



**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rural Utilities Service**

**HOLLAND CLIFF – HEWITT ROAD
230 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT**

SCOPING MEETING REPORT

Prepared by:

BLACK & VEATCH CORPORATION

for:



**SOUTHERN MARYLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
HUGHESVILLE, MD**

**B&V Project 146026(G)
B&V File 32.0201**

March 11, 2010



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ADC	Alexandria Drafting Company
BER	Borrowers Environmental Report
CFR	Code of Federal Regulation
EA	Environmental Assessment
EMF	Electric and Magnetic Fields
kV	kilovolts
MW	megawatts
MWH	megawatt-hour
Project	Holland Cliff to Hewitt Road 230 kV Transmission Line Project
PSC	Public Services Commission
RD	Rural Development
RUS	Rural Utilities Service
SMECO	Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

1.0 Introduction

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SMECO) is proposing to construct a new 230 kV double circuit transmission line from SMECO's Holland Cliff switching station in northern Calvert County, Maryland, to the SMECO Hewitt Road switching station in St. Mary's County, Maryland. Also proposed as part of this project is the southern Calvert County 230/69 kV switching station that would be connected to this line and would be located between the Holland Cliff and Hewitt Road switching stations in the vicinity of the existing SMECO Calvert Cliffs 69 kV transmission line tap near the intersection of Pardoe Road and Maryland State Route 4. The new 230 kV Holland Cliff to Hewitt Road transmission line and associated southern Calvert County 230/69 kV switching station, hereafter referred to as "the Project", is being proposed to meet growth in electrical energy demand and improve system reliability within SMECO's service area.

Funding for the Project can come from any number of sources, including the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). If the funding comes from RUS, certain requirements apply. These are stated in Title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 1794 – Environmental Policies and Procedures, as amended.

For undertakings like the SMECO Project, where more than 25 miles of 230 kV transmission line would be constructed, one of these requirements is the need to hold a public scoping meeting for which members of the public can learn about the project, ask questions, and voice their concerns. The public's concerns must then be addressed in the Environmental Assessment, which is also a requirement of 7 CFR Part 1794, as amended.

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the scoping meeting that was held for the Project in fulfillment of the requirements in 7 CFR 1794.52. In developing this summary, the RUS Bulletin 1794A-603, *Scoping Guide for RUS Funded Projects Requiring Environmental Assessments with Scoping and Environmental Impact Statements*, was used for reference and guidance.

2.0 Previous Public Meetings

SMECO conducted a carefully planned “roll-out” of information on the Project starting in March 2008. Employees, key stakeholders, and public officials were provided information on the Project. As one of several means of informing the general public, three public meetings were held in the spring of 2008:

- April 24 at the Springhill Suites in Prince Frederick
- April 29 at the Daugherty Center in Lexington Park
- May 1 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Dowell

All three meetings were held from 5:00PM to 8:00PM and all were conducted in the open house format. SMECO had requested that the last of these meetings, on May 1, be designated as the scoping meeting required in 7 CFR 1794.52. However, the inability to finalize the Alternatives Evaluation Study Report and Macro-Corridor Study Report in time for the required Federal Register newspaper notices precluded the use of May 1 meeting as a scoping meeting. The official RUS scoping meeting was held on September 11, 2008.

All three of these public meetings were set up to include six information stations (see Section 4.0 for details), each staffed with experienced SMECO personnel or those of SMECO’s designer engineer and environmental consultant Black & Veatch and EMF consultant Exponent. SMECO received written comments from the public along with survey responses, the results of which can be reviewed in the appendices to this document. The names and addresses of the commenters have been deleted to protect their privacy.

Based on sign in sheets provided at the entrance to each meeting, the following numbers were in attendance:

- 47 on April 24 at the Springhill Suites in Prince Frederick
- 27 on April 29 at the Daugherty Center in Lexington Park
- 20 on May 1 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Dowell

Business roundtable breakfasts held on the same dates and at the same locations were attended by six, nine, and two persons, respectively. Attendees were local stakeholders who were sent invitations in advance.

Other efforts to inform the public, conducted prior to the scoping meeting in September 2008, included: briefings with local business owners, special interest groups, and public officials; establishment of a web site devoted entirely to the Project; and availability of Project information through the SMECO customer service phone lines.

Appendix A contains a complete list of comments received at the April and May public meetings. In general, attendees felt that SMECO provided the information they

needed and they liked the meeting format and layout. From the multiple choice survey questions, respondents strongly agreed that the project area has grown significantly and electric transmission must expand to meet demand (30 of 42), an overhead line using existing right-of-way is the best option for a new line 27 of 42), and the use of weathering steel poles is the preferred alternative (28 of 42). There was less consensus on the method for crossing the Patuxent River, with respondents split evenly between an underwater line sunk into the river bottom, an under-river line bored beneath the riverbed, and an overhead line attached to a new Thomas Johnson Memorial Bridge.

When asked what additional information would the attendees liked to have seen presented, there was no consensus. Topics of concern and interest included: pole locations, property values, project cost and impact on customer rates, underground construction instead of overhead lines, and the type of fuel used to generate the electricity that SMECO provides to its customers.

3.0 Scoping Meeting Preparation Activities

On September 11, 2008, SMECO held a Project scoping meeting in accordance with 7 CFR 1794.52. The scoping meeting was held at a SMECO office located at 901 Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick, Maryland. The meeting hours were from 5:00PM to 8:00PM and the meeting was conducted in an open house format.

In preparation for the meeting, SMECO developed and submitted to RUS several documents and notices for approval. Two documents, an Alternatives Evaluation Study Report and a Macro-Corridor Study Report, were submitted to RUS for comments earlier in the year. RUS provided its comments and the reports were finalized in August. SMECO received formal acceptance of the reports from RUS on August 25, 2008.

SMECO also provided text for the public notices required by RUS. These are found in the appendices to this report and include:

- The RUS Federal Register notice published on August 27
- A Notice of Intent to Hold a Scoping Meeting published on August 29 in the St. Mary's Enterprise and the Calvert Recorder
- A detailed notice in the Legal Section of the same newspapers

Earlier in the day of the scoping meeting, two RUS representatives, Stephanie Strength and Lauren McGee, participated with SMECO and Black & Veatch Project staff in an inspection of portions of the Project corridor. Ms. Strength is an Environmental Protection Specialist and Ms. McGee an Environmental Scientist with RUS. The corridor inspection was conducted from 8:00AM to approximately 3:00PM. Such an inspection is recommended in the aforementioned RUS Bulletin 1794A-603.

A variety of federal, state, and local agencies were invited to the scoping meeting and offered the opportunity of a pre-meeting gathering at 3:00PM. However, only one agency representative expressed interest in a pre-meeting and later agreed, at SMECO's request, to meet with SMECO during the public meeting instead.

The appendices provide a list of the agencies and representatives that were sent written invitation letters. Enclosed with each letter, a sample of which appears in the appendices, were Project location and route maps. The invitees were also sent a compact disk containing the approved Alternatives Evaluation Study and Macro-Corridor Study reports.

4.0 Summary of RUS Scoping Meeting

As previously stated, SMECO held a scoping meeting on September 11, 2008 at the SMECO office located at 901 Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick, Maryland. The location of the meeting was less than 25 driving miles from any point along the proposed route and so complied with the guidance provided in RUS Bulletin 1794A-603. The meeting hours were from 5:00PM to 8:00PM and the meeting was conducted in an open house format.

There were six information stations at the meeting, titled as follows:

- Station One – Energy Use Is Growing
- Station Two – To Meet Your Needs, We Need to Upgrade Our System
- Station Three – Upgrading This Line Means You Will Have More Reliable Power
- Station Four – This Project Has Limited Impact
- Station Five – We Will Use Existing Rights-of-Way
- Station Six – We Will Do This Project the Right Way

Photocopies of the displays at each information station are provided in the appendices to this report.

Each of the stations was staffed by one or more professionals from SMECO, Black & Veatch, and Exponent. For SMECO, representatives of executive management, project management, engineering, right-of-way maintenance, environmental management, and public relations were present.

In addition to the information stations, a table for RUS representatives Stephanie Strength and Lauren McGee was set up near the entrance door. Four free-standing display banners providing information about SMECO were located in the middle of the room. A room layout with dimensions is provided in the appendices.

In addition to the displays described above, SMECO provided additional visual aids:

- Small sections of galvanized steel and weathering steel poles to show the difference in appearance (survey results from this meeting and the previous meetings indicate the weathering steel is overwhelmingly preferred by the public and will be used for the project)
- Large easel-mounted ADC maps showing the Project route
- Books of aerial photographs of the route for members of the public to use to determine the Projects location with respect to their properties

- Numerous brochures providing information on the project, electrical power reliability, increased demand for electricity, environmental impacts, right-of-way maintenance, tree planting, and EMF.

From the public, five people attended (see Appendix E for a copy of the sign-in sheet). SMECO and RUS received no written comments from those attending the meeting. Conversations with those attending the meeting indicate that the greatest concern is how private property and property values will be affected by the Project.

Following the meeting, RUS received a comment letter, dated February 13, 2009, from the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (see Appendix F). The letter requested that following topics be evaluated in the proposed EA for the Project:

- Purpose and need for the Project
- Alternatives analysis
- Methods to minimize adverse effects to waters of the U.S.
- Corps public interest review factors
- Cumulative and indirect impacts resulting from the Project
- Environmental justice
- Compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act
- Air Quality
- Compliance with the Executive Order on floodplains
- Potential conflicts with shipping traffic and recreational/commercial boating and fishing activities

5.0 Follow-up Activities

Using the information obtained from the public meetings in the spring of 2008 and the formal RUS scoping meeting held on September 11, 2008, and in response to specific questions asked by attendees, SMECO and Black & Veatch revised portions of the Borrower's Environmental Report (BER), which was submitted to RUS in November 2008. Examples of how that information was used includes the following:

- SMECO used survey data regarding pole-type preference in the Engineering and Construction Features section of the BER in selecting the weathering steel option.
- SMECO used landowner feedback in its consideration of new structures placement wherever there is flexibility in locating them.
- Inquiries from landowners regarding the possibility of locating the new transmission lines underground and out of site led SMECO to authorize a study on the costs and benefits of doing so. This report of this study was submitted as part of the BER.
- SMECO also agreed to meet individually with those landowners who have concerns with EMF and has offered to provide free EMF readings taken by qualified SMECO personnel.

Scoping meeting invitations sent to agency personnel led to further communications with them at which more information was obtained. For example, SMECO learned that it cannot use state highway right-of-way for routing of any portion of the proposed transmission line. SMECO has also met with and continues to work with U.S. Naval Recreation Center personnel to determine specific placement of the proposed transmission line through the Center and the location for the horizontal directional bore which will take the line under the Patuxent River.

