

Additional Letters Received after December 4, 2023 Regarding Proposed Transmission Upgrades in Advance of the December 5, 2023 Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee Meeting

The following emails and letters were submitted to the Secretary of the PJM Members Committee - David Anders - pursuant to the Board Communications process and are being posted pursuant to that process. A response will be provided to these communications in due course and will be posted on the Board Communications page as well.

David,

I have seen a map of a proposed transmission line in Loudoun County that cuts across Waterford, Va - a National Historic Landmark.

Please reconsider the placement of this corridor. For starters, this line offers no benefit to the residents whose property will be impacted. The beneficiaries of this proposed construction are the data centers of which we have far too many.

Our county has already been impacted by numerous transmission line projects and have even endured the construction and operation of a power plant in the middle of the suburbs - built solely to accommodate these data centers. It's just wrong.

I have worked in and around electric utilities and I know these data centers are a high load factor gold mine but PJM should not be bound by some perverse obligation to serve these new loads - especially when it comes at the expense of a National Historic Landmark.

Please remove this route from consideration and just say no to further data center development in this area.

Thank you for your attention to this important subject.

Bill Mayer
Waterford VA

Hi David, I am writing you, as a lifetime resident of the beautiful and historic Waterford, VA. My family moved to the town when I was 3, I grew up there thinking it was the greatest town on earth to be from, and at that time, it really was. At 56 now, though I went off to colleges, and I've traveled extensively, Waterford is my anchor point and where I'd planned on living out my days. Philips Farm is directly out from my window, and I hike the trails on the farm, the same farm I would hike through when I was 10, multiple times a week. The easements and protections on this land and the surrounding properties have really meant something to all of us older residents of Waterford. The town has serious history mojo. The mere idea of a large cable and tower infrastructure being put across this land undermines all of what we've

protected and loved. It will destroy our Fair, it will destroy our house and land worth. And likely tear the town apart in short order, as we've known it. I suspect a good amount of residents, including myself, would not desire to live in this town with giant data lines and towers in our back yard. For me it's literally in my back yard. I am here to plead with you to consider having this data line somewhere a bit further from the town of Waterford proper? Please.

Thank you very much - David Tiller Waterford

Dear Mr. Anders,

The poor matrix score for the path for a 500 kV transmission line through Loudoun County you will consider this week rightly shows the huge risks it faces. More than 50 organizations that have worked for decades to preserve this historic, scenic, and agriculturally productive landscape, and at this juncture they are joined by organizations of local businesses that succeed because of the tourism that visitors come to enjoy in this nearly pristine landscape. Visit Loudoun statistics show an annual revenue of \$1.8 billion from tourism. New transmission lines may provide vastly more profits to outside entities—at a sacrifice of local small business profitability.

And it is the local businesses and citizen ratepayers who will foot the bill for their own demise. You can expect a huge battle from these rapidly organizing constituencies.

The proposed path will degrade the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area, transect multiple agricultural and rural easements, the Waterford National Historic Landmark, and an array of environmentally sensitive areas that have active, experienced protectors who are now aligned for however protracted a battle it will take to prevent overhead lines from destroying our landscape.

We understand that PJM has a challenge in addressing predicted energy needs, and that the short-sighted acceptance of an intense concentration of data centers in Loudoun on the part of its economic development department and elected officials now is up against the costs of those earlier decisions.

I urge PJM to step back and reconsider its approach, review its own matrix, consider the need for an emphasis on under grounding wires to mitigate economic and environmental impacts, and consider that economic development for one business segment should not destroy landscapes that underpin another locally based economy of small businesses.

The world relies on internet function but our historic landscapes and local businesses and citizens should not bear the burden those vast energy needs.

Martha Polkey
Black Sheep Farm
Leesburg, VA

Dear Members of PJM Board,

We are writing to express our opposition to the new 500 k transmission line proposed to run through western Loudoun County. The new line would transverse many scenic and historic areas, adversely affecting agribusiness, vineyards, family farms, and other small

businesses, many of which will be destroyed because of the ruined view and proximity to these high-power lines. Western Loudoun County farmland is an invaluable resource for not only our local communities but for the whole state, providing a sustainable way of life so rare and needed by all. The value of homes in these areas built or purchased after a lifetime of work will be drastically reduced because a house sitting under or looking at a high-power transmission line isn't desirable to the majority of country home buyers. These power lines will devastate the lives of so many – veterans, farmers, nature lovers, retirees, children, and more.

Along with the economic issues, we want to understand the assessment you are conducting on the environment – on wildlife and conservation land. What studies have been conducted particular to this ecosystem?

What are the legal implications on existing conservation easements – will they be obliterated?

The current proposed solution is singularly inequitable, given that the cost (economic, financial, environmental, and cultural) will be borne by the taxpaying citizens of western Loudoun County and not by the data centers and their corporate clients.

The data centers and their enormous electricity demands need to be addressed in a more innovative, sustainable, and safe manner. At a time when our electric grid is singularly vulnerable we need ways to harden it, not expose it further. It is irresponsible to pay for and maintain miles and miles of new transmission lines across the state when there are clearly technologically advanced alternatives to this archaic solution.

At the very least, bury the lines. But do bury this plan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris and Mary Hamilton

Lovettsville, VA



To: PJM Interconnection, Mr. David Anders, PJM Members Committee Secretary

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the PJM proposal for a new greenfield 500 kV line, in western Loudoun County, Virginia, to be built by Florida based NextEra (Proposal 2022 W3-853).

We believe that Loudoun's Agricultural and Forestal Districts Ordinance, has not been considered or respected. This ordinance states "It is hereby declared to be the policy of the County of Loudoun to conserve, protect and to encourage the development and improvement of its agricultural and forestal lands for the production of food and other agricultural and forestal products. It is also the policy of the County of Loudoun to conserve and protect agricultural and forestal lands as valued natural and ecological resources which provide essential open spaces for clean air sheds, as well for aesthetic purposes. It is the purpose of this Ordinance to provide a means by which agricultural and forestal land may be protected and enhanced as a viable segment of the County's economy and as an economic and environmental resource of major importance, pursuant to Title 15.2, Chapter 43 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended."

The area that will be affected by Proposal 2022 W3-853 goes through several of the of the agricultural districts protected by the above mentioned ordinance. The districts contain:

- Many small and large farms;
- Virginia Farm Wineries. In fact, the line would transit through the heart of the Middleburg American Viticultural Area, a nationally recognized wine appellation.
- Breweries and Meaderies.
- Equine training, stabling, exercise facilities, and therapeutic riding services;
- Bed & Breakfast establishments
- Historic and conservation areas around Mount Gilead, Digges Valley, and Waterford National Historic Landmark along the Catoctin Ridge.
- A wide range of fragile creeks and streams, forests and grasslands that make up a very precious and irreplaceable ecology.
- The area also includes a large number of residential communities that will be damaged, both aesthetically and economically.

The Loudoun County government has worked hard to promote agritourism in Western Loudoun, which is a major pillar in Loudoun's Comprehensive Plan. The quantity and quality of agritourism business in Loudoun outpaces all other jurisdictions in Virginia. Crisscrossing this

area with transmission lines to meet energy demands elsewhere would hurt this vital sector of the economy. **We believe tourists will instinctively perceive the power lines with negativity. Tourists will view them as eyesores in the viewshed. They will be turned away by the risk of health hazards, whether real and warranted or not. This will impact all agritourism businesses in Western Loudoun, regardless of their proximity to the new lines. Businesses and livelihoods will be extinguished and communities will be economically damaged.**

We appreciate that PJM has a very difficult task ahead of it making up for anticipated electric power shortfalls, but we think community engagement and a broader range of alternative solutions and transmission technologies need to be considered. We call for engineering, environmental, and economic impact assessments to be performed and released for public review before any proposals receive serious consideration.

We appreciate the vitality of the eastern areas in Loudoun and understand that its economic development needs to be served with additional power. However, this must not be done at the expense of Western Loudoun which provides essential economic diversification and balance to the County through very strong agribusiness and tourism sectors.

We urge PJM not to continue consideration of Proposal 2022 W3-853.

Sincerely,

Clyde & Terry Housel
Owners, Hiddencroft Vineyards
Lovettsville, VA

As a 41 year resident of Loudoun County, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the PJM proposal for a new greenfield 500 kV line in western Loudoun County, Virginia. Your maps indicate this line would transit historic and conservation areas around Mt. Gilead, Digges Valley, and Waterford National Historic Landmark along the Catoctin Ridge.

I moved from Leesburg to Waterford 7 years ago, mostly to escape the overcrowded town in which I grew up. I looked forward to having more space, more land, and enjoying the scenic views, like my neighbors pond and ponies....not power lines. According to these maps, these lines would run right through my neighbors back yard.

I'm sure PJM has a very difficult task ahead of it making up for anticipated electric power shortfalls, but I'm sure alternative solutions and transmission technologies need to be considered. Instead, Loudoun County needs to prioritize its own residents' electrical needs in the west of the county, with many of us going days without heat each winter just because the wind blew a little too hard for a few minutes. I'm not really up for compromising my view, my money, historic landmarks, or the value of my home to power lines. 500 kV lines belong in the city, not a historic Quaker town.

