



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Medical Center  
Hampton, VA 23667

June 24, 2016

In Reply Refer To: 590/138

Colonel Jason Kelly  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Norfolk District  
803 Front Street  
Norfolk, Virginia 23510

**US Army Corps of  
Engineers  
Norfolk District  
Regulatory Office  
Received by: RLS  
Date: July 11, 2016**

SUBJ: Dominion – Skiffes Creek Project

Dear Colonel Kelly:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Veterans served by the Hampton VA Medical Center (VAMC). The Hampton VAMC is a tertiary care, Complexity Level 1c Medical Center that provides comprehensive primary and specialty care in medicine, surgery, and psychiatry. The medical center is a leader in technology and innovation utilizing a highly skilled, compassionate staff.

As you are aware, the Medical Center is geographically positioned among one of the largest Department of Defense active duty and military retiree populations in the United States. As a result, the Medical Center has seen an approximate 7% increase among Veterans seeking VA care. The Hampton VAMC recently opened a state-of-the-art Women's Clinic and ongoing expansions include the Spinal Cord Injury Unit and Mental Health Unit. Rich with history, the medical center is proud to be the health care provider of choice for Hampton Roads Veterans.

Our mission is to honor America's Veterans by providing exceptional health care that improves their health and well being - - but our mission is at great risk without reliable electric service for our medical facilities or the homes of our approximate 1800 employees. Electric reliability is uncertain if Dominion Virginia Power is not issued a timely permit to allow it to construct the Surry-Skiffes Creek-Wheaton 500 kV project crossing the James River, thus assuring the continuation of a reliable electric supply to the Virginia Peninsula. The loss of electric service of any duration would have a severe negative impact on our ability to provide the uninterrupted care our Veterans expect and demand, and to which they are unmistakably entitled.

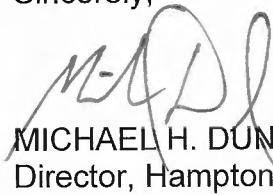
With an estimated construction time to complete the transmission line project of 18-20 months, time is critical. After April 2017, with the federally mandated closure of the two coal-fired generating units at Dominion's Yorktown Power Station, the Hampton

Roads area will become a uniquely vulnerable transmission region until the Skiffes Creek project is in service. With numerous transmission system overloads possible, the Peninsula could experience outages until the Skiffes Creek Project is built and energized.

I am seriously concerned by the potential for any blackout. Although our facility has limited onsite emergency power generation capability, many systems are not included, specifically heating and air conditioning systems. The negative impacts created as a result of this project's failure to be completed in a timely manner would be catastrophic. We urge you to issue a favorable USACOE decision so the vital Skiffes Creek project can move forward as quickly as possible.

Thank you for considering our comments on this important project. If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Scott F. Brown, Chief, Facilities Management Service at 757-728-3121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. H. Dunfee", is written over the typed name below.

MICHAEL H. DUNFEE, MHA  
Director, Hampton VA Medical Center