



Reply to
Attention of

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NORFOLK DISTRICT
FORT NORFOLK
803 FRONT STREET
NORFOLK VA 23510-1011

July 2, 2015

Southern Virginia Regulatory Section
NAO-2012-00080, 13-V0408 (James River)

National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Attn: Mr. Patrick Andrus
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Andrus:

This letter requests a determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places for a portion of the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail (CAJO) from the Keeper of the National Register, acting for the Secretary of the Interior, pursuant to 36 CFR Part 63.2 and CFR 36 Part 800.4 (c)(2).

This eligibility request is related to a Department of the Army permit application for Dominion Virginia Power (Dominion), referred to as the Surry-Skiffes Creek-Wheaton aerial transmission line project. Dominion proposes the construction of 7.4-miles of new 500kV overhead transmission line from Surry to a proposed Skiffes Creek 500kV-230kV-115kV switching station in James City County, followed by upgrades to 20.2 miles of 230kV overhead transmission line easement that connects with the existing Wheaton substation in Hampton, VA. The proposed work in waters of the U.S. requires a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, and therefore constitutes a Federal undertaking subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (SHPO) has recognized our completion of the identification of historic properties, as required by 36 CFR 800.4, for this undertaking and has concurred with all eligibility determinations made to date. As part of the identification process, we submitted our May 7, 2015, document entitled "*National Register of Historic Places Eligibility of the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail, Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, and Other Potentially Eligible Cultural Landscapes Within the Area of Potential Effect*" for SHPO consideration. Among other things in this document, we described our determinations that (1) a section of the James River and immediate shorelines from the western end of Jamestown Island to Skiffes Creek, and including Hog Island, is eligible as a cultural landscape (the Jamestown Island-Hog Island Cultural Landscape); and (2)

although a portion of the CAJO lies within the defined cultural landscape, the CAJO is not eligible under National Register criteria. On May 11, 2015, the SHPO concurred with our eligibility determinations.

In a letter dated June 19, 2015, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) requested that we obtain a determination of eligibility for the portion of the CAJO within the undertaking's APE from the Keeper of the National Register.

For your consideration we have enclosed our May 7th determination of eligibility document with the supporting reference materials used to reach our decision that the portion of the CAJO within the project APE is ineligible for the National Register. This determination includes a description of the CAJO and information on significance. Other documents related to our determination are listed below as enclosures, and include maps and photos, along with the concurrence letter from the SHPO. We also have included recent materials received from Frank Hays, Acting Associate Regional Director with the National Park Service that were not available prior to our May 7th determination. We have reviewed and considered these new materials, but we do not feel any changes to the determinations receiving SHPO's concurrence are warranted.

Each of the items required by 36 CFR Part 63.2(d) are enclosed with this letter. We trust the information we have packaged is sufficient for you to determine the eligibility of the portion of the CAJO within the project APE. We look forward to your response within 45-days of your receipt. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Randy Steffey at (757) 201-7579 or by e-mail at randy.l.steffey@usace.army.mil

Sincerely,



FOR William T. Walker
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Enclosures:

1. Location Map/Indirect APE Exhibit
2. May 7, 2015 USACE National Register of Historic Places Eligibility of the Captain John Smith National Historic Trail, Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail, and Other Potentially Eligible Cultural Landscapes Within the Area of Potential Effect Determination

- a. *June 12, 2014 letter from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR): "Finally, although not presented in the survey report, DHR strongly recommends the Captain John Smith Chesapeake Historic Trail as NRHP eligible".*

- b. *September 18, 2014 letter from the National Park Service with specific comments on the eligibility of the CAJO.*
 - c. *November 10, 2014 Stantec letter with specific comments on the eligibility of the CAJO.*
 - d. *February 13, 2015 letter from the Deputy Keeper regarding CAJO.*
 - e. *March 11, 2015 letter from VDHR recommending consideration of the Deputy Keeper's comments on CAJO.*
 - f. *April 17, 2015 letter from the ACHP recommending consideration of the Deputy Keeper's comments on CAJO.*
- 3. May 11, 2015 VDHR(SHPO) DOE concurrence letter
 - 4. May 28, 2015 Coalition letter with Enclosures to Director NPS
 - 5. June 9, 2015 NPS Letter w/ Addendum
 - 6. June 19, 2015 ACHP Request Referral to Keeper letter
 - 7. DVD w/ still photos and videos captured from the field
 - 8. DVD w/ interactive simulations
 - 9. DVD w/ Comments
 - 10. List of Consulting Parties

cc: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, John Eddins
Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Roger Kirchen
Dominion Virginia Power, Courtney Fisher
Stantec, Christine Conrad
Consulting Parties