Given its efforts to inform the public, and its use of information received from the public in its development of the BER, SMECO believes that it has fulfilled the obligations for scoping described in 7 CFR Part 1794.

APPENDIX A

Southern Maryland Reliability Project

Hometown Power You Can Depend On

Open House Survey Results from April and May Public Meetings

1. Please check the one statement you most agree with.

- 30 A Southern Maryland and Calvert County have grown significantly in the past 30 years, **and electric transmission must expand to meet demand.**
- 3 B Southern Maryland and Calvert County have grown significantly in the past 30 years, **but electric transmission does not need to expand to meet demand.**
- 2 C Southern Maryland and Calvert County have not grown significantly in the past 30 years, **but electric transmission should expand ahead of development.**
- 1 D Southern Maryland and Calvert County have not grown significantly in the past 30 years, **but electric transmission must expand ahead of development.**
- 6 no response

2. Of the following potential types of routes for transmission line, which one option do you support the most?

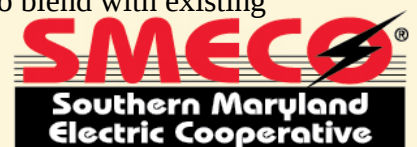
- 27 A An overhead line which runs along existing SMECO rights-of-way and does not require land acquisition.
- 6 B An overhead line which requires land acquisition and construction through currently undeveloped fields and forests.
- 5 C None of these options, but I do support a new transmission line.
- 1 D I do not support any new transmission line.
- 3 no response

3. To cross the lower Patuxent River, which one route for the expanded transmission line do you support the most?

- 11 A An underwater line achieved by sinking an insulated cable into the river bottom.
- 11 B An underground line achieved by horizontal directional drilling under the river to install the cable beneath the riverbed.
- 11 C An overhead line crossing achieved by installing cables on a new Thomas Johnson Memorial Bridge if it is constructed by 2013.
- 9 no response

4. Of the following, which one type of material for the transmission poles do you prefer the most?

- 11 A Galvanized steel, which will remain metallic colored for the life of the pole.
- 28 B Weathering steel, which will develop a brown coating over time to blend with existing wooded areas along the right-of-way.
- 3 no response



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Southern Maryland Reliability Project

Hometown Power You Can Depend On

5. Were you satisfied with the amount of information available to you at SMECO's open house?

- 33 A Yes, SMECO provided the information I wanted.
- 0 B No, SMECO did not provide the information I wanted.
- 2 C Neither, SMECO only provided some of the information I wanted.
- 7 no response

6. If you did not answer yes, what additional information would you like to have seen presented?

Bring in overhead lines.

Where do poles go and what will it do to property value?

Weathering steel poles much better than galvanized

Which is cheaper? Galvanized or weathering steel?

Place all lines underground through the town centers in Calvert. I got the impression that additional clearing would not be necessary. I would be interested in the total clearing that might be necessary.

I don't think SMECO can answer the question I would like answered as that would be what fuel are we going to use in the near future and distant future to generate power?

Please contact me regarding lines going north.

Please send map book page 63 to _____@hotmail.com

I wish that you had used this format when you constructed the 69kV poles in N. Town Creek.

Survey is not unbiased--don't feel it's an accurate representation of current situation/concerns.

A laptop that could zoom in on areas of change would have made answering my questions easier for the gentleman who did. Thank you for your presentation.

For Q. #2 - New overhead line along highway

Re: Q 1 - Growth appears to be slowing.

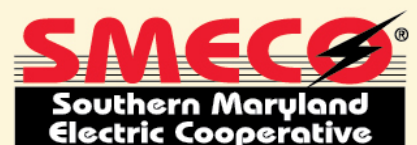
Re: Q 2 - Underground

Cost to customers per alternative and estimated tower height at specific locations.

All my questions were answered. The three people I spoke with were well informed and very informative.

Re: Q 3 - Passing through Patuxent River tunnel upstream from Solomons

Re: Q 2 - With underground segments in populated areas



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Re: Q 3 - none of the above

Re: Q 4 - No new poles. No new transmission line.

Re: Q 5 - No comment.

7. What would you like to tell us about our proposal to improve our transmission system and ensure continued reliability?

Save on electric bill.

Keep us informed. Interest in new Huntingtown substation.

230-kV line is the most economical and logical.

Moved.

Service.

Good (seems to indicate they provide good service)

Follow up restoration.

Great open house. I spoke at length with Chip Kingsley, Herb Reigel, Chris Martens, John Rutt, and Roger Schneider. All provided outstanding information on use of current right-of-way, types of poles (no "Martian spiders"), and outside the scope of the open house, connection of private power like solar. Thanks. P.S. Also very good to have the president here.

What you provided was thorough, but hope you continue to provide info throughout the entire process.

My bills have gone up 75% already; how much higher will they go to implement this project?

Hope that every effort will be made to accommodate pole placement and restoration of property damaged during construction.

Run as much underground as possible to prevent weather related outages.

If possible, bury cables where next to neighborhoods in residential areas.

Just keep us informed. GREAT JOB!

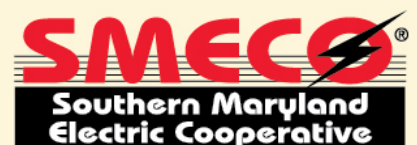
I would prefer one set of poles rather than 69kV & 230 kV poles marching through woodland and streams. (Town Creek)

With growth, improvement of transmission systems is mandatory. Electric is the "mainstay" of all house folks. You can't stop progress. Underground line for cable should always be used if at all possible.

Currently have a pole on our property

Well thought out. Good for everyone in Southern Maryland.

Nicely done. "Workstations" very effective.



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Southern Maryland Reliability Project

Hometown Power You Can Depend On

Keep far away from existing homes so if a pole falls it does not hit a house. Raise line to 65' above St. Leonard Creek in Planters Wharf area.

The new line should either follow Dominion's new route around White Sands and St. Leonard Shores or follow Rt.4.

SMECO should look more into burying the line, as is done elsewhere.
You could bury the lines in selective locations to be safer.

The portion through White Sands and St. Leonard Shores should be routed down MD Rt. 4 along the existing power line right of way.

Underground or alternative route through less populated areas such as Solomons Island and Lexington Park area. I am surprised Navy will not have issues with proposed high transmission lines.

The area needs it

Keep communicating openly.

Consider limited underground segments in densely populated areas.

Be as good of environmental stewards as possible.

Keep the impact on property owners as minimal as possible with berms, foliage, underground, etc.

Thank You!!

I do not support the expansion because

- 1) increased EMF danger to those living close to line 69kV - 230kV.
- 2) Increased marring of visual environment and property value decrease.
- 3) Added cost to customer to pay for expansion
- 4) Increasing electric power available = people using increasing amounts with no thought to possibly staying "off the grid" and reducing electricity use. If you provide it, they will use it. Reduce and GO GREEN!



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

APPENDIX B

Enterprise
8/29/08

**Notice of Intent to Hold a
Scoping Meeting and
Prepare an Environmental Assessment**

A7

The Rural Utilities Service is preparing an Environmental Assessment for Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative to construct a 230-kilovolt transmission line in Calvert and St. Mary's Counties in Maryland.

A Scoping Meeting related to this project will be held at SMECO's office, located at 901 Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick, Maryland on September 11, 2008, from 5 – 8 p.m.

For more details, please refer to the notice in the legal section of this newspaper.

665070

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative; Notice of Intent to Hold a Public Scoping Meeting and Prepare an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA

ACTION: Notice of Intent to Hold a Public Scoping Meeting and Prepare an Environmental Assessment

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency which administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Utilities Programs (USDA Rural Development) intends to hold a public scoping meeting and prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) in connection with potential impacts related to a proposal by Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO), with headquarters in Hughesville, Maryland. The proposal consists of the construction of approximately 30 miles of 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, a new 230/69 kV switching station, a 230/69 kV switching station expansion, and a river crossing located in Calvert and St. Mary's Counties in Maryland.

DATES: USDA Rural Development will conduct a scoping meeting in an open house format, seeking the input of the public and other interested parties. The meeting will be held from 5 PM until 8 PM, on September 11, 2008.

ADDRESS: The September 11, 2008 meeting will be held at the SMECO office located at 901 Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick, Maryland. The SMECO phone number is 888-440-3311.

An Electric Alternatives Evaluation and Macro Corridor Study Report will be available at the public scoping meeting, at USDA Rural Development's address provided in this notice, at their website: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>, and at SMECO 15035 Burnt Store Road, Hughesville, Maryland 20637.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephanie A. Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA Rural Development, Utilities Programs, Engineering and Environmental Staff, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250, or e-mail stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative proposes to construct a 230 kV transmission line between the existing Holland Cliff Switching Station in Calvert County to the existing Hewitt Road Switching Station in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The proposal comprises five segments and includes (1) the installation of approximately 20 miles of new 230 kV single pole, double-circuit transmission line from the Holland Cliff switching station to a new switching station located in Southern Calvert; (2) the installation of the new Southern Calvert 230/69 kV switching station; (3) the installation of approximately 8 miles of new 230 kV single pole, double-circuit transmission line from the new Southern Calvert switching station to the existing Hewitt Road switching station; (4) the installation of approximately 2 miles of 230 kV underground transmission cable circuit across the lower Patuxent River; and (5) the expansion of the existing 230 kV ring bus at Hewitt Road switching station to accommodate the new 230 kV transmission line from Southern Calvert. Throughout the right-of-way, the existing 69 kV poles will be removed and the existing 69 kV conductors will be installed on the new 230 kV poles along with the new 230 kV conductors. This configuration will allow the use of the existing 69 kV transmission line right-of-way and preclude the need for additional right-of-way land acquisition.

The proposed location of the new switching station will be in southern Calvert County, possibly near Lusby, Maryland, along the existing 69 kV transmission line right-of-way. The site is anticipated to be approximately 25 acres to accommodate the switching station equipment, line exits, and a buffer set back from the property line. Switching station sites will be further assessed in the Environmental Assessment.

The Patuxent River crossing will be approximately two-miles in length, in the vicinity of the existing 69 kV underground transmission line, near the Thomas Johnson Bridge. Alternative crossing locations as well as construction alternatives were considered in order to improve maintenance capabilities, mitigate environmental impact, and reduce proposal costs. Alternatives include (1) installation of a submarine cable jetted into the bottom of the Patuxent River, (2) attaching the 230 kV underground cable circuit to the existing bridge or a future bridge planned near the existing Thomas Johnson Bridge, and (3) installing the new cables in a horizontal directional bore under the Patuxent River bottom.