Sincerely,
Katie Geaneas

Dear PJM Members Committee,

I am writing to request that you not approve the path proposed by Next Era that cuts through the rural, economically vibrant western part of Loudoun County. The economic success of those villages and communities depends on thousands of acres placed under conservation easements, through which this path is proposed. Approving this path will lead to a constructed, 500-kv transmission corridor that will delegitimize many conservation easements, harm ecologically protected areas, and deprive an agritourism region of its attractive viewsheds.

The proposed path is a spur off of existing transmission corridors that skirt the northern section of Loudoun County, continue to the soon to be retired coal plant at Dickerson in Maryland, and then dip down south through the suburban section of Loudoun County en route to Possom Point power plant in Fauquier County, Virginia. It does not connect to new utility power generation. PJM could derive the same transmission benefit by increasing the voltage capacity through the existing transmission corridor.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

William Marsh
Lessburg, VA

Dear Mr. Anders,

I am writing to oppose the installation of transmission lines through historic Waterford Virginia. The village and surrounding Phillips Farm is beautiful and historically significant with amazing views toward the short hill mountains. Having tall towers run through this area would be a travesty. Please consider running these lines along a different route.

Thank you,
Lizzie Zittle
Resident of Lovettsville

Dear David Anders,

Waterford National Historic Landmark is a nearly 300-year old landmark pre-dating the founding of this country. It is supported by many of our small businesses, the community and our family of three small children who love the nature we live in. Waterford Landmark represents rich, well-preserved, American history as well as the unsurmountable beauty of un-spoilt visibility surrounding the Waterford historic village. The proposed path of the new transmission lines is in opposition to our community's conservation values and the integrity of Waterford's Landmark status. The rustic and historic nature of the Waterford area is why we moved to the area two years ago.

Having the power lines built adjacent to Waterford is an unnecessary scarring of a historical site. The proposed path of the new transmission lines runs directly through the Landmark, through property **under conservation easement** with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. We kindly urge you to consider the violation of easement protections, the high constructability risk, and strong public opposition which will add time and cost to the power lines installation process as well as the impacts to rural Loudoun businesses.

Sincerely,

Lilly and Chris O'Brien

December 4, 2023

PJM Board Managers:

This letter is in opposition to the proposal by PJM Interconnection for a new 500 kV transmission line in western Loudoun County, Virginia. The transmission line will adversely affect many miles of scenic waterways, possibly including the "state-designated" 16-mile reach of Catoctin Creek which runs from Waterford National Historic Landmark, which is also on Virginia and Loudoun County historic registers, northward to the Potomac River.

The "Scenic" Catoctin Creek, stretching 16 miles from Waterford to the Potomac River, is not just a waterway; it is a living testament to Virginia's commitment to protecting its natural landscapes. The proposed transmission line, in its current trajectory, stands to irreversibly mar this scenic treasure, disrupting miles of pristine waterways and violating the core principles of the 2019 Loudoun County Comprehensive Plan. This plan is not merely a guideline but a commitment to the preservation of scenic rivers' viewsheds, which this project threatens to obliterate.

The Catoctin Creek Scenic River Advisory Committee was established by the Virginia Scenic Rivers Program. The Program's intent is to identify, designate and help protect rivers and streams that possess outstanding scenic, recreational, historic and natural characteristics of statewide significance for future generations. One of the Program's strengths is the partnership forged between citizens, local government and the state. Our Committee's focus is to build and utilize those partnerships in support of the health of the creek and preservation of the scenic corridor.

We understand that meeting the growing demand for power to data centers in Eastern Loudoun is a real challenge. However, this proposed route is likely to generate significant public opposition and is already deemed to be a high constructability risk - costing ratepayers here and in neighboring states much higher prices in the future. We strongly encourage you to prioritize use of existing rights-of-way instead of destroying the pristine viewshed that will result from proceeding with this proposal.

In the spirit of responsible stewardship and sustainable development, we strongly advocate for the exploration of existing rights-of-way and alternative solutions that do not involve the desecration of Catoctin Creek's scenic corridor. The cost of this project should not be measured solely in dollars, but in the legacy we leave for future generations.

The Catoctin Creek Scenic River Committee can be reached at CatoctinScenicRiver@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Bruce Johnson, Chair

Catoctin Scenic River Advisory Committee, Chair

www.CatoctinScenicRiver.org

<https://www.facebook.com/CatoctinScenicRiver>

Committee Members:

Eleanor Adams, Julie Gurnee, Charles Hansen, Bruce Johnson, Joan Linhardt, Carol Matheny, David Nelson, David Ward



Eagle's Nest Veterans' Equine Therapy
PO Box 53
Lovettsville, VA 20180

PH# 540.504.8401
ENVET501c3@gmail.com

Reference: "PJM 2022 Window 3 Project Approval"

To Whom It May Concern, PJM Board Managers, et al;

My spouse and I own/operate a small 30-acre farm on Long Lane in Lovettsville, Virginia, which would be negatively affected by PJM's planned encroachment on our property. We already have two high tension power lines running through the southern part of our property, which precludes us from using that area for anything other than pasture. While the existing infrastructure was installed on the property before our purchase, we do not receive any benefits, deferments, or payments from the easement, but we are still required to pay taxes on the encumbered land. Further restrictions, which would be a direct result of PJM's nefarious scheme, are not in keeping with our business model, and would have significant and permanent negative effects on our non-profit organization.

We strenuously object to PJM Interconnection's West project, as the transmission easements would be highly detrimental to our property, horses, and the Veterans we continue to serve. As Disabled Veterans, we both struggle with the sacrifices that have been required by our service to our country. Upon our retirement from the military, we purchased this property with the express intent to help other Veterans in their daily battles. In the last year alone, we have hosted over 40 Veterans and their families, including one of my former Drill Sergeants!

The loss of more acreage to larger towers would prevent us from building the energy-producing, handicapped-accessible barn and riding hall, which are to be named after LTC Roy Lin Tisdale (1970-2012) and CSM Matthew M. Gray (1968-2013), who were my command group while I was stationed at Fort Bragg, NC and deployed to Afghanistan. Additionally, the property devaluation would prevent us from selling this farm to move to another location, as we would be forced to sell at a significant loss; the improvements we have already made to this property would be for naught. We have replaced the roof and all of the windows in the house, as well as replaced the roofing on the two shop buildings. Additionally, we have installed a 50-panel solar field, which pushes electricity back to the grid, at no cost to the power company. At this time, we are 89% energy independent. It is our plan to incorporate both solar and wind energy generators on the proposed new structures.

PJM Interconnection would have our property condemned in order to steal what we have worked so diligently to build, and thereby destroy the essential services that we provide to Veterans and their families! Additionally, the destructive affects to our neighbors and the surrounding farms would be detrimental to the local economy, the repercussions of which will be felt beyond the boundaries of Loudoun County, as both food and hay production would suffer considerable losses. The Equine Industry in three states will be negatively affected when the price of hay increases exponentially. The price of meats and other foodstuffs which are produced on these farms will also increase, as production decreases. Support services, such as Veterinary care, tractor and large equipment services, construction



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or home improvement and contracting services, and several other industries will also be negatively impacted by the loss of income from the farms and agricultural industry. Next to housing, FOOD is the largest expense for the American Household; making less food for a growing population leads to an untenable situation.

In conclusion, PJM Interconnection has proposed a poorly devised scheme to roust farmers and homeowners off our legally purchased land, without recompense, while inflicting harm on the properties and the population. There are other factors to consider than providing electricity to large data centers, as there are more eco-friendly, distributed power sources. People are our business, and taking good care of them is what Veterans and Farmers do!

Cordially,

M. L. Lamm
US Army (Ret.)

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that you want to run more power lines down our lane and across our property. I am sure you have a dozen reasons why you believe it's a good idea. While at first, there may be a greater good reason, however it sounds like the individuality of these farms along Long Lane are being ignored. Your power line towers are NOT pleasing to the eye, they are eye sore and distract from the potential annuity of resale value. Not to mention, because those are in the middle of our fields, those fields cannot be used for our non-profit business where children, teenagers, adults come to commune with horses. We cannot use any of those fields for community services that Loudoun County suggests we do come this Spring 2024. Not to mention, we have even contemplated putting tiny houses along the road to help those veterans who come to use our facility when they are in distress and are having a PTSD episode have a safe, quiet place to be where they have emotional support and physical support. Your venture makes this now even more difficult to contemplate helping those who gave us our country freedom.

My biggest concern though is how is this going to cost the taxpayers? The price of this update I am sure will not be covered completely by the county and or federal government. Many farms in this area struggle to make ends meet now, how are we supposed to survive if we are hit with an extra tax that I am sure will NOT be a small amount. Loudoun county is already one of the most expensive counties in the state of Virginia. How much of a burden are you going to place on the residents to keep their farms going, their animals fed, their little children fed. I need not remind you, if you get 2 or more of these farms that produce a service or produce food for the community, this community will stumble and if you get several farms who fail and this

community with be economically hurt. Small towns all over the country are falling, are we ready to risk our small town of Lovettsville?

