

Valley Link Transmission Project Timeline

PJM AWARD → SCC APPROVAL → CONSTRUCTION · 2025–2030

PHASE 1 — FEDERAL & GRID APPROVAL COMPLETE

FEBRUARY 2025

PJM RTEP Approval

PJM Board approves Valley Link projects as part of the 2024 Regional Transmission Expansion Plan Window 1. Confirms regional grid need. Authorizes ~\$6B collection of reliability projects, Valley Link among them.

2025

FERC Rate & Incentive Approval

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission authorizes formula rate recovery and transmission incentives for Valley Link. Gives the JV standing to recover construction costs through wholesale rates.

PHASE 2 — PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT IN PROGRESS

FEBRUARY – MAY 2026

Community Open Houses & Route Corridor Feedback

Valley Link holds public open houses across nine affected Virginia counties. Collects input on preferred and avoided route corridors. This is the pre-SCC outreach phase — informal, non-binding.

JUNE 8, 2026 TODAY

BRPOA / VLAC Town Hall

Blue Ridge Shores community town hall on Valley Link impact. Organized by the BRS Valley Link Action Committee. Key moment for community alignment ahead of the June 19 feedback deadline.

JUNE 19, 2026 BRPOA DEADLINE

Valley Link Public Feedback Deadline

Last day to submit formal feedback to Valley Link on route preferences and concerns. BRPOA / VLAC submitting community opposition. Feeds into Valley Link's route refinement process before SCC filing.

SUMMER – FALL 2026 (PRE-FILING)

Route Refinement & Environmental Surveys

Valley Link narrows route alternatives based on feedback and field studies. Environmental, cultural resource, and historic property surveys conducted. Results inform the SCC application. Extended window reflects the pushed-back filing date.

PHASE 3 — VA SCC REGULATORY PROCESS CRITICAL GATE

FALL 2026 INTERVENTION OPENS

SCC Application Filing — CPCN

Valley Link Virginia LLC files for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity with the Virginia SCC. This opens the formal docket. BRPOA and other parties may petition to intervene as formal parties to the case. Filing pushed back from original Summer 2026 target.

WINTER 2026 – FALL 2027 BRPOA ACTIVE

Public Comment Period & Evidentiary Hearings

~12-month SCC review process commencing after Fall 2026 filing. Includes written public comment, pre-filed testimony, depositions, and evidentiary hearings before SCC hearing examiners. Formal intervenors (including BRPOA/VLAC) can submit expert testimony, cross-examine Valley Link witnesses, and propose alternative routes or conditions.

~MID 2027 NEXTERA EVENT

NextEra / Dominion Acquisition Expected to Close

Pending regulatory approvals. If the deal closes on schedule, NextEra Energy becomes Dominion's corporate parent — inheriting the 30% Valley Link JV stake and the Dominion Energy Virginia host utility role mid-proceeding.

~EARLY 2028

SCC Route Decision

SCC commissioners issue final order: approve, deny, or conditionally approve a specific route. Conditions can include setbacks, tower height limits, vegetation buffers, or construction timing restrictions. Slipped from original ~Sept 2027 target due to the pushed-back filing date. Last major gate before ground breaks in Virginia.

PHASE 4 — PRE-CONSTRUCTION UPCOMING

EARLY – MID 2028

Easement Negotiations

Valley Link negotiates voluntary easement agreements with landowners along the approved corridor. If voluntary agreements fail, Valley Link can pursue condemnation via eminent domain under Virginia law.

2028

Final Engineering & Federal Permitting

Detailed tower placement and structural engineering. Army Corps of Engineers permits for stream and wetland crossings. Additional state and federal permits (stormwater, erosion control, FAA obstruction clearance for 160-ft structures).

PHASE 5 — CONSTRUCTION TARGET 2029–2030

LATE 2028 – 2029

Construction Begins

Ground clearing, access road construction, foundation drilling for steel monopoles (160 ft tall). Conductor stringing across 115 miles through nine Virginia counties. Substation upgrades at Joshua Falls and Yeat.

2030 (ORIGINAL TARGET: DEC 2029)

Line Energization — Target In-Service Date

765-kV line energized and integrated into the PJM grid. Power flows from generation sources into Dominion Energy Virginia's Northern Virginia service territory. In-service date likely slips from the original December 2029 target due to the delayed SCC filing cascade.