Construction of the proposal is anticipated for completion in 2015.

Government agencies, private organizations, and the public are invited to participate in the planning and analysis of the proposed project. Representatives from USDA Rural Development and Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative will be available at the scoping meeting to discuss the environmental review process, describe the proposal, answer questions, and receive comments. Comments regarding the proposed action may be submitted (orally or in writing) at the public scoping meeting or in writing by October 11, 2008 at the USDA Rural Development address provided in this notice.

From information provided in the Electric Alternatives Evaluation and Macro Corridor Study Report, from government agencies, private organizations, and the public, Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative will prepare an environmental analysis to be submitted to USDA Rural Development for review. USDA Rural Development will review the environmental analysis and determine the significance of the impacts of the proposal. If accepted, the document will be adopted as the environmental assessment (EA) for the proposal. USDA Rural Development's EA would be available for review and comment for 30 days. Should the USDA Rural Development determine, based on the EA for the proposal, that impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposal would not have a significant environmental impact, it will prepare a finding of no significant impact (FONSI). Public notification of a FONSI would be published in the Federal Register and in newspapers with circulation in the proposal area.

Any final action by USDA Rural Development related to the proposal would be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with environmental review requirements as prescribed by the USDA Rural Development's environmental policies and procedures (7 CFR 1794).

Dated: August 20, 2008

Mark S. Plank, Director
Engineering and Environmental Staff,
USDA/Rural Development/Utilities Programs

065071

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**Legal Advertising
Invoice**

SO MD ELECTRIC COOP
15035 BURNT STORE RD
ATTN: LEA SADLER
HUGHESVILLE MD 20637

Billing Period		Advertiser / Client Name	
		SO MD ELECTRIC COOP	
Billing Date	Advertiser Account #	Customer Order #	
8/28/2008	8338	LEGAL AD	
Total Amount Due	Customer Type	Terms of Payment	Page
\$825.00	Monthly	Upon Receipt	1
Invoice Number : 110811468-08292008			

REMIT TO:

Post Newsweek Media, Inc.
7 Industrial Park Drive
Waldorf, MD 20602
Phone: (301) 645-9480
Fax: (301) 932-5805

Amount Paid : \$ _____ Check # : _____ Amount to Pay : **\$825.00**

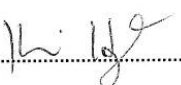
PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN UPPER PORTION WITH YOUR REMITTANCE. PLEASE INCLUDE AD ORDER AND ACCOUNT # ON REMITTANCE

Start Date	Ad# - Trans#	Description	P. O. Number	Times	LastDate	Amount
8/29/2008	0010811468	LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT		2	8/29/2008	\$825.00

CERTIFICATION OF PUBLICATION

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE ANNEXED LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED IN
THE The Enterprise - St. Mary's Co, FOR THE NUMBER OF INSERTIONS INDICATED ABOVE

KAREN ACTON, PUBLISHER

By: 

Run Dates 8/29/2008

Amount to Pay : \$825.00

**Southern Maryland
NEWSPAPERS**
Serving Maryland Communities Since 1872
The Enquirer-Gazette

Billing Period		Advertiser / Client Name	
		SO MD ELECTRIC COOP	
Billing Date	Advertiser Account #	Customer Order #	
8/28/2008	8338	LEGAL ADVE	
Total Amount Due	Customer Type	Terms of Payment	Page
\$825.00	Monthly	Upon Receipt	1
Invoice Number : 110811468-08292008			

Certification of Publication

Southern Maryland Newspapers
This certifies an agreement between (Gloria Blake) (Advertising Account Executive)
and SMECO (Client) that on August 29, 2008 (date) our company is
to run an ad in the following publication(s) for the aforementioned client:

☐ Maryland Independent

☐ Enterprise

☒ Recorder

☐ Weekend

☐ Special Section _____

☐ Southern MD Advertiser

The total for the ad is \$ _____, and will be billed accordingly.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

J. R. Napoli
Director of Advertising

Advertising Account Executive
Southern Maryland Newspapers
301-645-9480
7 Industrial Park Drive
Waldorf, MD 20602

Done in Washington, DC, this 21st day of August, 2008.

Kevin Shea,

Acting Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

[FR Doc. E8-19864 Filed 8-26-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-34-P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative; Notice of Intent To Hold a Public Scoping Meeting and Prepare an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA. **ACTION:** Notice of intent to hold a public scoping meeting and prepare an Environmental Assessment.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency delivering the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Utilities Programs, hereinafter referred to as Rural Development and/or Agency, intends to hold a public scoping meeting and prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) in connection with potential impacts related to a proposal by Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO), with headquarters in Hughesville, Maryland. The proposal consists of the construction of approximately 30 miles of 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line, a new 230/69 kV switching station, a 230/69 kV switching station expansion, and a river crossing located in Calvert and St. Mary's Counties in Maryland.

DATES: USDA Rural Development will conduct a scoping meeting in an open house format, seeking the input of the public and other interested parties. The meeting will be held from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m., on September 11, 2008.

ADDRESSES: The September 11, 2008 meeting will be held at the SMECO office located at 901 Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick, Maryland. The SMECO phone number is 888-440-3311.

An Electric Alternatives Evaluation and Macro Corridor Study Report will be available at the public scoping meeting, at USDA Rural Development's address provided in this notice, at their Web site: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>, and at SMECO, 15035 Burnt Store Road, Hughesville, Maryland 20637.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Stephanie A. Strength, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA Rural Development, Utilities Programs, Engineering and Environmental Staff,

1400 Independence Ave., SW., Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250, or e-mail stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative proposes to construct a 230 kV transmission line between the existing Holland Cliff Switching Station in Calvert County to the existing Hewitt Road Switching Station in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The proposal comprises five segments and includes (1) The installation of approximately 20 miles of new 230 kV single pole, double-circuit transmission line from the Holland Cliff switching station to a new switching station located in Southern Calvert; (2) the installation of the new Southern Calvert 230/69 kV switching station; (3) the installation of approximately 10 miles of new 230 kV single pole, double-circuit transmission line from the new Southern Calvert switching station to the existing Hewitt Road switching station; (4) the installation of approximately 2 miles of 230 kV underground transmission cable circuit across the lower Patuxent River; and (5) the expansion of the existing 230 kV ring bus at Hewitt Road switching station to accommodate the new 230 kV transmission line from Southern Calvert. Throughout the right-of-way, the existing 69 kV poles will be removed and the existing 69 kV conductors will be installed on the new 230 kV poles along with the new 230 kV conductors. This configuration will allow the use of the existing 69 kV transmission line right-of-way and preclude the need for additional right-of-way land acquisition.

The proposed location of the new switching station will be in southern Calvert County, possibly near Lusby, Maryland, along the existing 69 kV transmission line right-of-way. The site is anticipated to be approximately 25 acres to accommodate the switching station equipment and a buffer. Switching station sites will be further assessed in the Environmental Assessment.

The Patuxent River crossing will be approximately two miles, in the vicinity of the existing 69 kV underground transmission line, near the Thomas Johnson Bridge. Alternative crossing locations as well as construction alternatives were considered in order to improve maintenance capabilities, mitigate environmental impact, and reduce proposal costs. Alternatives include (1) installation of a submarine cable jetted into the bottom of the Patuxent River, and (2) attaching the 230 kV underground cable circuit to the existing bridge or a future bridge

planned near the existing Thomas Johnson Bridge. Construction of the proposal is anticipated for completion in 2015.

Government agencies, private organizations, and the public are invited to participate in the planning and analysis of the proposed project. Representatives from USDA Rural Development and Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative will be available at the scoping meeting to discuss the environmental review process, describe the proposal, answer questions, and receive comments. Comments regarding the proposed action may be submitted (orally or in writing) at the public scoping meeting or in writing by October 11, 2008 at the USDA Rural Development address provided in this notice.

From information provided in the Electric Alternatives Evaluation and Macro Corridor Study Report, from government agencies, private organizations, and the public, Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative will prepare an environmental analysis to be submitted to USDA Rural Development for review. USDA Rural Development will review the environmental analysis and determine the significance of the impacts of the proposal. If accepted, the document will be adopted as the environmental assessment (EA) for the proposal. USDA Rural Development's EA would be available for review and comment for 30 days. Should the USDA Rural Development determine, based on the EA for the proposal, that impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposal would not have a significant environmental impact, it will prepare a finding of no significant impact (FONSI). Public notification of a FONSI would be published in the *Federal Register* and in newspapers with circulation in the proposal area.

Any final action by USDA Rural Development related to the proposal would be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with environmental review requirements as prescribed by the USDA Rural Development's environmental policies and procedures (7 CFR 1794).

Dated: August 22, 2008.

Mark S. Plank,

Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff, USDA/Rural Development/Utilities Programs.

[FR Doc. E8-19792 Filed 8-26-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-15-P

Southern Maryland Reliability Project:

Our customers' increasing demand for electricity means we need to improve our transmission system to ensure continued reliability. Over the past 30 years, the number of our customers and their corresponding energy use have skyrocketed.

That's why we're proposing the Southern Maryland Reliability Project—to ensure reliable power for you, our customer-members.

The majority of the project will use existing rights-of-way and will have minimal effect on your rates and the environment.

We are your cooperative, and we are committed to working with you to ensure this improvement project is done right. We will provide complete information about each step of this project and listen to you—before plans are finalized.

We're hosting a scoping meeting to make sure you have the facts about our proposal and to hear your comments and suggestions.

This is an open house format, so stop by for a few minutes and join us for a candid conversation about this project.

What: Southern Maryland Reliability Project Scoping Meeting

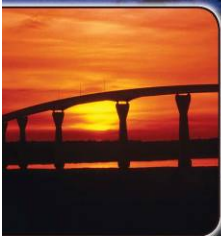
When: September 11, 5–8 p.m.

Where: SMECO's Prince Frederick Office
901 Dares Beach Road

For more information, visit us on the Web at www.SMECO.coop.



Hometown Power *You Can Depend On*



APPENDIX C

August 28, 2008

Agency Name
Attn: Agency Contact
Agency Department
Department Street Address
City, State, Zip Code

Subject: Scoping and Agency Meeting for Southern
Maryland Electric Cooperative's 230 kV
Project

Dear Agency Contact:

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency that administers the programs of USDA's Rural Development, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) with scoping in connection with a proposal by Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) of Hughesville, Maryland. SMECO proposes to construct approximately 30 miles of 230 kilovolt transmission line, a new 230/69 kilovolt switching station, a 230/69 kilovolt switching station expansion, and a river crossing. Initial alternative evaluation and site selection studies have located the proposed project in Calvert and St. Mary's Counties in Maryland, primarily on existing right-of-way. The new switching station would be located in southern Calvert County, the switching station expansion would be located in St. Mary's County, and the river crossing location would be near the Thomas Johnson Bridge joining the two counties. A location and route map are attached. SMECO is requesting RUS provide financial assistance for the construction of this proposal.