Long Lane needs a better service , however at what cost? There must be a more economical ,safer and compromising solution.

Jules Collins (counselor and hired hand)
Eagles Nest; Veterans Equine Therapy
Lovettsville Va

Dear Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee -

We are writing to express strong opposition to the high-voltage power line project that is proposed for Western Loudoun County through some of the most historically significant, economically vital, and aesthetically beautiful areas in Northern Virginia.

We are owners of a small horse farm adjacent to Digges Valley Road and the Goose Creek Historic District.

Our home dates to approximately 1740 and our barn and adjacent buildings were rebuilt following the Civil War in 1886.

Today, our view to the west overlooks hundreds of acres of woods, corn, and soybeans on the Harris Farm leading to the Blue Ridge Mountains beyond.

Given this context, it is hard to believe that PJM could have proposed a worse location to bring power to Eastern Loudoun County's data centers.

This historic agricultural area and adjacent communities such as Waterford would be irreparably damaged by the project that PJM has proposed.

We are closely aligned with our neighbors and conservation-minded stakeholders to oppose the PJM proposal vehemently.

Coincidentally, our community-based activism ability was "energized" earlier this year when we rallied to oppose a VDOT initiative to pave certain gravel roads in our area, including our Canby Road, which would be adjacent to the proposed power lines.

We mobilized hundreds of families, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and media channels to bring transparency and balance to the process.

Make no mistake, this PJM initiative will be thoughtfully and strongly opposed at the state and local level by well-informed, passionate, and capable land owners, neighboring constituents, and business leaders who are committed to the future of Western Loudoun County.

Thank you - Chris and Sandy Fennell

Christopher J. Fennell
Leesburg, VA

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for your work on continuing to provide power to our county.

We understand there are tough decisions to be made. You are currently being flooded with protests from many of our fellow Loudoun residents

because your options have neighborhood fighting against neighborhood to avoid having huge towers installed near them.

The one option I believe you would get overwhelming county resident support is the most expensive. And that is ok.

Loudoun county's current school year budget is \$1.6 Billion.

Yes, \$1.6 Billion for just this school year.

On top of that Loudoun residents continue to vote for and pass bonds for hundreds of millions of dollars to fund new schools, fire and police stations, as well as our own road infrastructure.

Loudoun county is constantly in and usually at the top three wealthiest counties in the nation.

We have a beautiful county with a history that predates the Constitution by many decades, a present that has an economy that includes globally significant internet data centers as well as scenically beautiful wineries, and a future we hope for generations to come that keeps our farms, parks, and green spaces put in to environmental easements as close to nature as they are today.

So we challenge you: please bury the lines

Figure out the engineering and routing:

Think big. We're a country that should be able create new electric distribution modes instead of supersizing old models. Solve the engineering. If the solution is too slow to meet demand, re-engineer it to speed up the project.

Then give Loudoun the cost. We'll vote on a bond. It will pass because we all love our county and wish to preserve its way of life.

Let Loudoun pay for your company/industry to engineer this new distribution mode. Then maybe you can offer it to other parts of the country at lower cost.

Figure out the politics:

We need power, roads, water, and other infrastructure. Virginia Department of Transportation will want to cite its easement powers over underground utilities. There will be turf battles.

However we're a DC suburb used to Joint Military Operations and other federal agency joint exercises. The Governor's office, VDOT, your company, Dominion, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, etc will have to work together for the greater good/goal of keeping the lines underground.

What we all really want is to not see huge towers in any of our neighborhoods. And we are willing and able to pay what it cost to preserve both the data storage industry we have heavily invested in and our county's natural and historical beauty.

We hope your company and industry can solve our county's energy needs with bold, new engineering to achieve our goals.

And if part of the energy solution is more generation, please look at Dulles Airport as a potential partner/location. Its huge land size and proximity to the data center ally could prove a viable piece of meeting ever increasing demand.

And finally if you proceed with the towers, please place them such that you preserve as much of our county's skies for all future generations. Not to quiet down the greatest concentration of complaints that you get just today.

We invite you to actually tour Loudoun county in person before you decide where to place the towers.

We thank you for reading this. And for keeping the lights on.

{Unsigned – perhaps barley}

12/4/2023

FROM: Mark E. Drever, Leesburg, VA

TO : PJM Board of Managers

SUBJECT: Opposition to Proposed Power Line Installation in Loudoun County, VA

Dear Members of the PJM Board of Managers,

I write to you today with a profound sense of concern and urgency regarding PJM's proposed path (2022-W3-853) for a new right-of-way (ROW) that traverses my recently purchased property on Peale Lane in Loudoun County, Virginia, in order to facilitate the installation of a 500 kV overhead transmission line. My purpose in writing is to vehemently oppose this proposal, which not only encroaches upon one of the most cherished citizen rights—personal property rights—but also presents a host of severe economic, environmental, and personal implications.

Furthermore, it is apparent that this proposal primarily serves the interests of a specific special interest stakeholder in Loudoun County—data center corporations—rather than benefiting the local citizenry. Data centers have, thus far, failed to demonstrate substantial employment of local residents or their economic benefits to the county. It is crucial to underscore that the demand for increased power infrastructure is primarily driven by the needs of data centers, not the taxpaying citizens who call this county home.

This project, as currently envisioned, stands in stark contradiction to the values of property ownership and responsible development. My family and I have invested significant resources and emotional attachment into two properties on Peale Lane within the Woodburn District. The proposed power lines would inflict severe economic harm, disrupt our serene environment, introduce noise pollution, and fundamentally alter the character of the area. Our vision for these properties is to preserve the natural beauty, tranquility, and agricultural heritage for generations to come. If PJM proceeds with its plan, it will undermine the very essence of what compelled us and our fellow residents to make this place our home.

Furthermore, this proposal ignores the precedent set by the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) in Case No. PUE-2005-00018, which underscored the necessity of utilizing existing ROW for transmission lines before encroaching upon private land. The proposed 500 kV line, a single circuit with only three wires, has the potential to coexist with the current Pleasant View - Hamilton 230 kV

transmission line on established ROW, preserving the rural landscape, respecting property rights, and minimizing environmental disruption.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the proposed path intersects several open-space easements held by Loudoun County, expressly created "to preserve the environment of the Property and to maintain permanently the natural and cultural values of the Property and the dominant scenic and agricultural character of the Property." This proposal not only contradicts the very essence of these conservation easements but also jeopardizes Loudoun County's economy and unique natural beauty, which significantly contributes to local tourism and quality of life.

Moreover, it is disheartening that the proposed 500 kV line primarily serves the commercial interests of energy companies, particularly data centers in Eastern Loudoun. I question why a handful of residential landowners in Western Loudoun should bear the infrastructure burden that primarily benefits for-profit entities. The data centers should be held accountable for the necessary electrical infrastructure to support their operations, rather than shifting this responsibility onto a minority who deliberately chose to reside within the scenic and open spaces of Western Loudoun.

It is imperative that PJM prioritize the preservation of Western Loudoun's quality, scenic beauty, and integrity by keeping similar infrastructure together. The infrastructure and ROW for the 500 kV line already exist along the Pleasant View - Hamilton 230 kV line. I propose that portions impacting residential areas along the existing ROW be placed underground, in alignment with the requirements established in the previous Virginia SCC case (PUE-2005-00018).

As demonstrated in the earlier SCC case, rest assured that the residents of Western Loudoun will vigorously defend their rights and implore the Virginia SCC to uphold the existing laws related to transmission line placement. Should PJM proceed with this proposal as outlined, I personally pledge to lead the effort in establishing a class action fight, representing all affected landowners who will unite their collective resources to oppose this plan.

In conclusion, I implore the PJM Board of Managers to reevaluate the proposed path and seek alternative solutions that align with our community's values, protect our environment, and respect the legal precedents in place. We are grateful for your attention to this matter and your consideration of the grave concerns we have raised.

Sincerely,

Mark E. Drever

Mark E. Drever

Xcelerate Solutions | Chief Executive Officer

McLean, VA

December 5, 2023

David Anders

PJM Members Committee Secretary: David.Anders@pjm.com

PJM Board of Managers:

Please, please, please stop the madness. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the PJM proposed 500kV line to be installed across Western Loudoun County Virginia.

Western Loudoun is the jewel of Loudoun County and a strong economic center for agribusinesses. Many tourists from all over Virginia come to this area for its unique beauty, natural resources, and historic places. The communities in Western Loudoun have worked hard, mainly through the effort of volunteers and preservation/conservation organizations over many years to preserve and protect this area that now is home to historic landmarks, working farms, numerous agribusinesses, and tourist attractions.

Your power towers will be an unspeakable punch-to-the-gut for these communities and businesses and will undermine the many years of work organizations and citizens have dedicated to protecting rural Loudoun. Home to countless businesses large and small including equestrian, environmental, viticulture, distilleries, and farm-to-table suppliers throughout the state, this region is truly vital to all Virginians. The amount of eased and protected lands, landmarks and historic districts impacted by your power lines is truly unbelievable and will be met by the strongest opposition we as landowners and rate payers can assemble.

