



**National Trust for  
Historic Preservation**  
*Save the past. Enrich the future.*

## **Historic James River at Jamestown Under Threat**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is the threat to the James River at Jamestown?**

Dominion Virginia Power is proposing building a massive transmission line across the historic James River, spoiling the landscape of Virginia's Historic Triangle, comprised of Jamestown, Williamsburg and Yorktown. The proposed transmission line would span 4.1 miles across the river with as many as 17 towers ranging from 160 to as much as 295 feet tall – almost 30 stories, or nearly the height of the Statue of Liberty.

#### **Why are local, statewide and national organizations working to protect the historic region?**

The James River at Jamestown is priceless not only to Virginians, but to all Americans because our nation's first permanent English settlement was founded in 1607 on the banks of the James. Today, visitors can trace early American history on the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Water Trail, the first congressionally designated historic water trail in America, which is managed by the National Park Service. The region attracts millions of annual visitors who spend more than \$1 billion.

#### **What is the anticipated impact of Dominion's project?**

Dominion's proposed project would undermine the scenic integrity and visitor experience of the Historic Triangle and threaten the region's tourism. The towers and power lines would sully the public vantage points from the Historic Triangle that includes Colonial Parkway (part of the National Park System), Jamestown Island's Black Point and Carter's Grove Plantation (a National Historic Landmark), in addition to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Trail -- potentially harming the region's critical tourism industry.

#### **Power service to the region needs to be improved. What are the alternatives to Dominion's proposed power project?**

Alternatives exist that balance the need for more power service while preserving a landscape that appears today very much as it did when North America's English settlers and the Native Americans who lived there first met more than four centuries ago. An independent analysis by engineering firm, RLC Engineering, confirmed that either burying the transmission line or moving it to a different location are feasible alternatives to placing power lines across the James River at Jamestown and should be explored by Dominion. RLC Engineering provided expert testimony on their findings during the State Corporation Commission ("SCC" is the state level administrative agency that regulates utilities) review process in 2013 and supplemented that testimony with a letter to the Army Corps of Engineers in January 2015.

#### **What organizations are fighting to protect the James River at Jamestown?**

Preservation Virginia, the James River Association, Chesapeake Conservancy, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, National Parks Conservation Association, Save the James Alliance,

Scenic Virginia, the Garden Club of Virginia and other conservation and preservation groups have publicly opposed Dominion's proposed location for this power line. James City County has also opposed building the line in Dominion's preferred location.