In accordance with RUS' environmental regulations, 7 CFR 1794, Environmental Policies and Procedures, RUS will be the lead agency for preparation of the EA with scoping. As part of the scoping process and prior to any public scoping meetings, RUS is distributing and making available specific planning documents prepared by SMECO for review and comment by Federal, State and local agencies and the public. Enclosed is a compact disk that contains the Alternatives Evaluation Study and Macro-Corridor Report. Copies of the documents are also available on RUS' website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

A scoping meeting will be held by RUS, in an open house format, seeking the input of the public and other interested parties. The meeting will be held from 5 PM until 8 PM, on September 11, 2008. The location of the meeting will be the SMECO Office located at 901 Dares Beach Road in Prince Frederick, Maryland. Additionally, an agency meeting may be held at 3 PM on September 11, 2008 at the same location.

Please indicate your intention to attend the agency meeting by responding to Stephanie Strength by email at stephanie.strength@wdc.usda.gov, before September 8, 2008.

January 12, 2009

Please provide written comments by October 11, 2008 to Ms. Stephanie A. Strength, Rural Utilities Service, Engineering and Environmental Staff, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 1571, Washington, D.C. 20250-1571 or E-mail: stephanie.strength@usda.gov.

Very truly yours,

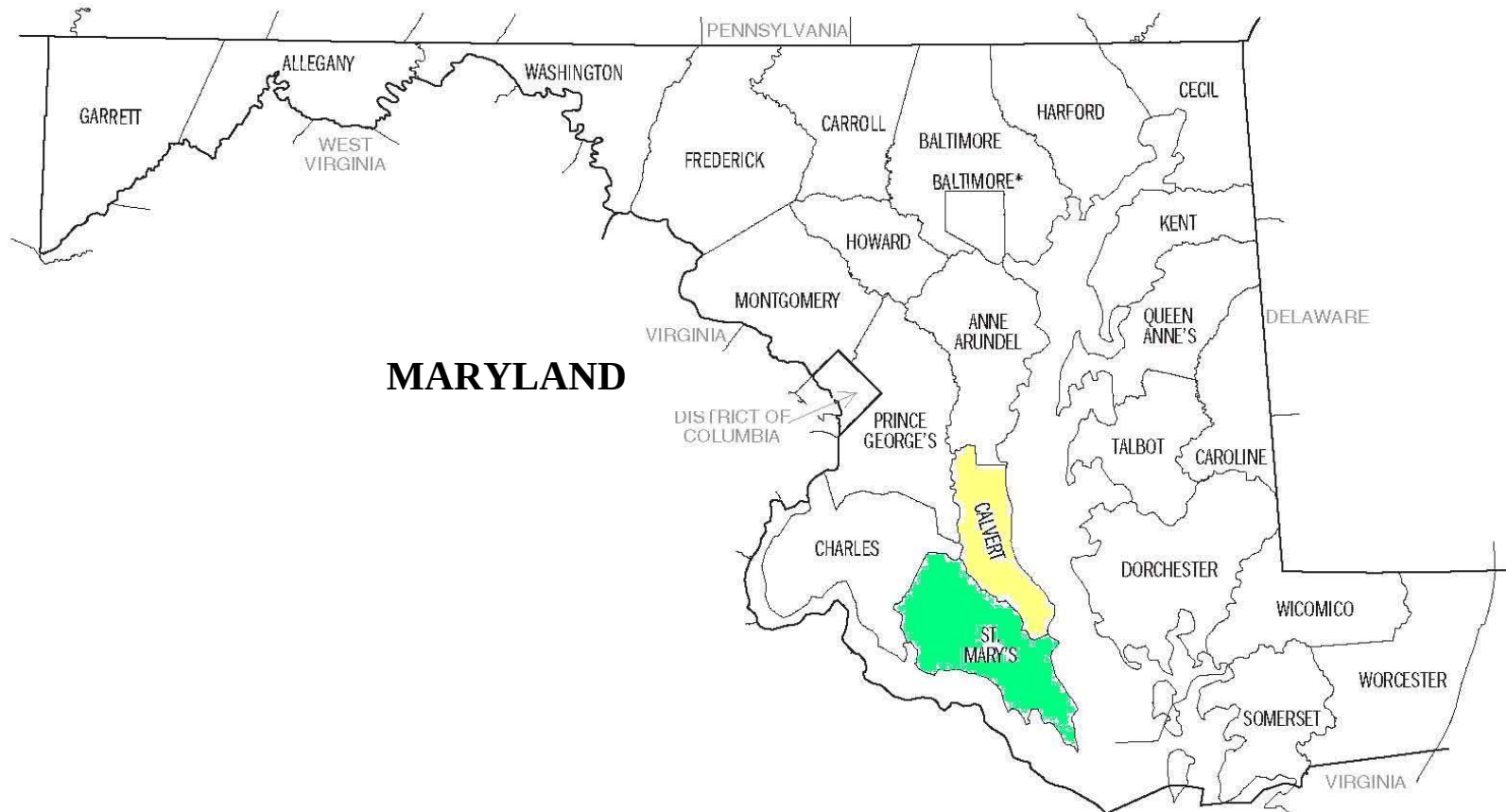
BLACK & VEATCH

Salvatore Falcone
Environmental Services Project

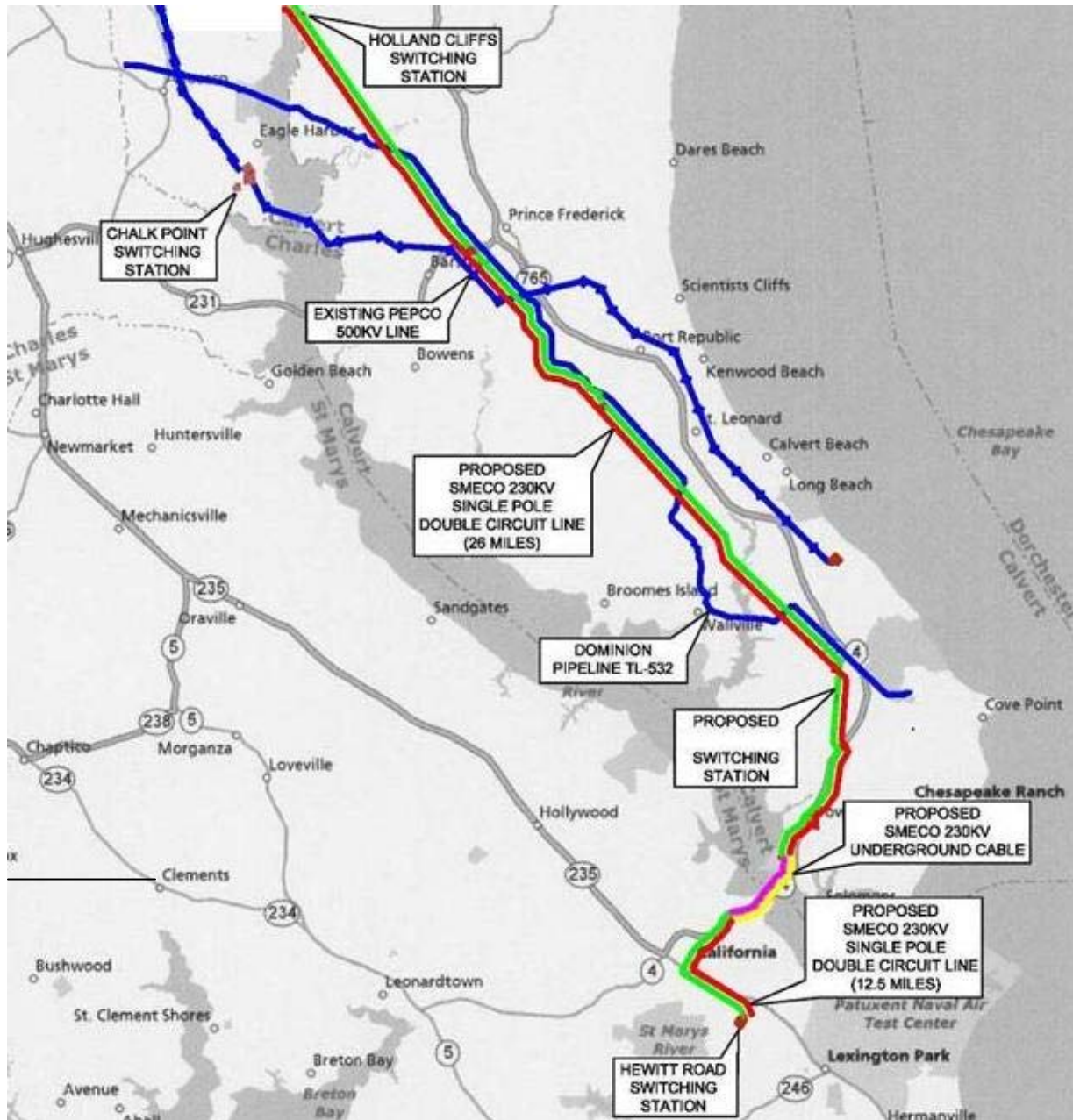
Manager

SF/sl
Enclosure[s]

cc: Stephanie Strength, USDA Rural Utilities Service
John Bredenkamp, SMECO
Thomas Russell, SMECO
Terry Ressler, SMECO
Rich Jacober, Black & Veatch



SMECO
Holland Cliff to Hewitt Road
230 kV Transmission Line
Project Location Map
Calvert and St. Mary's County



- Existing SMECO 69 kV Line
- Existing SMECO 69 kV River Crossing
- Proposed SMECO 230 kV Line
- Proposed SMECO 230 kV River Crossing
- Existing Dominion Pipeline TL-532
- + + + Existing PEPCO 500 kV Line

SMECO
Holland Cliff
To Hewitt Road
230 kV
Transmission Line
Project
Route Map

**List of Agencies and Contacts Invited to the Scoping Meeting
Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative Office, Prince Frederick, Maryland
September 11, 2008 at 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Chesapeake Bay Field Office
Attn.: Leopoldo Miranda
Field Supervisor
177 Admiral Cochrane Drive
Annapolis, MD 21401

National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA
Office of Protected Resources
Permits, Conservation, and Education
Division
Attn.: Mr. Jim Lecky
1315 East-West Highway, SSMC3
Silver Springs, MD 20910

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Attn: Mr. Howard King
Fisheries Service
580 Taylor Avenue, Suite B-2
Annapolis, MD 21401

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Attn: Ms. Sandra Patty
Manager-Transmission Programs
Power Plant Research Program
580 Taylor Avenue, Suite B-3
Annapolis, MD 21401

Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Wildlife & Heritage Service
Attn.: Ms. Lori Byrne
Environmental Review Specialist
580 Taylor Avenue, Suite E-1
Annapolis, MD 21401

Maryland Department of the Environment
Nontidal Wetlands and Waterways Division
Attn: Ms. Cynthia Nethen
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21230

Maryland Department of the Environment
Tidal Wetlands Division
Attn: Mr. Robert Tabisz
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21230

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation
Service
John Hanson Business Center
Attn.: Tansel Hudson, Assistant State
Conservationist (Operations)
339 Busch's Frontage Road, Suite 301
Annapolis, MD 21409-5543

Maryland Department of Agriculture
Attn.: Secretary Roger Richardson
50 Harry S. Truman Parkway
Suite 301
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-841-5700

US Army Engineer District, Baltimore
Attn.: Mr. William Seib, Chief of Maryland
Southern Section
City Crescent Building
101 South Howard Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
Please insure that Ms. Amy Guise of the
COE of the Planning Division.