Your power towers are the result of influenced power need projections and unregulated run-away expansion of data centers that serve corporations with little concern over the local communities they impact. As utilities are tasked with providing safe, reliable, affordable power, and sustainable energy to all ratepayers, not to provide massive amounts of power and infrastructure to support one industry at the expense of all rate payers. The link between power and data center development is a different relationship than any other business, and concern not to burden small local communities with supporting an industry that interacts on a worldwide scale is imperative.

As part of the Waterford Community I have served on the Waterford Foundation Board, worked closely with the Waterford Citizens Association, studied and actively engaged on resolving water and wastewater needs in this area and currently participate in an effort to create a vision for Waterford 10 years in the future to maintain and enhance the National Historic Landmark Status that many generations have worked so hard to create and maintain in the face of constant threats from development and resource depletion. **The preservation of these lands, their historic character, and the lessons they teach us are a major part of my family's history, and the character of Western Loudoun. Please don't destroy these values by supporting the options currently proposed.**

The current process that moves these decisions forward is unclear to me. It would be helpful if more transparency regarding how and when decisions are being made were available to inform the public and allow for reasoned discussion and debate.

There is a lot that is not right about the current process. Its seemingly biased support of a global industry that, although important, is literally overrunning Western Loudoun's hard-working citizens, vital communities, and businesses. This industry, I assume, is not lacking in resources and would be well served by providing funding dedicated to solving the power drain on the environment with new technologies to reduce resource needs, mitigate impacts, and create sustainability.

Patti Psaris

Waterford, Virginia

Dear David Anders and PJM,

I am writing to express my family's strong opposition to the high tension power line proposal 2022-W3-853 through a large part of western Loudoun County.

We live in the rural Waterfield Hamlet neighborhood just south of Lovettsville, a neighborhood of 19 homes, and the proposal literally cuts through our neighborhood and straight across our neighborhood pond. The neighborhood is composed of 19 homes, most of which are on one acre lots, and some of which are on larger conservation lots. Our hamlet is also surrounded by a conservation easement which the lines would cross. My husband and I purchased our home 17 years ago, raised two children here, and are on the cusp of retiring. Our home has been a critical part of our retirement plan. Our neighborhood is small; the power lines coming through would be in immediate view our home and our neighbors' homes and in proximity to the wells that provide water for our homes. This proposal, if it comes to fruition, would be devastating in so many ways and would destroy the plans that we have for our family's future.

However, the problem is far from limited to just my small neighborhood. It is about the future of our county as a whole. This proposal would destroy

countless homes, historical sites, farmland (including wineries) and fragile ecosystems. I understand that the data centers need power, but bringing power from coal fired plants that further destroy our environment is also not the answer. Loudoun County has a lot to answer for in allowing these centers to be built with little regard to how to power them. It appears that while we are told that the data centers will bring us tax revenue, in reality the taxpayers will be paying another way through increased power rates and destruction of the rural parts of the county. We will fight these transmission lines and we will be making our case known to the Loudoun County government that they need to do better for their citizens and for the rural parts of the county which, when gone, will never be able to be reclaimed.

But you can stop this debacle now, and we ask you to do that. Thank you.

Susan Hubbuch
Lovettsville, VA

Chair and PJM Board of Directors :

I wanted to shoot you a quick note prior to your meeting today to express my opposition to the proposed transmission lines in western Loudoun to be built by Florida-based NextEra (Proposal 2022W3-853). My opposition is firm both as a resident who will be directly affected by this project and as the newly-elected Senator representing western Loudoun. While I understand the need to meet energy demand, I do not believe this project is the answer.

The community is largely opposed, and for good reason. The proposed maps indicate this line would transit historic and conservation areas around Mt. Gilead, Digges Valley, and Waterford National Historic Landmark along the Catoctin Ridge. Waterford is designated a National Historic Landmark, the same as Mount Vernon and Monticello, and these important National Historic Landmarks should not and must not be threatened with high voltage power lines being built across their lands. People flock to Western Loudoun in large part to enjoy this rural community, the beautiful views, and the equestrian, farming, historic sites and roads, and agritourism businesses that have been preserved and developed here. These lines would likely harm each of these irreparably. There are also valid and grave concerns about environmental impact, and I firmly believe that the better solution to meet growing energy demand would be to choose an option along pre-existing transmission routes that will lower this potential environmental impact, minimize cost and alleviate many of the concerns posed by residents, business owners, family farms and community leaders. I also firmly believe the costs of these lines should not be borne by the ratepayer.

I recognize this is a long and ever-evolving process, but we must find a better way than this to address energy demand.

Please feel free to reach out to my office at any time.

Best regards,

Senator-elect Russet Perry
Senate District 31

To David Anders and the PJM Board,

We are writing to express our opposition to the proposal by PJM Interconnection for a new 500 kV transmission line in western Loudoun County. The proposed route goes through some of our most scenic and historic landscapes, over prime farmland and through important wildlife habitats.

As a resident of Western Loudoun living on _____, this issue is very important to us as well as our neighbors. We all worry about the historical and natural beauty that would be adversely impacted by the proposed route.

The Waterford Historic District was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places in 1969 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1970. The proposed route would visually impact the Waterford Historic District and tarnish it for future generations.

Additionally, the agricultural and agritourism sectors in Western Loudoun County are strong, but we must have undisturbed farmland and scenic views for that to continue into the future. This proposed transmission line is a threat to our historic heritage as well as our entire rural economic sector.

We understand that meeting the growing demand for power to data centers in Eastern Loudoun is a real challenge. But, this proposed route is likely to meet much public opposition and is already deemed to be a high constructibility risk - costing the ratepayers (here and in neighboring states) much more in the future. We encourage you to reconsider and choose an option along pre-existing transmission routes that will have lower environmental impact and will minimize the cost.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Steve and Sally Falatko
Waterford, VA

To David Anders and the PJM Board,

Please do not approve the new 500kV power line through western Loudoun County. This would be destructive to some of our most beautiful and historic rural landscapes, and no doubt increase prices for us as well. Please reconsider and use pre-existing routes that will be better for the environment and the rural economic sector of Loudoun County.

Thank you,
Sarah Gannon

December 4, 2023

To the PJM Board of Managers: with CC to our recently elected representatives to the Virginia General Assembly, Loudoun Supervisors and the State Corporation Commission Commissioners via email

To: Mark Takahashi; Manu Asthana@pjm.co; dave.anders@pjm.com; David.anders@pjm.com; custsvc@pjm.com; Cc: info@gearyhiggins.com; russet@russetperry.com; UtilityReg@scc.virginia.gov; sccefile@scc.virginia.gov; sccinfo@scc.virginia.gov; jeomal.hudson@scc.virginia.gov; phyllis.randall@loudoun.gov; bos@loudoun.gov; caleb.kershner@loudoun.gov

From: Ruthanne Eastwood and Glenn Wever Homeowners in Waterford, VA.

Subject: Voicing strong opposition to the PJM proposal for a new greenfield 500 kV line in Western Loudoun County.

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the PJM proposal for a new greenfield 500 kV line in western Loudoun County, Virginia. Your maps indicate this line would transit historic and conservation areas around Mt. Gilead, Digges Valley, and the Waterford National Historic Landmark along the Catoctin Ridge. There was a multi-year fight in the mid-2000s over a new transmission line in this same area that generated huge opposition and ultimately resulted in a compromise that put part of the new line under the existing right-of-way along the W&OD trail, with the rest aligned in a new right-of-way along an existing transportation corridor, namely the Leesburg Bypass.

Although it solved the immediate problem, it was by no means painless. We clearly remember when this compromise was implemented. The scar on our landscape resulting from the 'improvement' is still a visual shock. We had several long-time friends who lived in Paeonian Springs whose property was so severely impacted by the compromise that they moved away from Loudoun County, heartbroken. Perhaps no compromise is without pain, but a poorly vetted, short-term compromise doesn't last long. None of us wants to be in the position of having to find yet another compromise 10 years from now.

In the intervening years since that first compromise, organized efforts to protect rural Loudoun and its farming, historic, equestrian, environmental/conservation, and agritourism interests have only grown stronger. There is a very mobilized public that will fight even harder over the placement of new transmission lines through undisturbed Loudoun countryside than they did in the mid-2000s. The interested parties this time are much broader and span multiple counties. Loudoun has worked hard to promote tourism in the western half of the county, which is a major pillar in Loudoun's Comprehensive Plan. The quantity and quality of agritourism businesses in Loudoun outpaces all other jurisdictions in Virginia. Crisscrossing this area with transmission lines to meet energy demand elsewhere would damage this vital sector of the economy.

To put a human face on this issue, we have owned 24 acres in Waterford since the early 2000's. As you may know, the village of Waterford, settled in 1733, holds the designation of being a National Historic Landmark <https://www.waterfordvillage.org> .

On our property there is an old stone barn and the partial remains of an earlier, colonial-era stone barn that was burned down by Union forces during the Civil War. We love this property for its beauty, charm, and history. On the north side of our property is the original 1730's farmhouse (now fully updated and an upscale horse property with indoor riding space) that was the core of this once very large farm. On the south side of our property stands a fully-functioning smaller home where, it is documented, George Washington spent the night on one of his surveying trips in this part of Virginia.

