

Virginia Faces Mounting Energy Gap



Dominion Virginia Power's 2.3 million customers **will require an additional 4,000 megawatts of generating capacity in the next 10 years**, according to the PJM Interconnect, the regional transmission organization for the Midwest-to-Mid-Atlantic region. That's the equivalent of the electric needs of one million new homes.

- Peak demand in Virginia is already almost 2,000 megawatts higher than Dominion Virginia Power's installed capacity.
- Dominion's growth rate is the fastest in the 13-state PJM region. It is driven by rapid economic growth, especially in the energy-intensive, high-technology centers of Northern Virginia.
- In August of this year, peak demand hit an all-time high of 19,688 megawatts, 300 megawatts above the 2006 peak and 800 megawatts above the 2005 peak.

Dominion is committed to meeting this increased demand in ways that help keep electricity rates stable in the long-term and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To do this, Dominion's strategy consists of three key components:

- Conservation.
- New generation, including advanced emissions-free nuclear energy, renewable energy and advanced coal technology compatible with carbon capture and storage.
- New technologies.

Conservation: Dominion is providing 1.4 million compact fluorescent light bulbs at reduced prices to its customers and has filed proposals for nine different conservation and demand management pilot programs with the State Corporation Commission. The pilots will provide valuable information for development of larger, longer-term projects in the future. Dominion supports Virginia's goal of reducing its total electricity usage by 10 percent by 2022.

Renewables: Dominion is committed to the state's program to meet 12 percent of the demand for electricity through renewable resources by 2022. The company is pursuing major renewable projects, including 132 megawatts of wind generation in West Virginia.

Advanced emissions-free nuclear energy: The company has applied to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for a Combined Operating License for a potential third nuclear unit at North Anna Power Station in Louisa County. The proposed facility would produce enough electricity for 375,000 homes, while emitting no greenhouse gases.

Advanced coal technology: Dominion is partnering with Virginia Tech researchers to develop carbon storage technology that can be used at the proposed Virginia City Hybrid Energy Center. If successful, this will allow for the continued use of coal, a low-cost power source, while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The station will also use circulating fluidized bed technology to reduce other emissions.