St. Mary's River State Park and
Greenwell State Park
c/o Point Lookout State Park
Attn.: Chirly Bright
11175 Point Lookout Road
Scotland, MD 20687

Calvert Cliffs State Park
c/o Smallwood State Park
Attn.: Ranger Patrick Bright
2750 Sweden Point Road
Marbury, MD 20658
Jefferson Patterson Park

Maryland State Clearinghouse for
Intergovernmental Assistance
Attn: Richard Hall, Secretary
Maryland Department of Planning
301 W. Preston Street
Suite 1101
Baltimore, MD 21201-2305

US EPA Region 3
Attn.: William Arguto (EIA 30)
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Federal Aviation Administration
Attn: Lee Kyker, Air Traffic Operations
Support
1701 Columbia Ave.
College Park, Georgia 30337

Maryland Historical Preservation Office
Division of Historical and Cultural
Programs
Attn: J. Rodney Little
100 Community Place
Crownsville, Maryland 21032-2023

St. Mary's County Department of Planning
and Zoning
Attn.: Mr. Jon Robert Grimm, Director
22740 Washington Street
P.O. Box 653
Leonardtown MD 20650
Phone: (301) 475-4662

Calvert County Department of Planning and
Zoning
Attn.: Mr. Greg Bowen
150 Main Street
Prince Frederick MD 20678

NAVFAC
Public Works Department
Attn.: Mr. Michael Lewis
22445 Peary Road, Building 504
Patuxent River, MD 20670

NAVFAC
Public Works Department
Attn.: Mr. Michael Oliver
22445 Peary Road, Building 504
Patuxent River, MD 20670

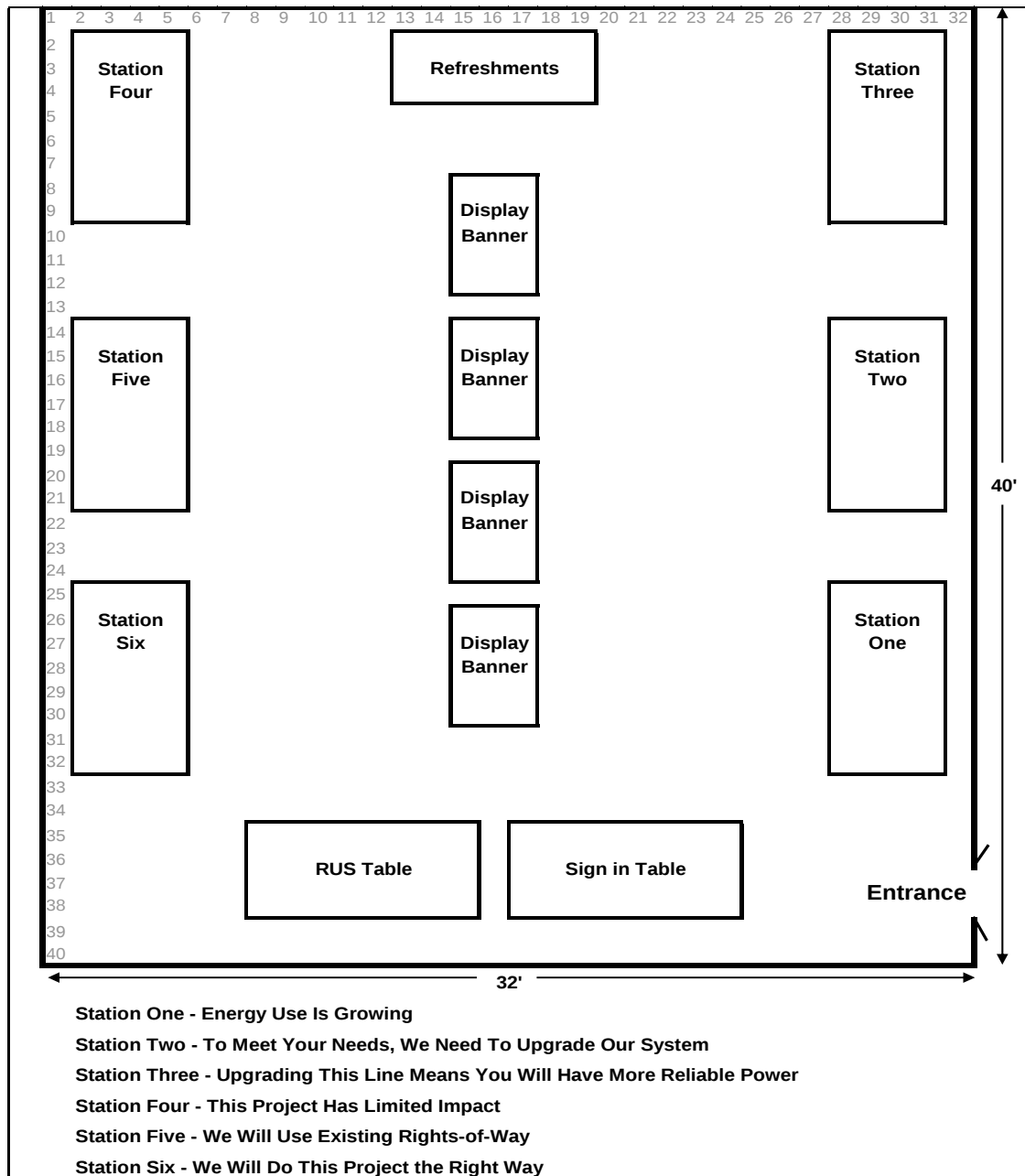
Patuxent River Naval Air Station
Attn.: Mr. David Rockinson
47402 Buse Road, Building 467
Patuxent River, MD 20670

Maryland Department of Transportation
Attn: Michael Huber
138 Defense Highway
Annapolis, MD 21401

Maryland Public Service Commission
Ms. Terry Romine, Esq.
Executive Secretary
William Donald Schaefer Tower
6 St. Paul St., 16th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21202

Maryland Department of Business and
Economic Development
217 East Redwood St.
Baltimore, MD 21202 – 3316

APPENDIX D



Southern Maryland Reliability Project
Hometown Power You Can Depend On



welcome

We're glad you're here.

Our customer-members' increasing demand for electricity means we need to improve our transmission system to ensure continued reliability.

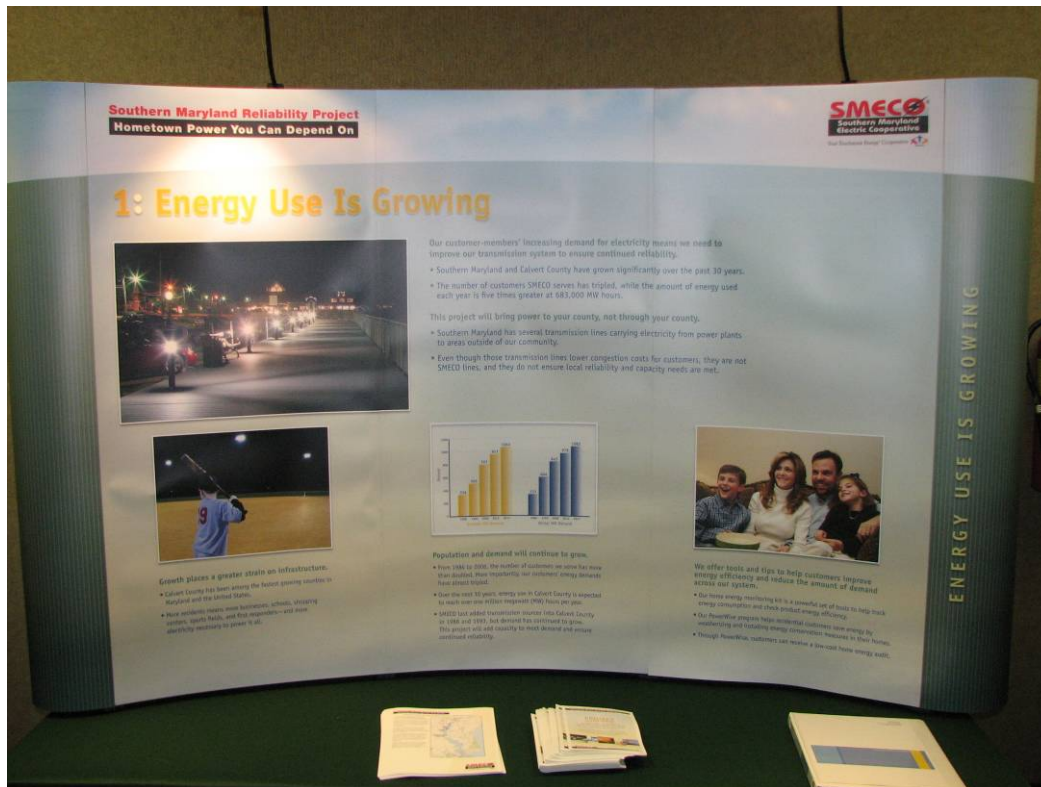
That's why we have proposed the Southern Maryland Reliability Project, a transmission system improvement project. The proposed project will ensure continuous reliable power is provided to SMECO's customer-members, with minimal effect on your current rates and the environment.

