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Virginia proposes enforcement action over mineral oil spills by Dominion in 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 2016

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RICHMOND, VA. -- The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality has proposed an enforcement action with Virginia Electric and Power Co. (Dominion) for discharges of approximately 9,000 gallons of mineral oil from a transformer at the West Staunton substation in Augusta County and approximately 13,500 gallons of mineral oil from a transformer at the Crystal City substation in Arlington County.

The Augusta discharge entered an unnamed tributary of Bell Creek and flowed into a farm pond in January 2016. The Arlington discharge entered Roaches Run and the Potomac River, also in January 2016. Dominion has reported that 8,900 gallons of oil were recovered in Augusta, and 11,120 gallons were recovered in Arlington.

This proposed enforcement action contains a civil charge of \$259,535, reimburses DEQ \$5,882.80 for oil discharge investigative costs, and requires the completion of a corrective action plan to restore and provide monitoring to evaluate any long-term impacts and promote restoration of the environment.

Dominion has spent approximately \$1.5 million and \$4.2 for response, remediation and restoration at the West Staunton and Crystal City substations, respectively. These totals do not include equipment costs for the replacement transformers. In collaboration with other natural resource trustees, DEQ also will continue to participate and promote assessment and recovery for damage to natural resources resulting from the discharge.

DEQ's enforcement mission is to ensure compliance with Virginia's environmental laws and regulations, and to protect public health and the environment for the benefit of the people of the Commonwealth. DEQ's Enforcement Program has a statewide presence with enforcement staff in six regional offices. In addition, DEQ coordinates closely with federal, state and local officials in a comprehensive strategy to thoroughly investigate reports of pollution.

This proposed enforcement action is the product of collaborative investigatory efforts with the U.S. Coast Guard, District of Columbia's Department of Energy and Environment, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

A description of the proposed enforcement action is available online at www.deq.virginia.gov. DEQ will accept comments by email to Lee.Crowell@deq.virginia.gov, or postal mail to P.O. Box 1105, Richmond, VA 23219, from October 31, 2016, through November 30, 2016.



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