters will begin clearing trees on the W&OD for the underground line construction. Construction of the underground transmission lines will begin shortly after tree clearing, and is expected to take 10-12 months. Trail users should use caution near tree clearing activities and other construction, and obey flagmen, warning and directional signs at all times. Trail users are reminded that most of the detour route traverses private property; please respect these landowners and stay on the trail. Users are reminded never to enter the construction zone.

Project Background

The work on the W&OD Trail is a portion of Dominion Virginia Power's 11 mile Pleasant View – Hamilton 230kv line approved by the State Corporation Commission (SCC).

The Virginia General Assembly passed legislation in March 2008 requiring Dominion Virginia Power (DVP) to install underground electrical transmission facilities on the W&OD Trail within the easement owned by the electric company. The legislation mandates that (1) DVP install the line on the park property, which is 100 feet in width, and (2) the line be capable of handling a double circuit that requires two separated underground trenches. DVP will install the transmission lines on approximately 1.8 miles of park property just west of Leesburg between the Rt. 7 Bypass and Dry Mill Road, between mile markers 36 and 38.

DVP has determined that the most practical location to install the pair of duct banks is along either side of the existing paved trail. This decision was made primarily because of the steep slopes and significant tree cover that would be encountered by moving away from the paved trail. For engineering reasons pertaining to heat generated by the transmission lines, the trenches must be separated by a minimum of 8 feet. In most cases, the width between the trenches will be kept at 8 feet, except where manholes and buried vaults must be installed at

cable splice locations. Construction of two trenches at the same time will ultimately limit impacts to the W&OD Trail since construction will not be required again for installation of the second circuit when required to meet future demand. Below is a typical detail of the underground cable system.

The construction will cause significant damage to the existing asphalt trail. Upon completion of the project, DVP will rebuild and widen the paved trail and restore the gravel trail to its original condition within the limits of the project.

Questions about the project can be addressed to DVP at 1-888-291-0190 or to NVRPA by contacting Kate Rudacille at krudacil@nvrpa.org or 703-352-5900. More information about the entire line can be found on Dominion's website:

<http://www.dom.com/about/electric-transmission/westloudoun/index.jsp>