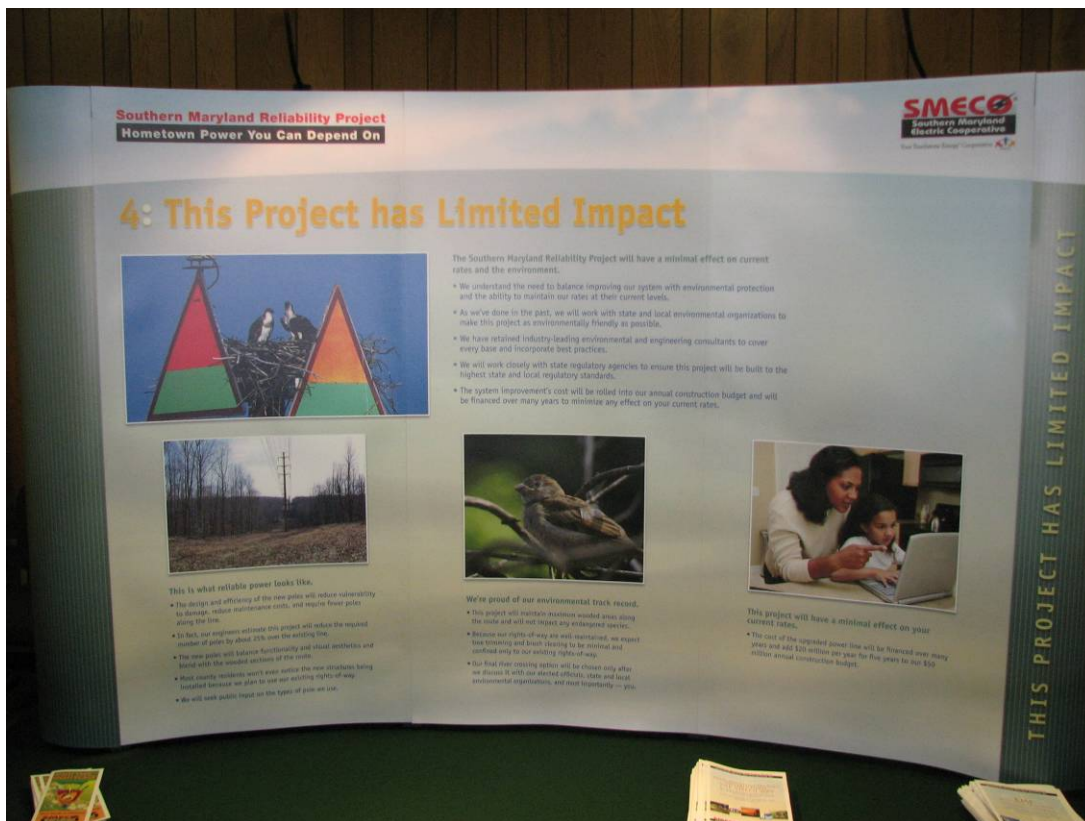
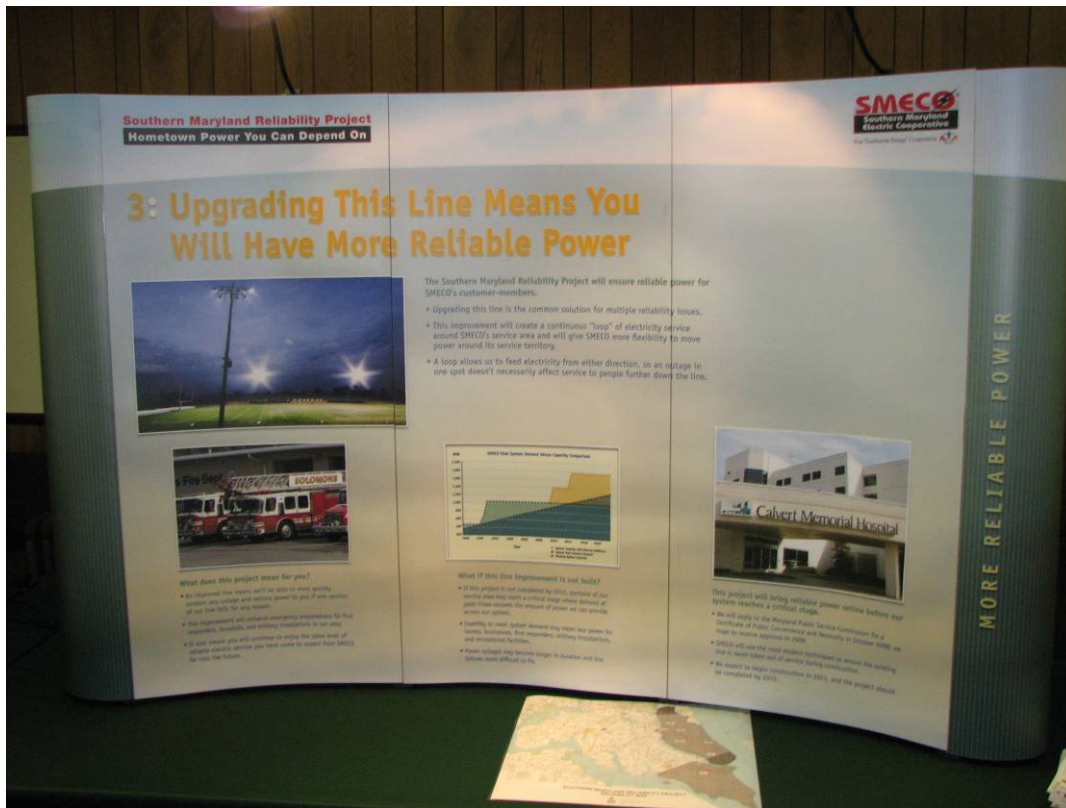
We are your cooperative, and we are committed to working with you to ensure this improvement project is done right.

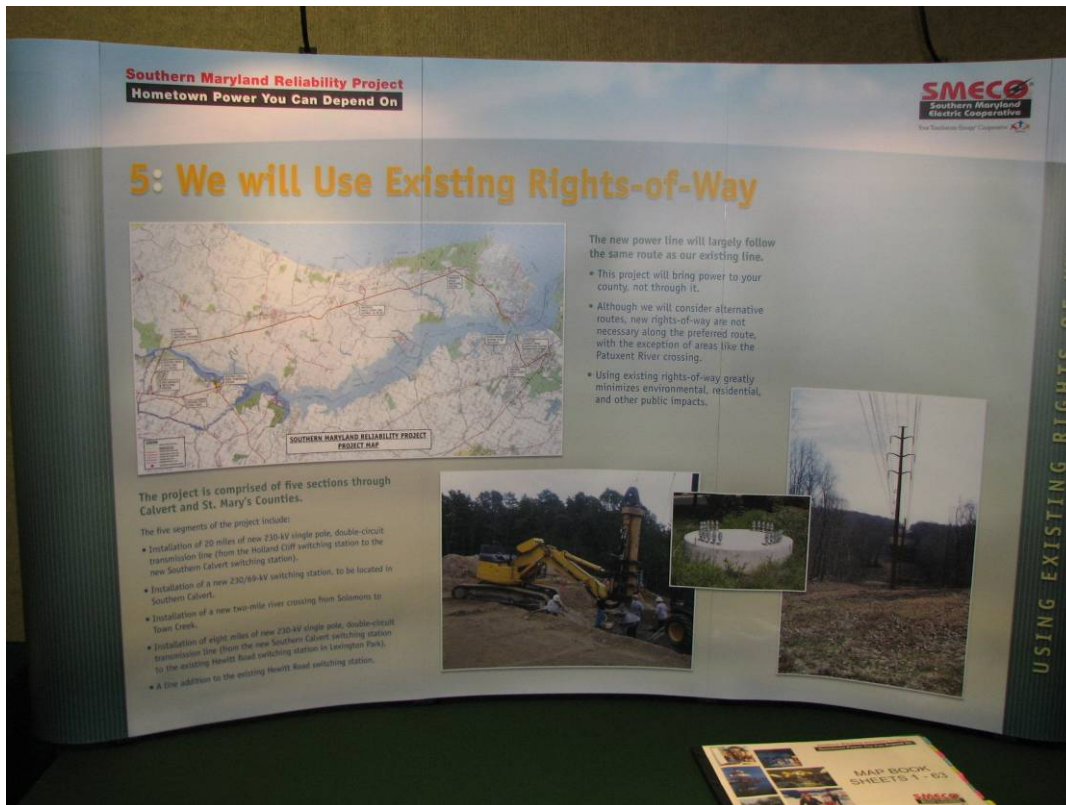
We've designed our information stations to provide all the facts about our proposed project. Our staff is here to listen to your comments and suggestions.

The Southern Maryland Reliability Project:
Hometown Power You Can Depend On

- Station **1**: Energy Use Is Growing
- Station **2**: To Meet Your Needs, We Need to Upgrade Our System
- Station **3**: Upgrading This Line Means You Will Have More Reliable Power
- Station **4**: This Project Has Limited Impact
- Station **5**: We Will Use Existing Rights-of-Way
- Station **6**: We Will Do This Project The Right Way









APPENDIX E



SMECO 230 kV Reliability Project
Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheet
Thursday, September 11, 2008, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm
SMECO Office, Prince Frederick, Maryland

NAME and ADDRESS	
1	Karen Y. Eloff 2950 Holland Cliffs Rd.
2	STEPHEN COVICHMAN → Hunt, Md. 20639
3	331 WILLOW WAY DR, MD
4	Fred Burton 1235 Mallard Pt Rd, P.O. Frederick MD 20678
5	Gerry McGuire 4010 Hidden Hill Dr Huntingtown Md 20639
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	

Hard
copy
request

APPENDIX F



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MD, 21203-1715

FEB 13 2009

Operations Division

Ms. Stephanie A. Strength
Rural Utilities Service
Engineering and Environmental Staff
1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Dear Ms. Strength:

This is in response to the Black and Veatch September 5, 2008 letter regarding the scoping process in the preparation of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document for the proposed Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) 30-mile transmission line and switching stations project from Holland Cliff to Hewitt Road in Calvert and St. Mary's Counties, Maryland.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (Corps) will be a participating and cooperating agency in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project so that a Corps permit decision can be rendered at the conclusion of the NEPA process. The draft EA will serve as the Department of the Army Section 404/10 permit application for the project. In this regard, we look forward to working with your agency as the document is developed to ensure that the information presented in the NEPA document is adequate to fulfill the requirements of Corps regulations, the Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines, and the Corps public interest review process.