The people in this area are living the American Dream, and we share it continually with friends and family and strangers who come to visit or stay. The consensus always is that this must be the most beautiful spot in the Commonwealth.

We chose to build a house and live in this beautiful country setting with full knowledge that Loudoun County had changed its rules to maintain Western Loudoun's rural setting. The purpose of that change was to not lose the bucolic, agrarian atmosphere (the way all of Loudoun County used to be) with lot sizes of not less than 10, 25 or 50 acres, depending on the setting. At the same time, Eastern Loudoun was allowed to continue to grow with ever-increasing population density and the business of large data centers took off. That bifurcation allowed the County to have the best of both worlds, and was a large contributor to the exponential growth and wealth of the County. But there comes a time when unchecked growth must stop.

Our own property is located just off Hamilton Station Road (704), on Grassley Farm Lane. The proposed greenfield 500kV line would be directly across 704 from us, behind the homes of our neighbors. Our house is 1.8 miles driving distance from the center of the village. The structures in the proposed compromise would tower over any walk or drive from our home to the village. Once this historic setting is damaged, it can never be retrieved again.

The prospect of gashing the earth to raise huge, alien towers permanently in our viewshed is horrifying to the entire community. All of our neighbors have livelihoods and circumstances unique to their own situation (raising children, horses, cattle, sheep, donkeys, goats, chickens; growing hay, soybeans, corn and the like to feed the livestock; growing wine grapes, creating and maintaining wineries and breweries; cultivating hundreds of ornamental trees to beautify the landscape; a Master Painter who teaches painting to experienced artists and those brand new to the medium; working environmental/conservation issues; and so on) but all of us are asking how this could happen in America? Some third world country maybe, but not in the USA.

Surely there must be a different way. Why not stick to existing rights-of-way, or else consider alternative methods (as they did with the 230 kV line along the Leesburg Bypass and under the W&OD Trail). In an effort to solve this problem, don't irretrievably damage the County's second major economic pillar, the agriculture/tourism industry. Surely some entity can look at this situation and realize the damage (financially, health-wise, esthetically, historically, and every other way) this would cause if allowed to go through?

It's like the old joke "Fire, ready, aim!," where a person takes action and figures out the details later. With such a critical situation as we're facing in Western Loudoun, this proposed implementation could cause incalculable harm. For a moment, just imagine if this was happening in your neighborhood.

We need greater transparency, better planning, and stronger oversight of the data center industry. It is essential to require a comprehensive, independent study of data center impacts. Sooner than later.

We urge PJM to step back and reconsider this approach to delivering power, but not at the cost of destroying the communities and other economic interests that are in your path. We ask our

elected officials to step back and look at the threat to quality of life in the jewel of Western Loudoun if this is allowed to go through. Lack of power requirement projections leading to this rushed, "get it done yesterday" situation is not, nor should it be, a problem Western Loudoun County residents should have to deal with. This planning should have been done at a much higher level months, if not years ago. But it's not too late. Let's work together with all of the stakeholders to solve the problems.

Thank you for looking at this problem as if it was happening in your neighborhood. Because it is. With regards,

Ruthanne Eastwood and Glenn Wever

[Also by U.S. mail to Mr. Mark Takahashi, Chair PJM Board of Directors; Mr. Manu Asthana, PJM President, and CEO PJM INTERCONNECTION, L.L.C. 2750 Monroe Boulevard Audubon, PA 19403]

To the PJM Board,

We strongly encourage you to look for alternate routes for the proposed 500kv transmission lines. The businesses and residents of western Loudoun chose to live and work in the area due to its amazing history, natural beauty, and distance from our urban / metropolitan areas. The obtrusive nature of these transmission lines would change the historical and natural beauty of the area which the residents and businesses have worked so hard to preserve. This would greatly impact our agritourism sector as well as the quaintness and peacefulness of the area that the resident's love and pay for. While we appreciate the wonderful standard of living in this nation and in particular this region; we also ask that you not permanently change our natural rolling landscape for money and a more direct line of travel. A.I. is the future, date is the future and that requires abundant power; but, we (NOVA region) can not bear the responsibility for supporting all of it.

On a personal note, this proposed transmission line, if finalized, would run directly through our property and within 75' of our house. We have spent the last decade building from the ground up our "forever" home that was planned to become a family heirloom that would get passed down through generations. This proposal would potentially condemn our property if the right of ways and proposed greenways were finalized. Not only would this destroy our family dream, it would also greatly impact us financially as the property would be nowhere near the value that we have put into it or its current worth.

Please take not only our words; but, also the words of our community in your thought process as you go to vote on this proposal and future proposals to come.

Matt and Kirsten Guillaume
Waterford, VA

To David Anders and the PJM Board of Managers,

I am joining the many residents of Western Loudoun County who have already expressed their overwhelming opposition to the proposed 500 kV greenfield transmission line in Western Loudoun County (NextEra Proposal 2022-W3).

When our family chose to relocate to Western Loudoun County, we did so with an expressed desire to live within a community rooted in rural character as well as centered on nature conservation and preservation. This proposal risks not only uprooting these community ideals that we sought out, but also the possibility of negatively impacting our community property values and individual health and well-being.

As proposed, the 500 kV greenfield line will transit and irreparably scar many historic and conservation areas, as well as some of the most scenic rural landscapes and view-sheds in Loudoun County. This includes our small community of Waterfield Hamlet, where the proposed line not only transits near our community homes, but also over an environmental and cultural preservation oriented perpetual open-space easement that was established and deeded upon the creation of our small residential community.

We fully recognize the importance and challenge of delivering reliable power to the continuously growing Data Center footprint located in the Eastern portion of Loudoun County. However, I firmly believe there needs to be a better balance established between the needs of developers and private corporations who build, operate, and profit from these Data Centers, the use of non-fossil fuel sources to service their power consumption needs, and the residents of Loudoun County who are firmly committed to conservation and preservation of our natural resources.

I encourage you to reconsider this proposal and choose option(s) that avoid long-haul importation of fossil-fuel sourced energy, and leverage pre-existing transmission routes, such that the environmental impact and costs are lowered.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will make decisions that prioritize the community well-being that you support and preserve the conservation and preservation ideals of the great community that we live in and strive to maintain as well.

Sincerely,
Travis Ruebelmann
Lovettsville, VA

Caitlin Conn
14926 Audrey Jean Drive
Waterford, VA 20197
caitlin.g.conn@gmail.com

December 5, 2023

Mr. David Anders, Secretary
PJM Board of Managers

Subject: Opposition to High Tension Transmission Towers in Western Loudoun County

Dear Members of the PJM Board of Managers,

I am writing to you today with a deep sense of concern and opposition to the recent proposal regarding the installation of high-tension transmission towers and wires in Western Loudoun County. Our sentiments align with those expressed by both the Waterford Foundation and Piedmont Environmental Council, and we urge you to reconsider the potential ramifications of this project.

My husband and I made the deliberate choice to relocate our family to Western Loudoun County, enchanted by the picturesque views of the pastoral and mountain landscapes that the area offers. The proposed installation of transmission lines, particularly those that would circumvent approximately 50% of our neighborhood, threatens to mar the scenic beauty that we and our fellow residents currently cherish. Furthermore, such a development would undeniably have adverse effects on our property values.

It is crucial to acknowledge that the impact extends beyond individual homeowners. The proposed transmission lines pose a significant threat to the rural businesses in the region that heavily depend on agritourism. The introduction of these lines jeopardizes the economic vitality of the entire rural community, disrupting the delicate balance that sustains local businesses and livelihoods.

In light of these concerns, we implore you to explore alternative approaches for delivering additional electricity to the data centers. Collaborating with state and local officials to identify more viable routes is essential to mitigating the potential negative effects on both the local economy and the cherished landscapes of Western Loudoun County.

We urge the PJM Board of Managers to consider the long-term consequences of the decisions made today on the landowners in our community and the National Historic Landmark of Waterford. Preserving the historical and cultural significance of this area should be at the forefront of any development decisions, and we trust that you will carefully weigh the everlasting impacts of the proposed transmission lines on our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we hope that our concerns are taken into serious consideration during your decision-making process.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Conn

December 5, 2023

Dear Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee,

I am writing to oppose the consideration of proposal 2022-W3-853. This project will destroy Western Loudoun's natural and historical preservation.

To my knowledge you have an existing right of way coming from the West VA state line, skirting Northern Loudoun Co to Leesburg, why would you even consider such a Butcher Job to Western Loudoun? It seems there are other options.

A concerned lifelong Loudoun County Business, land owner and generational family farm.

Sincerely,

Joesph Rogers Jr.
Hamilton, VA

Hidden Valley	225+ acres	VOF Easement
Helmwood	300+ acres	VOF Easement
Loudoun County Milling		Est 1906

To David Anders and the PJM Committee,

I am a 20 year resident of Waterford, Va. I own one of the oldest houses in this National Historic Landmark village. For years I have contributed, along with hundreds of other volunteers, my time serving on different committees that directly benefit the landmark status. I often wonder how many people today actually appreciate the history of this beautiful area in Va. The proposed power line plan that you and your group are presenting now is not in any way fitting for Waterford.

