

Note:  
This summary was last updated on **January 27, 2022**  
For current information, follow this link:  
[PSC Docket Case #9669](#)

# Potomac Edison Doubs to Goose Creek Transmission Reliability Project (Frederick and Montgomery Counties, Maryland to Loudoun County, Virginia) PSC Case Number 9669

Note:  
This summary is based on information  
provided in the CPCN Application  
dated **August 3, 2021**, which is  
subject to change and has not yet  
been fully reviewed by PRRP

## CPCN Timeline

CPCN Application filed on August 3, 2021  
Pre-Hearing Conference: September 14, 2021  
Staff, OPC, and PRRP File Direct Testimony: September 21, 2022  
Rebuttal Testimony Due: October 26, 2022  
Surrebuttal Testimony Due: December 7, 2022  
Public Hearing Date: December 1, 2021 and week of October 24, 2022  
Evidentiary Hearing Date: January 11, 2023

## Project Location:

The Project extends approximately 18.3 miles from the Doubs substation in Frederick County, Maryland to the Goose Creek Substation in Loudoun County, Virginia. The Potomac Edison CPCN Application covers only the 15.2 miles of the Project that extend from the Doubs substation to the northernmost structure of the Project in Virginia. The remaining 3.1 miles are located in Virginia and will be constructed by Dominion Power. The Maryland portion of the Project passes through both Frederick and Montgomery Counties. [Google Map Link](#) (Doubs end); [Google Map Link](#) (Maryland/Virginia State Line End)

## Project Overview:

Potomac Edison filed for a CPCN to rebuild the Maryland portion of the Doubs to Goose Creek 500-kV Transmission Line. The Project will replace a 15.2-mile long portion of the existing aboveground transmission line from the Doubs Substation in Frederick County to the northernmost structure in Virginia (about 200 feet from the Maryland/Virginia border). The existing transmission line structures were installed in 1966 and have been in service for more than 40 years. The planned in-service date is June 2025. Project components include:

- Replacement of the existing lattice tower structures with an equivalent number of new lattice tower structures;
- Work pads for new structures that range from 6,000 to 13,000 square feet;
- Replacement of the existing conductor-line (which consists of two bundled subconductors) with a new conductor that consists of three bundled subconductors resulting in a capacity increase from 2,442 MVA to 4,330 MVA; and
- Two shield wires that will be installed above the conductors to protect against lightning strikes.

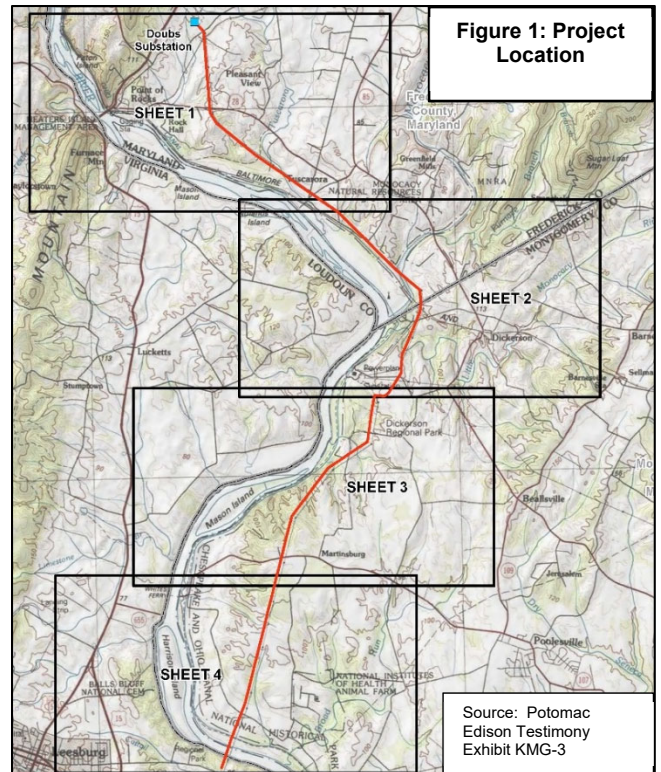
## Site Description

All construction will take place within the existing transmission line corridor and the Applicant indicates that new structures will be located in approximately the same locations as old structures. The route crosses multiple streams, wetlands and roads. The corridor either crosses or is located near several parks and resource conservation areas. Land surrounding the Project is zoned Agricultural, Resource Conservation, Heavy Industrial, Moderate Industrial, and Residential.