The Corps requests that the following topics be comprehensively evaluated in the EA:

1. Purpose and need for the project.
2. Alternatives analysis/Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines. Based on the project purpose, the Corps will need to concur on the range of alternatives retained for detailed study in the EA. The alternatives analysis should comprehensively evaluate the following:
 - a. Alternative transmission line routes and switching station locations
 - b. A complete description of the criteria used to identify, evaluate, and screen project alternatives
3. Methods to avoid and minimize impacts to waters of the U.S.
 - a. Methods to minimize adverse effects to water quality

- b. Methods to minimize adverse effects to natural and cultural resources
 - c. Reduction in project scope
 - d. Reuse/upgrade of existing infrastructure
4. Corps public interest review factors. The decision to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Among the factors that must be evaluated as part of the Corps public interest review include: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands and streams, historic and cultural resources, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, water quality, considerations of property ownership, air and noise impacts, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. Each of the Corps public interest factors that are relevant to this project must be evaluated comprehensively in the EA.
5. Delineation of all waters of the U.S., including jurisdictional wetlands, in the project area.
-
6. Quantify impacts to waters of the U.S. (both temporary and permanent) to all waters of the U.S., including jurisdictional wetlands, for each project alternative. For waterways, include both the linear feet of waterway impacts (measured along the centerline of the waterway) and square feet of impact; for wetlands, include both square foot and acreage impacts; and for temporary wetland impacts, quantify any change in wetland classification (e.g., palustrine forested to palustrine emergent, etc.) and method of work to accomplish this change.
7. Cumulative and indirect impacts resulting from the project.
8. Environmental justice including compliance with the Executive Order 12898 on environmental justice.
9. Describe the disposal options for any excess fill material resulting from construction.
10. Wetland and waterway mitigation plans.
11. Analysis of the project's compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, as amended by the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996 (Public Law 04-267) [essential fish habitat (EFH) assessment].
-
12. Air quality impacts (i.e., Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act General Conformity Rule Review).

13. Compliance with the Executive order on floodplains.
14. Address potential conflicts with the construction on shipping traffic and recreational/commercial boating and fishing activities in tidal waterways in the vicinity of the project area.
 - a. Method of work to cross each waterway, including depths below the bottom substrate and distances of the entrance and exit holes from the approximate mean high water shoreline.
15. Project review schedule and NEPA document preparation schedule. Other important milestones (e.g., public hearings, etc.) should be listed in the EA.

Enclosed is a comprehensive checklist for information needed in order for the Corps to evaluate the proposed project. We request that you provide SMECO with this checklist. We look forward to working with your agency as the EA is developed and the review of the project proceeds. Copies of this letter are being sent to the Maryland Department of the Environment. Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Mrs. Kathy Anderson of my staff at (410) 962-5690.

Sincerely,



William P. Seib
Chief, Maryland Section Southern

Enclosure

SMECO CHECKLIST

Information

<<http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Regulatory/>> - Baltimore District Regulatory Branch web site - please review the permit process under the Individual Permit Process
http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/cwa_guide/cwa_guide.htm - CWA Guidance to Implement the U.S. Supreme Court Decision for the Rapanos and Carabell Cases
<<http://www.mde.state.md.us/assets/document/permit/alter.pdf>> - permit application

Coordination with the following agencies may expedite the permit process

- ✓ **Maryland Historical Trust:** historic and cultural properties
- ✓ **Maryland Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:** Wetlands of Special State Concern; threatened and endangered species; waterfowl concentration areas; shellfish trawling area; fishing areas; scientific study areas; oyster bars (natural and leased)
- ✓ **National Marine Fisheries Service:** Essential Fish Habitat; anadromous fish; threatened and endangered species; oyster bars (natural and leased)
- ✓ **U.S. Department of Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard:** navigation, security and safety issues

Please coordinate with the following agencies regarding:

- ✓ Data required for the permit/approval applications
 - ✓ Maryland Department of the Environment
 - ✓ Phase I Mitigation Plan
 - ✓ Maryland Department of Natural Resources
 - ✓ Forest Conservation Act
 - ✓ Maryland Critical Areas Commission
 - ✓ Listing of County/Town Planning and Zoning offices:
<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/criticalarea/> (FAQ's section)
- ✓ For navigation concerns
 - ✓ U.S. Coast Guard
- ✓ For existing and future infrastructure/corridor consideration
 - ✓ Department of Public Works for all involved Counties
 - ✓ Maryland State Highway Administration
 - ✓ Railroad agencies
 - ✓ Utility companies
- ✓ For parks restrictions
 - ✓ Maryland Department of Natural Resources
 - ✓ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - ✓ Involved Counties
- ✓ For agricultural easements/preservation
 - ✓ Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation

Federal Contacts Information

- Environmental Protection Agency
Jim Butch 215-814-2762 butch.jim@epa.gov
- National Marine Fisheries Service
John Nichols 410-267-5675 john.nichols@noaa.gov
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bob Zepp 410-573-4536 bob_zepp@fws.gov
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard: navigation, security and safety issues
Albert Grimes 757-398-6360 Agrimes@lantd5.uscg.mil

State of Maryland Contacts Information

- ✓ Information about the State of Maryland permit process:
http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/Wetlands_Waterways/index.asp
- ✓ The application forms are available in MS Word format and can be found on the following page:
http://www.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/Wetlands_Waterways/permits_applications/index.asp
- Maryland Department of the Environment: Wetland and Waterways Program: Tidal and nontidal wetland, wetland buffer, waterway, waterway buffer and floodplain
Tidal - Robert Tabisz 410-537-3838 rtabisz@mde.state.md.us
Nontidal - Jeff Thompson 410-537-3828 jthompson@mde.state.md.us
Mitigation - George Beston 410-537-3823/758-5020 gbeston@mde.state.md.us
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources: Wetlands of Special State Concern; threatened and endangered species; waterfowl concentration areas; shellfish trawling area; fishing areas; scientific study areas
Greg Golden 410-260-8334 ggolden@dnr.state.md.us;
Katherine McCarthy 410-260-8569 kmccarthy@dnr.state.md.us
Lori Byrne 410-260-8573 lbyrne@dnr.state.md.us
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources: State Forest Conservation
Marian Honeczy 410-260-8595 mhoney@dnr.state.md.us
- Maryland Historical Trust: historic and cultural properties
Dixie Henry 410-514-7638 dhenry@mdp.state.md.us.
Beth Cole 410-514-7631 cole@dhcd.state.md.us
Jonathan Sager 410-514-7636 JSager@mdp.state.md.us
- Maryland Critical Areas
Lisa Hoerger 410-260-3478 lhoerger@dnr.state.md.us

Sample Overall Work Description

Sample Switchyard Projects Description

To clear and grade for construction of a _____, permanently impacting _____ square feet (_____ acres) of nontidal _____ wetlands and _____ square feet (_____ acres) along _____ linear feet of stream bed.

To deposit fill; install _____ linear feet of _____-inch diameter _____ (type) culvert pipe with a _____-foot by _____-foot scour pad impacting _____ square feet of _____ (type) nontidal wetlands and _____ square feet along _____ linear feet of streambed.

Sample Transmission Line Description

Within a _____-foot to _____-foot right of way (ROW), to construct and operate approximately _____ miles of _____-inch diameter steel _____ volt electrical transmission line with a cathodic protection system, of which approximately _____ miles parallel an existing _____-inch, _____ volt electrical transmission line, installing by 1) conventional boring; 2) trenching using dam and pump, flume pipe, and waterway diversion methods; and 3) horizontal directional drill (HDD) method, as shown on plan pages _____ through _____. The work includes temporary construction impacts to _____ acres of emergent, scrub/shrub, and forested nontidal wetlands, of which approximately _____ square feet, _____ acres, is due to the use of marsh mats, and permanent impacts by conversion of _____ acres of forested nontidal wetlands to scrub/shrub and emergent wetlands in _____ (number of) wetland areas. The work also includes _____ (number of) nontidal waterway crossings with an approximate maximum crossing width of _____ feet and an approximate maximum crossing length of _____ feet, totaling approximately _____ square feet, _____ acres of waterwaybed impact, along _____ (total) linear feet of waterway sections; and HDD/boring crossings of the following waterways and wetlands: 1) _____ River _____ linear feet and a minimum of _____ feet below the river bottom substrate; 2) _____ Creek _____ linear feet and a minimum of _____ feet below the creek bottom substrate; 3) _____ Swamp and _____ Swamp Run _____ linear feet and a minimum of _____ feet below the wetland bottom substrate and _____ feet below the waterway bottom substrate. The work will be done in accordance with the impact tables dated _____, enclosure _____.

Excess fill material and drilling substrates will be deposited at an existing upland (non-wetland) disposal site at _____ as shown on plan page _____ or other approved sites.

Sample Avoidance and Minimization Statement

Site layout for this project was based upon an extensive site layout study to determine a layout that would most practicably avoid and minimize impacts to jurisdictional waters and wetlands. Efforts were made to avoid, to the extent possible, the long and short-term adverse impacts associated with the destruction or modification of wetlands and streams and to avoid direct or indirect support of new construction in wetlands and streams wherever there was a practicable alternative. The proposed impacts were further reduced through relocation of or reconfiguration of facility components. Project siting was limited by design constraints,

Sample Mitigation Description

The applicant proposes on site and in kind wetland enhancement and creation methods and stream restoration and enhancement methods to mitigate for the proposed impacts. This work includes the enhancement of.....; the creation of; stream restoration; and stream enhancement..... The wetland mitigation proposes to create an approximate _____ acres area of _____; enhancement of _____. The stream mitigation proposes to..... These projects will be monitored for a 5-year period and shall be protected in perpetuity through establishment of a legally binding protection mechanism.

Sample Location Description

For each state, list all waterways and Counties along the project route:

In tidal and nontidal Waters of the U.S., including unnamed tributaries and wetlands adjacent to _____ Creek, _____ Branch, _____ River, _____ Swamp, _____ Run in _____, _____, and _____ Counties in _____ (State).

Information Needs

Note: Additional information may be necessary as determined during project evaluation.