I have the most beautiful view from my front porch of an African American Church built by lantern light in 1890 and the Waterford Mill built in 1832. Each night the sunsets behind the mill behind the pine tree ridge bordering the Philli[s Farm. This sightline is where you have designated the power poles to be erected. I can't even imagine looking out on this view and seeing 300 ft. structures towering over the pine trees. Hopefully, you and your committee will soon realize that Waterford is a rare historic gem and should be cherished and not destroyed by poor planning.

Ann Belland
Waterford, Va

Mr Anders and Mr Souder,

My name is Jacob Baker, and I am writing as a concerned 11 year resident of western Loudoun County. We finally found a home with a little more space that we can afford, just outside of Hamilton. We are set to close on 12/22. These transmission lines will not only take away from the essence for why we all live out here, but they may also cause my new properties value serious hardship. My better half is losing sleep over the matter. We are betting our future on western Loudoun, don't destroy it over a cheap solution which will do damage to our region that can never be undone. There are other ways to power our future without destroying what beautiful open spaces we have out here, beyond the progress and development in Ashburn.

Thanks for your attention
Jacob Baker

Mr. Anders,

Last week I learned of your plan on bringing 500KVA lines right across the tiny dirt road leading to my home (Sierra Lane).

This letter is to let you know that we are vehemently against your plan to do so.

My name is Gloria Westerman. I live in northern Loudoun County with my husband John. We have been residents here since 2000.

23 years ago we moved to this beautiful place to escape the hustle and noise of eastern Loudoun. It has always been a respite from the chaos of what happens closer to Dulles airport.

It is my hope that someone takes the serenity and beauty of this part of the county into serious consideration when working through bringing electricity from West Virginia to power the data centers in Virginia. Dragging 500KVA lines through this part of the county would be devastating to so many aspects of life out here. While too numerous to mention here one such aspect is the economic impact that sustains this part of the county which is horse agriculture and wine country.

Please create an alternative plan for this path.

With utmost urgency and regards,

Gloria Westerman

Dear Mr Anders,

We are writing to express our strong opposition to the PJM proposal for a new greenfield 500 kV line in western Loudoun County, Virginia to be built by Florida-based NextEra (Proposal 2022-W3-853). Your maps indicate this line would transit historic and conservation areas around Mt. Gilead, Digges Valley, and Waterford National Historic Landmark along the Catoctin Ridge. There was a multi-year fight in the mid-2000s over a new transmission line in this same area that generated huge opposition and ultimately resulted in a compromise that put part of the new line under the existing right-of-way along the W&OD trail, with the rest aligned in a new right-of-way along an existing transportation corridor, namely the Leesburg Bypass. In the intervening years, organized efforts to protect rural Loudoun and its farming, historic, equestrian, environmental/conservation, and agritourism interests have only grown stronger.

There is a very mobilized public that will fight even harder over the placement of new transmission lines through undisturbed Loudoun countryside than they did in the mid-2000s. The interested parties this time are much broader and span multiple counties. Loudoun has worked hard to promote tourism in the western half of the county, which is a major pillar in Loudoun's Comprehensive Plan. The quantity and quality of agritourism businesses in Loudoun outpaces all other jurisdictions in Virginia. Crisscrossing this area with transmission lines to meet energy demand elsewhere would hurt this vital sector of the economy.

We appreciate that PJM has a very difficult task ahead of it making up for anticipated electric power shortfalls, but we think community engagement and a broader range of alternative solutions and transmission technologies need to be considered. We urge PJM to step back and

reconsider its approach, with a goal of ensuring your mission to deliver power, but not at the cost of destroying the communities and other economic interests that are in your path.

Sincerely,
Ryan and Amanda Sprague

have been a Loudoun County resident for the past 30 years.

I attended the Piedmont Environmental Council (PEC) Meeting in Hillsboro VA to learn about the proposed transmission corridors through western Loudoun. I had several concerns. I see two issues here. The impact of a proposed line in western Loudoun and the continued growth of the data center business with its associated power consumption.

I was surprised at the lack of reasonable alternatives and nodes for the transmission corridor through western Loudoun. I realize that this study was not a federal environmental impact statement, but the lack of specificity for the western Loudoun proposal was daunting. Maryland and Virginia need to be considered together as the data center boom is going to be hitting both jurisdictions. From my cursory review of the provided document, expansion of the existing line on the Maryland side with the junction south of Leesburg seems to have a lot fewer impacts than the western Loudoun route and the Maryland one seemed to be heavily favored. Expansion of existing lines is called "brown field". In Brownfield development, much of the engineering uncertainty is gone and property access easements are in place, and impacts are known in expansion of an existing route. It was unclear to me if there was a need for both the Doubs (through Maryland) to Leesburg route and the western route or if it was one or the other.

Loudoun County has made specific attempts to preserve Western Loudoun as a rural tourist destination with farms, wineries, and events. Untold numbers of vistas, wildlife habitat and businesses would be destroyed and/or negatively impacted by a high-power transmission line.

Secondly, as a taxpayer, I have issues with paying for support for continued data center growth through rate increases. The projections presented showed that these transmission lines built specifically for the data center use were going to be billed as a pass through to the regular homeowner, doubling the rates. There was no mention of segregating expenses to the data centers versus the regular homeowner, knowing that Dominion would of course continue to pay shareholders via all their profits. If these lines are being built just to serve one industry, that industry should pay for the use of those services.

Data centers should be built near power plants and existing power supply. Building transmission lines to move the power to far flung heavier users is poor business planning and does not serve the residents of the impacted communities.

I would like to state that I support the PEC position on this topic. Better interstate planning needs to be done to curb the need for massive transmission line extension and data centers as a

preferred land use. Focus should be on conservation of all resources, including land, wildlife and energy. An independently funded consultant should be engaged to determine fiscal and environmental impact of transmission lines and increased data center construction in this region.

Sincerely

Lisa Chetnik Treichel

Leesburg VA

I am writing my concern of using WV land to supply additional electric energy to another state

I am clearly stating it's unacceptable to phantom this could continue to be in the works for 13 gigawatts of additional energy due to expansion of data center facilities in Northern VA

Keep our pastures beautiful land and wildlife for the residents to enjoy the views
you putting in more high voltage transmission lines have clearly created a eyesore to our beautiful state

Keep WV wild wonderful WV the residents do not want to see this continue in our State it's unacceptable

Regards

Judy and Daniel Slusher

Dear Board Members,

I was a phone call member for yesterday's meeting. Yep, the entire meeting. I listened to the initial acknowledgement of the hundreds of letters you received. The slight defensive tone was hard to dismiss. I heard what was said about "once the Board approves the plan" more opportunity will arise for the public to voice their concerns. I also did note, you welcomed phone calls in and then moved onto your presentation.

I listened to the need to retire some equipment nearing the end of its life and the need for the massive output in the near future. I heard quotes of millions of dollars being passed around like Monopoly money, if I'm honest. We all know the true source of those finances. I also heard how and why we need the additional extensions and how soon those should be in place.

What I felt was completely ignored was the elephant in the room; the people being effected by this massive build. I followed Keryn Newman's line of questioning perfectly; what happens to the folks who lose their drain fields or the viability of their wells with

the expansion process? The gentleman couldn't answer. He didn't have one. Crickets. What happens to the woman off Short Hill Mountain that already puts up with these towers and now is possibly slated for an extension to run south off her property as well. Where are the studies to show the placement of these towers are safe for Indigenous wildlife, showing it's safe for children playing near by, and even equally important, how the people living in these paths are supposed to maintain their quality of life.

It was evident that more studies for an accurate path were formulating and town halls were going to be promoted, BUT, the cow will be out of the barn at that point. Once a project is passed rarely are we able to go back and discount it. I felt the meeting was merely checking boxes; you allowed public transparency, as well as opportunities to ask questions, placated opposition and now you were simply going to proceed how you initially wanted. Us be damned.

PJM, please find another way to get your power where it needs to go. I think the township of Waterford has the most serious claim, HOWEVER, that does not make the rest of us of less value. I implore you to do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Sara Miller Leary

To the PJM Board: (via email)

I am adding my voice to the growing number of voices objecting to the PJM proposal for a new greenfield 500 kV line in western Loudoun County, Virginia to be built by Florida-based NextEra (Proposal 2022-W3-853).

I have been a lifelong resident of Virginia (mostly in Fairfax County) and in the face of uncontrolled growth moved out to Western Loudoun in 2008 to recapture some of the beauty and tranquility for which Virginia is known and appreciated. One of the things I have learned to especially appreciate is the determination and commitment of Western Loudoun occupants to value and protect this environment for its residents and those who bring tourism dollars when they come to visit. (Perhaps you should have done your research on the community mindset before making your proposals.) To most residents it is their livelihood as well as their appreciation and understanding of the history and beauty of their surroundings. While I may not personally see the grotesque physical representations of misguided planning, I will surely see the often devastating impact on my neighbors, local farms and businesses, and the environment.