## Impact Assessment Highlights

### *Electrical Need and Reliability*

- The Applicant indicates that the Project is needed because most of the existing structures are over 40 years old and are approaching their expected end-of-life. Replacing the line will ensure that reliable transmission service can continue to be provided to the electricity customers in Maryland.
- The existing transmission line must be taken out of service to construct the Project, which will result in planned outages. The Applicant states that it intends to perform most construction during fall and spring seasons when there would be less of an impact on electric services.



### *Air Quality*

- Earthwork activities associated with the Project may generate fugitive dust.
- Operation of heavy equipment will result in combustion by-product emissions.

### *Biological*

- The Applicant completed a stream and wetland delineation in March 2020 within the Project corridor. The survey identified 60 streams and 23 wetlands.
  - The Applicant indicates that the Project corridor crosses 8,606 linear feet of streams.
  - The streams include tributaries of the Tuscarora Creek, Washington Run, C&O Canal, Little Monocacy River, Monocacy River, and the Potomac River.
  - The Applicant reports that the Project will cross approximately 3.1 acres of wetlands.
- The Project route crosses 100-year floodplains associated with the Potomac River, Tuscarora Creek, and the Monocacy River.
- The Applicant indicates that forest resources near the Project area are located within the C&O Canal National Historical Park, Dickerson Conservation Area, Banner Park, Monocacy State NRMA, Sugarloaf Mountain Historic District, Meredith Hunting Quarters, and Owens Park.
- The Applicant contacted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to identify sensitive wildlife species near the Project. USFWS identified three amphipod species and one isopod species as well as the Appalachian spring snail that may be present near the Project site. The Applicant further indicates that it identified a pair of nesting bald eagles near the Project site during an environmental survey.
- The Applicant also consulted with the DNR Wildlife Heritage Service (WHS), which identified two plant species of interest that may occur in the Project area. The Applicant indicates it is continuing to work with WHS to determine whether these species are present within the Project Corridor and to minimize potential impacts.
- Some trees will be cleared from the Project corridor and for temporary access roads.
- The CPCN Application indicates that the Project will utilize existing access roads to the extent practicable, but that some temporary access roads may be required.
- The Project crosses several Green Infrastructure features including four hubs associated with the C&O Canal National Historical Park, Dickerson Conservation Area, Monocacy NRMA, and several private forested areas.

### *Economic and Fiscal*

- The Project will create temporary construction jobs with construction taking place seasonally over three spring/ fall seasons. The Applicant estimates 65-100 workers will be employed during certain phases of construction.
- The Applicant estimates the cost to construct the Project will be \$65.8 million.
- The Applicant estimates that the Project real-estate property tax for the calendar year following completion will be \$0.5 million.

### *Transportation*

- The Project crosses multiple roads.
- The Applicant indicates that the closest airports to the Project site are the Burhans Memorial Airport and the Frederick Municipal Airport (located 10.2 and 11.3 miles from the Project Site, respectively).

### *Land Use*

- The Applicant indicates that, as the Project will be constructed within the existing transmission line corridor, it will not affect land use for the surrounding properties.
- The Project crosses approximately 104 acres of agricultural land.

### *Cultural and Aesthetic*

- The CPCN Application states that the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT) review of the Project identified 37 recorded cultural resources within 0.25 miles of the Project centerline. These included 5 surveyed historic architectural resources and 32 archaeological sites
- The Application indicates that evaluation of the sites identified by MHT is still in progress.
- The Project crosses the C&O Canal Towpath, which is used by hikers, bikers, and horseback riders. As such, the Applicant is pursuing a National Park Service Special Use Permit which will outline the coordination and safety plan for the construction of the line.

### *Visual*

- The Applicant estimates that new structures will range from 95 to 199 feet tall and will be an average of 20 feet taller than the existing structures. The Applicant indicates that this, combined with construction of the Project within the existing corridor will limit visual impacts to surrounding properties.