General

- ✓ Describe the overall project and mitigation and provide detailed written description of the project and mitigation, including dimensions and composition of the proposed electrical transmission line; electrical transmission line corridor; building structures; stormwater management facilities; access roads; culverts and any other attendant features of electrical transmission line construction and project site access; mitigation ratios; mitigation activities and plans; and location of mitigation site
- ✓ Describe purpose and need for the project, including public need and benefit, users, suppliers, any other supporting information
- ✓ Describe and identify any sections of the project that would have independent utility and explain independence from the entire project.
- ✓ Describe the components of the transmission line, including diameter and outer material for land and submerged portions; wire anchors etceteras for the electric line support structures; and cathodic protection and its components, if necessary
- ✓ Describe the new electrical transmission line location proposed within existing utility or roadway easement/corridors and how the electrical transmission line construction and maintenance may affect the existing utility or roadway relative to their maintenance and potential future expansion and address all potential safety issues relative to construction and operation within these types of corridors

- ✓ Describe the existing land and waterway use of project site locations
- ✓ Describe potential cumulative impacts relative to the purpose of the project and prospective for future additional expansion
- ✓ Describe on-site and off-site avoidance and minimization of impacts
 - ✓ Describe why impacts were not avoided
- ✓ Describe permanent and temporary impacts
 - ✓ Include a definition of temporary by timeframe and describe restoration of the proposed temporary impact
- ✓ Describe maintenance, including preservation, of existing structures and protection methods of those existing structures during the proposed project construction
- ✓ Describe how the project construction and maintenance may affect the existing utility or roadways easement corridors relative to their maintenance and potential future expansion and address all potential safety issues relative to construction and operation within these types of corridors
- ✓ Describe work in right-of-ways, including maintenance and amount of tree clearing in forested areas in these areas
- ✓ Describe the various methods of work including equipment access; staging areas; maintenance; restoration of pre-construction contours; waterway diversion; and sequence of construction
 - ✓ Describe the method of work and equipment used for installing overhead and underground lines as well as safety issues related to construction near trees, existing overhead lines and any other potential obstructions along the right of way
 - ✓ Describe horizontal directional drill and boring methods of work, including type of equipment used, bore hole diameter, distance landward of mean high water/ordinary high water for the entry and exit points, etceteras
 - ✓ Provide analysis/evaluation of directional drilling, boring and trenching and reason for preferred method of work for each method
- ✓ Describe the start and end points of the proposed electrical transmission line and the existing electrical transmission line facilities/systems that the electrical transmission line will connect
- ✓ Describe invasive plant species monitoring and restoration, if necessary
- ✓ Describe emergency procedures in the event the electrical transmission line is ruptured
- ✓ Describe emergency procedures in the event of construction and operation accident
- ✓ Provide a timeline/schedule for the process of obtaining all authorizations for the proposed project and construction schedule
- ✓ Provide information regarding the minimum clearances for aerial portions over navigable waters, roadways, bridges, etceteras.
 - ✓ The clearances are based upon the low point of the line under conditions which produce the greatest sag, taking into consideration temperature, load, wind, length or span and type of supports
 - ✓ The minimum additional clearance above the clearance required for bridges over navigable waters is 35 feet for a 500kV line (**CHECK REGS FOR 230kV**)
- ✓ Provide information regarding the technology to cross a wide waterbody

- ✓ Provide a letter from each proposed affected utility/roadway/railway company/agency stating that construction of an electrical transmission line would be allowed and easement documents would address construction, operation and maintenance of the utility/roadway/electrical transmission line within those corridors
- ✓ Provide any other supporting information
 - ✓ Provide adjacent property owners names and addresses
 - ✓ Nearby community association names and addresses
 - ✓ The list of adjacent property owners should be provided in the application as well as electronic format (for printing mailing labels for the public notice)
- ✓ Indicate the existing roads, buildings and/or facilities that would be removed or relocated
 - ✓ If any of this work is proposed in jurisdictional areas, the required information must be provided
- ✓ Indicate method of marking electrical transmission line location
- ✓ Indicate method of locating post-installation electrical transmission line
- ✓ Indicate the disposal site(s) for excess fill material and suitable dredge material disposal, including site capacity and site plans
- ✓ Address potential safety concerns regarding electrical transmission line structure and in-water security breaching from boating, fishing, swimming, body recovery activities, and any other water-use activities

Maps

Provide large sheet and 8.5-inch by 11-inch plans/maps showing the following:

- ✓ Identify (list) all waterways, named wetlands/swamps, and Federal, State, or County parks to be crossed and identify location by ADC map location page/square for crossing
- ✓ Provide a general location map of the entire project from beginning to end showing a clear distinction between existing electrical transmission line and new section of electrical transmission line; new electrical transmission line within the existing electrical transmission line easement and proposed new easement areas; and identify the areas for aerial lines and subterranean/submerged lines. Include latitude and longitude at regular intervals along the project corridor
- ✓ Overlay the proposed project plans on aerial photography (source and date indicated)
- ✓ Overlay the electrical transmission line route on maps showing the following and emphasize waterway/wetland crossings (each of the maps should include the source, page/sheet number and date information):
 - ✓ Critical Areas boundary and buffers
 - ✓ Nontidal Wetlands of Special State Concern
 - ✓ National Wetland Inventory
 - ✓ County soil surveys
 - ✓ Department of Natural Resources Wetland map
 - ✓ ADC map

- ✓ Topography map
- ✓ Show the relationship of the proposed work location to oyster bars; artificial reefs; submerged and terrestrial historic sites; navigation fairways and Federal channels; parks; named swamps and wetlands; waterways; and any other natural resources of concern

Charts

- ✓ For alternatives analysis, provide a summary chart comparing estimated total impacts (approximate figures based on mapping) for each alternative route and method of work: wetland, wetland buffer, waterway, floodplain, forest
- ✓ For the selected alternative, provide a table for each County with information on each wetland and waterway proposed to be impacted. The table columns should include the following headings:
 - ✓ Wetland/waterway identification number system; station location number; NWI classification; identify wetlands as nearby isolated, abutting or adjacent to waterway and waterway code per Rapanos guidance (see table below); total length along centerline (feet); right of way width (existing; expanded, or new); impact area (square feet/acres); latitude/longitude coordinates (upstream and downstream); State wetland/waterway buffer impacted; wetland conversion (type from/to, square foot/acreage); identify impact as temporary or permanent; type of impact (structure, fill, marsh mat, wetland conversion, etceteras); map/plan sheet number
 - ✓ Group the waterway and all the wetlands abutting or adjacent to that waterway as well as nearby isolated wetlands together on the chart
- ✓ Separately list each named tributary shown on the chart and provide the jurisdictional rational: tributary name and flow path to TNW – example:
 - ✓ Example:

Collington Branch is a nontidal tributary to Western Branch, a nontidal tributary to the Patuxent River, which is a tidal navigable tributary to the Chesapeake Bay, a tidal, navigable interstate waterway
- ✓ Per Rapanos guidance, identify the tributary as TNW, perennial RPW, intermittent RPW, intermittent non-RPW, etceteras per the chart below:

Waters Type Short Code	Waters Type
TNW	TNWs, including territorial seas
TNWW	Wetlands adjacent to TNWs
RPW	Relatively Permanent Waters (RPWs) that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs

NRPW	Non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
RPWWD	Wetlands directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
RPWWN	Wetlands adjacent to but not directly abutting RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
NRPWW	Wetlands adjacent to non-RPWs that flow directly or indirectly into TNWs
ISOLATE	Isolated (interstate or intrastate) waters, including isolated wetlands
UPLAND	Uplands
TNWRPW	Tributary consisting of both RPWs & non-RPWs

Project Plans

On 8 1/2-inch by 11-inch plan sheets

- ✓ Provide a typical construction plan for subterranean and aerial work on top and profile views for each potential method of work on land and the same for tidal water body crossings showing the following:
 - ✓ Wetlands and waterways as well as any non-work buffers
 - ✓ Types of work allowed/not allowed within those buffers (stockpile, equipment storage, use of chemicals/gas, etceteras)
 - ✓ On-site signage for work area restrictions, wetland/waterway boundaries and buffers, work allowance for construction and maintenance operations, including right-of-way vegetation management practices
- ✓ Describe composition of substrate in submerged and terrestrial areas (sand, clay, gravel, rock)
- ✓ Typical design and dimensions of the electrical transmission line system, including all structural components and materials
- ✓ Typical methods of work and impact type and areas due to specific methods, including width and depth of trench, stabilization of the substrate, and disposal of excess excavated material
- ✓ Describe the method the electrical transmission line would be secured in place, anchored, or weighed down
- ✓ Relationship of electrical transmission line location to oyster bars; artificial reefs; submerged and terrestrial historic sites; navigation fairways and Federal channels; parks; named swamps and wetlands; waterways; and any other natural resources of concern

Nontidal Areas

On 8 1/2-inch by 11-inch plan sheets for each impact area:

The impacts areas must be described by square footage, acreage, and linear feet of waterway

- ✓ Indicate dimensions of structures and/or fill, including grading relative to current elevation
 - ✓ Indicate the anticipated impact area for use of temporary marsh mats, as well and indicate the dimensions and marsh mat material
 - ✓ Show wire anchors etceteras for the electric line support structures
- ✓ Identify and indicate the square foot area and acreage of each wetland proposed to be impacted and indicate whether it abuts, is adjacent to a waterway or is isolated
 - ✓ Indicate the type of wetland proposed to be impacted
 - ✓ Indicate the total area of the wetland to be impacted and the proposed impact area
 - ✓ Indicate the latitude and longitude coordinates of each wetland proposed to be impacted
- ✓ Identify and indicate the length and average width at the approximate ordinary high water mark of each waterway proposed to be impacted
 - ✓ Indicate the total length and area of the waterway to be impacted and the proposed impact length and area
 - ✓ Indicate the latitude and longitude coordinates of each waterway proposed to be impacted at the upstream and downstream proposed impact limits
 - ✓ Describe the condition of the wetland and waterway within the proposed impact area

Tidal Areas

On 8 1/2-inch by 11-inch plan sheets for each impact area:

The impacts areas must be described by square footage, acreage, and linear feet of waterway

- ✓ Provide plans indicating dimensions of structures and/or fill, including elevation above/below the approximate mean high water and mean low water levels and relative to the approximate mean high water, mean low water and high tide shorelines
 - ✓ Cross section/profile view of transmission line relative to the MHW and MLW shorelines including controlling depth and minimum clearances of proposed transmission line components below and above mean low water and bottom substrate or depth below soil/water/air interface and identify areas for trenching or directional drilling
 - ✓ Shoreline stabilization that may be necessary at the shoreline crossings
 - ✓ Indicate the anticipated impact area for use of temporary marsh mats, as well and indicate the dimensions and marsh mat material
 - ✓ Show wire anchors etceteras for the electric line support structures
- ✓ Provide plans showing:

- ✓ Existing shoreline features, including tidal wetlands, bank elevation and slope; mean high water (MHW) and mean low water (MLW) elevation; submerged aquatic vegetation; and structures such as piers, boat ramps, and other riparian facilities, and attendant features in vicinity of proposed electrical transmission line
- ✓ Existing depths at MLW within 50 feet of the electrical transmission line across the width of the waterway and location of navigational fairway and/or shipping channels
- ✓ Property lines and easement locations for riparian properties within and immediately adjacent to transmission line corridor

Other

- ✓ Prepare a separate permit application for impacts associated with access to and borehole testing in areas of wetland and/or waterway to determine the suitability of the substrate for the method of work proposed for the electrical transmission line crossing, e.g., HDD

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