These data centers serve entities from all over the US and some parts of the world, and it is unfair and unrealistic to expect this region to carry the physical and economic burden of meeting the needs of the growing number of data centers. The current path we are on is unsustainable and unscalable, and much needs to change in the way the region approves data centers and plans for the expected demand for electric power. We urge PJM to step back and reconsider its approach, with a goal of ensuring your mission to deliver power, but not at the cost of destroying the communities and other economic interests that are in your path.

Sincerely,

Joan Schultz

Leesburg, VA

David:

My family currently resides at _____, Waterford, VA. We recently became aware of the PJM Proposal for a brand new Greenfield 500 KV line that is planned to run through western Loudoun County, a stones throw from where we currently live. I want to send you my strong opposition to this proposal, and recommend that alternative solutions are explored. The maps that we have seen will result in a visual blight marked across the beautiful country landscape we have out here in the area north of Route 7 in western Loudoun County.

My family moved out to this location back in 2020, and did so because of the beautiful country environment we have here. Additionally, we enjoy the wineries and other agriculture businesses including the many farms that provide a sanctuary from the urbanization that has occurred in the eastern part of our county. The county has worked hard to develop western Loudoun as a destination for many northern Virginia residents who look to escape the hustle and bustle of the inner suburbs. As a result this has become a major aspect of the Loudoun County Comprehensive Plan.

I realize that PJM has a difficult task in addressing electric power needs. Please consider working with our communities who unanimously disapprove of this proposal and let us work together to find solutions that meet the electric need while preserving the natural beauty of our area and the corresponding agritourism that has developed.

Thank you,

Erik King
Resident, Waterford, VA

Dear Sir:

As a resident of western Loudoun County for the past 31 years, I strongly oppose PJM's proposal for a new greenfield 500kV line in western Loudoun County, Virginia, to be built by Florida-based NextEra (Proposal 2022-W3-853). Your maps indicate this line would cross historic and conservation areas around Mt. Gilead, Digges Valley, and Waterford National Historic Landmark along the Catoclin Ridge. There was a huge fight over many years in the mid-2000s over a new transmission line in this same area that generated huge opposition and ultimately resulted in a compromise that put part of the new line under the existing right-of-way along the W&OD trail, with the rest aligned in a new right-of-way along an existing transportation corridor, the Leesburg Bypass.

In the intervening years, organized efforts to protect rural Loudoun and its farming, historic, equestrian, environmental/conservation, and agritourism interests have only grown stronger. There is a very mobilized public that will fight even harder over the placement of new transmission lines through undisturbed Loudoun countryside than they did in years past. Loudoun has worked hard to promote tourism in the western half of the county, which is a major pillar in Loudoun's Comprehensive Plan. The quantity and quality of agritourism businesses in Loudoun outpaces all other jurisdictions in Virginia. Crisscrossing this area with transmission lines to meet energy demand elsewhere would hurt this vital sector of the economy.

I urge PJM to step back and reconsider its approach, with a goal of ensuring your mission to deliver power, but not at the cost of destroying the communities and other economic interests that are in your path.

Sincerely,
Pauline Nathanson

To the PJM Board of Members,

I am a retired US Government analyst with an electrical engineering background. I attended the Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee meeting in person on 5 December, I spoke at that meeting, and I have previously written to you objecting to the 2022 Window 3 Proposal 853. That proposal would run a 500 kV transmission line through the middle of the area where I live, the agricultural and tourism district of western Loudoun County, Virginia.

- This economic activity is one of two major pillars in the Loudoun economy and depends on the rural viewshed. This area also includes the Waterford National Landmark as well as large areas of permanent conservation easements and historic districts.
- As of 5 December, the cost estimate for Proposal 853 has increased from about \$680 million to about \$940 million, and the schedule is considered to be at risk of extending to 2030, largely in anticipation of the already considerable resistance from western Loudoun County. Both of our newly elected Senator and House Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly have written to PJM objecting to Proposal 853. ***This schedule slippage endangers your goals of having a stable grid that can meet projected load demands, not to mention the possibility that these load demands will grow even beyond those projections as AI technology proliferates.***
- I encourage you, even at this late stage, to ***consider an alternative that could make Proposal 853 an unnecessary expense while, in accordance with Federal policy and regulatory orders, also better positioning the transmission grid for the inevitable further growth of the data center industry throughout northern and central Virginia.***

My understanding is that the 2022 Window 3 project, among its various objectives, seeks to double the number of 500 kV lines converging on the data centers in Northern Virginia from three to six.

- Proposal 853 seeks to bring an additional 500 kV line from West Virginia (502 Junction) to the Loudoun County data centers in Virginia (Aspen) using conventional towers and aluminum core steel reinforced (ACSR) wires. For PJM’s planners, the virtue of this new transmission line is that it provides additional resilience relative to the lines that now go through Doubs and then south to the data centers.
- Proposal 637 brings another 500 kV transmission line from the east to Doubs and—with Proposal 516, 837, and 660—rebuilds the Doubs/Aspen corridor to make room for and accommodate this additional power with two sets of 500/230 kV towers.
- From the south, with Proposal 711, the Morrisville/Wishing Star corridor will rebuild two existing 500/230 kV pairs to make room for another new 500 kV transmission line on monopoles.

I understand the need for grid reliability and stability and, as a rate payer who depends on power in every aspect of my life, appreciate the work of PJM in that regard. However, I question the resilience value of cutting through the agricultural area in western Loudoun County given that this new transmission line for most of its length in West Virginia is already in the same right-of-way as the parallel line that runs to Doubs. Similar issues exist with what will be three transmission lines in the same right-of-way coming from the south of Loudoun County.

- The brief branching to avoid Doubs by Proposal 853 offers minimal relative value compared to the damage done by placing a greenfield 500 kV transmission line through a unique, historical area that has been the subject of considerable conservation effort and decades of effort to bolster the local agricultural economy by pairing it with the tourism industry.
- Overriding the conservation easements has the potential to undermine the entire system of land protection that is critical to holding off the loss of farmland to residential and other uses.

Redundancy can be obtained through greater reserve capacity of the lines, not just through different paths. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) two years ago issued [Order No. 881](#) requiring more efficient utilization of the nation’s transmission grid. Likewise, the [US Department of Energy](#)—as it considers how to address the future of the national grid out to 2050—is promoting the use of carbon fiber wires in place of the traditional ACSR wires. The Department is offering grants to do this.

- [Carbon fiber wires](#) are lighter, lower loss, and higher power capacity for the same diameter of wire. Wires of the same weight as ACSR wires (and thus bigger diameter) would be able to carry even more power but might not be compatible with existing installation tools. Carbon fiber is a material of choice for the aerospace industry because of its weight, strength, thermal properties, corrosion resistance, and conductivity.
- The US electric power industry has experience with carbon fiber wires at lower voltages (135 kV), but US manufacturers have experience participating in projects overseas for 500 kV transmission lines (China and Indonesia, for example). This is not a science project. This is proven technology with manufacturers in the market for 20 years.
- Other countries in general have been forced to move to newer technologies faster because they have less room or other restrictions preventing the profligate expansion of rights-of-way. The United States, however, is reaching the same point.
- Data centers in particular are adding so much to the load demand so quickly that national grid operators will struggle to keep up simply by building yet more 500 kV transmission lines in more or expanded rights-of-way using outdated early 20th Century technology.

2022-W3 is a pivotal moment for PJM as it faces this unprecedented rate and scale of load increases. PJM already has received criticism from state regulators about cost and “reactive” planning. Chairman David Souder in the 5 December “second reading” by the Transmission Expansion Advisory Committee noted that the scope and scale of the 2022-W3 project, in combination with the tremendous uncertainties surrounding generation decommissioning and load expansion, falls uncomfortably between the usual near-term PJM projects and PJM’s 15-year planning.

And yet, particularly with expected schedule slippage, all of this could fall short of the need created by data centers by the end of this decade.

- ***Carbon fiber wires on the same towers offer an opportunity for PJM and industry partners to be proactive with increased capacity, which could be used for a combination of greater capacity for future loads and redundant reserves to enhance reliability.***
- If new and rebuilt transmission lines all switched to carbon fiber, the additional path by Proposal 853 through western Loudoun County would be unnecessary.

The industry is understandably conservative when adopting new technology, but the 2022-W3 project is ripe for an innovative solution as called for by the US Government and the state regulators. PJM might at least take the time to consider this possibility before committing all the money to this massive project. I recognize that this is not just a simple matter of using different wires. For resiliency purposes, substations would need to be able to switch power back and forth between parallel transmission lines as well as handle higher currents.

- A key question is how much would the cost saved by dropping Proposal 853 pay for the additional costs of adding more capacity in the substations. The substation enhancements could be spaced out over time, starting first with Doubs and Aspen.

