January 19, 2018

Mr. Matthew R. Bley
Director, Gas Transmission Certificates
Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc.
707 East Main Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Re: Partial Notice to Proceed with Tree Felling

Mr. Bley:

I grant Atlantic Coast Pipeline, LLC’s (Atlantic) and Dominion Energy Transmission, Inc.’s (DETI) December 15, 2017 request to commence limited pre-construction upland tree felling in West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina as more fully described in your request and supplements.

In considering this limited notice to proceed, we have reviewed Atlantic and DETI’s Implementation Plan, filed on October 17, 2017; “NTP and skip tracking table,” filed on January 18, 2018; and the construction constraint and tree-felling maps, filed on January 18, 2018. Based on our review, Atlantic and DETI have provided the necessary information to meet the environmental conditions of the Commission’s October 13, 2017 Order Issuing Certificates (Order) solely as it relates to the activities approved herein. In addition, we have documented the receipt or waiver of all required federal authorizations relevant to the approved activities herein.

As described in your request, Atlantic’s and DETI’s activities approved include felling of trees in upland areas via non-mechanized methods. I clarify here that non-mechanized clearing is defined as the use of equipment that can be operated and carried
by hand, by an individual; and that use of wheeled, tracked, or other similar types of
ground-disturbing equipment is not authorized for clearing-related activity. Activities
may only occur as described in Atlantic’s “NTP and Skip Tracking Table” in its January
18, 2018 supplement on lands where easements have been obtained, surveys have been
completed, and where no additional state or local permits are required for the activity. As
indicated in your request, contractors may only cross wetlands and waterbodies on foot.
Trees and vegetation may be felled at or above ground level, and must use methods that
will not rut soils or damage root systems, and be felled in a way that avoids obstruction of
flow, rutting, and sedimentation of wetlands and waterbodies. Felled trees and woody
and other vegetation debris shall be left in place until further authorization for any earth-
disturbing activities is granted by the FERC.

This approval does not authorize tree-felling within waterbodies and wetlands. Atlantic and DETI shall maintain a 50-foot buffer between waterbody and wetland
boundaries and the extent of upland tree-cutting activities. Improvement or modification
of approved access roads is not authorized as part of this limited notice to proceed. This
approval does not authorize use of U.S. Forest Service access roads until Atlantic obtains
the applicable road use permit(s). Also, DETI’s tree felling maps include non-certificated
workspace and a newly identified access road; therefore, the area from approximate
station nos. 962+00 and 975+00, as well as access road 31-100-A002-AR02 on the
Supply Header Project are also not authorized at this time, until DETI provides the
information required for these changes under environmental condition 5 of the Order.

I remind you that the area authorized is for tree felling only, and that Atlantic and
DETI must comply with all applicable terms and conditions of the Order, as well as the
conservation measures identified in other agency authorizations required by federal law.
In particular I remind you that Atlantic and DETI (as applicable) must:

- inspect the construction right-of-way for stick nests prior to tree felling
  activities occurring between January 1 and March 31 in accordance with
  your Timber Removal Plan. If any active raptor nests are found, Atlantic
  must implement a 100-foot no-activity buffer until the nest is no longer
  active;

- notify appropriate agencies, including the Virginia Department of
  Environmental Quality, of any tree felling activities prior to initiation; and

- obtain appropriate buffers zone determinations and authorizations from the
  North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality prior to any tree
  felling within protected riparian buffers in the Neuse and Tar/Pamlico
  Basins.
Furthermore, this approval does not grant Atlantic or DETI the authority to commence construction of project facilities and, as specified above, Atlantic must successfully obtain easements prior to commencement of cutting on individual tracts.

If you have any questions regarding this authorization, please contact Kevin Bowman at 202-502-6287.

Sincerely,

Dave Swearingen  
Chief, Gas Branch 4  
Division of Gas – Environment and Engineering

cc: Public File, Docket Nos. CP15-554-000, CP15-554-001, and CP15-555-000