A key benefit in any case would be to enable all of these transmission lines to support higher load demands in the future, in accordance with Federal policies and regulatory orders. We should not have to pay for rebuilding transmission lines every time the data center industry creates an even deeper sinkhole for the power grid. The pace of change in the data center industry is faster than the rate of change in the grid. We need to make each new investment count for the most over the longest period of time without destroying our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thomas Donahue
Leesburg, VA

Good morning Mr. Anders,

I am writing you to request that you heavily consider the new power line project that you are proposing to build through Western Loudoun, VA. I understand that the exact path of the power lines is still under consideration, but I would like to point out a few hurdles that you might not be aware of and should think through. I am a large-scale construction manager in Virginia and have built many projects in the area over the years. This area has multiple issues associated with it that you should be aware of, which would perhaps have you reconsidering the location of the lines.

1. There is a tremendous amount of granite and rock in the area, which will dramatically increase your costs for footers and excavation.
2. Much of the land that you are looking at is contained within conservation easements, which will cause construction delays and significant opposition.
3. There are multiple wetland areas that will cause construction delays and regulatory hurdles.
4. There are multiple species that nest in the area, such as bald eagles, Peregrine falcons, Upland Sandpipers, Henslow Sparrows, Loggerhead shrikes, and grey herons, which have created issues for me in the past, resulting in additional regulatory requirements.

Many of these species are considered threatened and further destruction of their habitats would be detrimental to their survival as a species.

5. The wood turtle which is a Threatened species also nests in this area.

I read in one of the papers that your current quote for this project is around \$78M. Based on the amount of rock, anticipated easement issues and environmental delays, as a professional Construction Manager, I would warn you that your budget will be 3X this amount, including a significant schedule delay.

I also live in this area, run a business from this area and have young children. The introduction of these power lines would negatively affect the survival of my business and the health of my child and the children that live around us. Please reconsider your project's path and the affect that it will have on this area.

Thank you,
Melissa Matthews, AIA, LEED AP

Hello,

I am writing in opposition to the plan to route new power lines through Western Loudoun County. I live in this area along the proposed route. I chose my home because of the rural nature of the area, the history of it, and the beautiful views. Your power lines will ruin this. I strongly oppose this. Behind my home I have a stone barn that was built by German POW's during World War I. Down the street is another home that Jackie Kennedy visited often during her husband's presidency. We take historic preservation very seriously here, and having these power lines running through our viewshed and across our historic properties will ruin them. These are things that are unique to our area, and cannot be replicated anywhere. Do not do this.

In addition, I am concerned about the route travelling close to my home. I have a child that has an auto-immune disorder. I am very concerned about the impact on his health of the electrical lines being so near to our home. This is something I take very seriously.

Thank you for your consideration of our community needs. Please route the lines somewhere else.

Heather Hancock
Loudoun County

Dear Mr. Anders and PJM Board Members:

Along with large numbers of County residents, I am deeply concerned about the unprecedented buildup of transmission lines and substations through eastern Loudoun County – and future implications of the new line being considered. Specifically, I do not want to see the current proposed lines approved!

In a matter of days PJM Interconnection will be making a decision about its final recommendation for how to meet the data industry's unbounded hunger for power in Northern Virginia (NOVA). Included in the lists of finalists is a proposal of 500 kV lines that cuts diagonally across western Loudoun from West Virginia.

My concerns about this recommendation and looming decision are the following:

- Dominion Energy has reneged on its prior commitment with the VA State Corporation Commission (SCC) to meet the state's Clean Energy Act requirements by 2045. This is alarming due to the release of GHGs into the atmosphere and continuing increases in global warming/climate change.
- Local business owners and citizen ratepayers are being told to foot the bill. The data centers need to invest their resources to produce their product just as any legitimate business must do -- and make increased investment to use green, sustainable energy in doing so.
- Virginia, with our agricultural land, local and national parks, are increasingly threatened by a canopy of power lines stretching against the sky accompanied by disturbed wide swaths of treeless ground that feed the huge expansion of land use by data centers.

Data centers – in part thanks to the huge state tax payer funding of data center growth – are part of Virginia's future. I am for thoughtful, planned growth that weighs the human as well as financial impact -- and hope as a citizen that you are as well. Please consider:

- An in-depth study by a neutral third party be done immediately. A study that considers the data center energy needs (one data center can power a community of 15,000 homes), the land use needs, the impacts on water, flora and fauna, must be undertaken.
- Reassess the cost of underground lines in light of the long term cost to our environment of the ugly eye-sores approved in the past decade that are already suffocating our environment.

It may be easier to discount our concerns since you don't reside in our state. And PJM's vision excludes, unfortunately, any recognition of the human impact of your entities' operations. The legacy we are leaving our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren by the continuing use of fossil fuels and their overheating our earth home's atmosphere. Without a responsible study that addresses the concerns above, how can PJM make responsible decisions – especially when I understand you to consider this situation UNPRECEDENTED?

Sincerely,

Mr. Leigh Shields
Ashburn VA



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December 10, 2023

TO: PJM Board of Managers

SUBJECT: Opposition to Proposed Power Line Installation in Loudoun County

Dear Members of the PJM Board of Managers:

I write you today as both a concerned citizen and business owner located in Loudoun County, Virginia. I would like to share my vehement opposition as you near a vote on PJM's proposed path (2022-W3-853) for a new right-of-way (ROW) that will cross our family's property, others located on Peale Lane, and hundreds of others spanning the county. The installation of a 500 kV overhead transmission line will cause irrevocable harm, both economically and environmentally and cause undue hardship by decimating the hard work and commitment, spanning decades, that so many of us have invested, harvested, loved, and strived to embrace and support. This proposal will destroy the very nature of what we have nurtured and built for decades. The proposal conflicts with to the long-term vision of Western Loudoun where we have all chosen to build our homes, raise our families, commit our resources, and dedicate our lives.

While the initial reason the Proposal 2022-W3-853 was selected was because of the projects "cost effectiveness," your review must consider the "cost impact" to the citizens of Western Loudoun. Further support and approvals only perpetuate the problems and does not represent the needs, environmental stewardship, and financial burden to the citizens of Loudoun County. Accepting this proposal shifts the cost impact from the PJM Board to the thousands of residents, business owners and who contribute to the nearly \$2 billion in revenue to the county.

When we decided to purchase our home here in Leesburg, Virginia, where I also decided to establish our company's headquarters, I took pride in being able to model the behavior that many entrepreneurs dream of, while working closely with local county leaders to promote the best place to live and work. My goal was simple. Live, work, play, and contribute to the well-being of the County while creating jobs and an ecosystem for future employees to be proud of and in return reap the benefits that this incredible environment brings to families, neighbors, and visitors. Our family made an investment in our property to preserve the land and we take immense pride in and responsibility for the 32 acres that is designated as "permanent land use."

This proposal not only directly encroaches upon that permanent land use commitment but it crushes the heart and soul of the hard-working people of Western Loudoun. It directly conflicts with the vision and mission of PJM. The lines would create frustrating and debilitating noise, extreme discomfort, and an eyesore that will significantly reduce property values and destroy the views and atmosphere imposed on all of us to maintain in our open space and agriculturally focused farmlands and countryside. Furthermore, this proposal directly conflicts with the goals and objectives outlined in the official Loudoun County 2023 Energy Strategy, creating a negative impact without regard to the planning PJM has touted as part of this proposal ([See 2023 Report](#)). While this is extremely concerning at best, an approval by PJM would significantly increase the impact on one of the largest populations in Virginia, which is already drawing hundreds of thousands of megawatts of power, with goals that are struggling to be met.

Finally, please know that while I plea for you to vote against this proposal, I will make every effort to continue to support all the Western Loudoun families, businesses, and those who continue to oppose these misguided objectives in the proposal. I will work with the most senior government leaders in Loudoun County and our federal government to ensure our hard-working rights, properties, futures, and investment are protected.

Respectfully,



Lawrence A. Melton

CEO/President

The Building People

CC: Loudoun County Board of Supervisor

Dear Mr. Anders,

I only recently learned of the proposal to build new transmission lines that will traverse historic sites and rural landscapes of Loudoun County. I have long opposed the relentless approval and expansion of data centers since I moved to northern Virginia in 2009. I have witnessed the burst of agritourism, wineries, breweries, and meaderies, in western Loudoun. These businesses rely on the bucolic and historic settings of rural Loudoun County. Transmission lines will undermine the viability of this valuable economic sector.

I read as well that the lines will pass through Harpers Ferry National Park. Harpers Ferry is a jewel of historic preservation. Few sites so retain the character little changed from the events of 1859 and before. George Washington selected Harpers Ferry to put an armory at that strategic location, and John Brown led his raid to overturn slavery at that site. The site bears a halo of that time that transmission lines would mar. I have participated in historic tours of the area. It is magical.

Beyond the location of the proposed transmission lines, I urge for a thorough analysis of the environmental impact of data centers and their rapacious use of resources, such as energy, land, and water. The concentration of data centers in Loudoun County has created a flush of wealth that could prove transient, yet leave the landscape cluttered with hulking eyesores. I am writing to my local officials to express these concerns.

All entities involved need to prepare for a world of better management of resources, not relentless growth, and the energy demand that entails. It is not an easy problem to solve, but it is a problem that will not go away and the negative consequences of ignoring it will only compound with time.

Sincerely,
Sarah Richardson
Leesburg, VA