

Theresa Ghiorzi Analysis of : [Loudoun County Virginia Data Center Capital of the World "A strategy for a changing Paradigm"](#) by Mike Turner, Ashburn Supervisor Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

**Route 7 is a viable alternative for siting the MARL transmission line in Loudoun County which would avoid impacts to far Western Loudoun and would not impact Maryland communities at all. Route7 is also a much shorter route and would be a much less expensive alternative than the 167.48M alternate MARL route proposed at the July 9th PJM TEAC**

Below is my analysis of portions of Mike Turner's paper which would support the Route 7 option

- Page 13: "The previously mentioned Aspen/Golden line would run along Rte. 7, a heretofore unthinkable routing Loudoun County Boards for the previous 25 years had sworn would never happen. ... Finally, a third line, a so-called "green field" transmission line—the previously mentioned MARL line—would run through western Loudoun County between the Potomac and Leesburg cutting across active farmlands, wetlands, tree conservation areas and through the historic village of Waterford. The public outcry was both immediate and predictable."

***My Analysis of this section:***

- "Aspen/Golden line would run along Rte. 7" - this is a 500kv loop for new data centers in Ashburn
  - "a heretofore unthinkable routing Loudoun County Boards for the previous 25 years had sworn would never happen " - there are transmission lines on parts of Route 7 already and the new AspenGolden 500kv will also be built along part of Route 7. I don't know why it's unthinkable.
  - " a third line, a so-called "green field" transmission line—the previously mentioned MARL line" - this refers to the original preliminary route that would have circled Waterford and led to the Loudoun County BOS Resolution to address the problem by pushing it further west in Loudoun County adjacent to the existing lines and across the Potomac and through Frederick and Montgomery counties in Maryland.
- Page: 14 " ...the new MARL line in the west and the new Aspen/Golden line proposed along Rte. 7 in the north, a second line down Rte. 7 is probably next up. After that, Dominion will have likely used the last available routing to "Data Center Alley" that won't require using eminent domain. "

***My Analysis of this section:***

- "new MARL line in the west" - this refers to the MARL Alternative & Scope Changes on pages 42-44 of the [PJM Reliability Analysis Update – item 10, July 9,2024](#). This is the Loudoun County BOS requested re-route of the 500kv MARL line further west in Loudoun County and through Frederick and Montgomery Counties in Maryland
- "... a second line down Rte. 7 is probably next up. After that, Dominion will have likely used the last available routing to "Data Center Alley" that won't require using eminent domain" - Mike Turner is alluding to another - not yet defined transmission line - however when taken with Dominion's projected energy load

increase on page 10 of the [PJM Reliability Analysis Update – item 10, July 9, 2024](#)  
its fairly obvious another 500kv line is on the way

*Mike Turner, the author of the paper and Loudoun County Supervisor from Aspen,  
believes Route 7 is a viable route that would not need eminent domain.*

In my opinion, this is an acknowledgement that siting MARL for 43 miles along Route 7 and into "Data Center Alley " is a viable routing alternative that would eliminate eminent domain taking of the property of both far Western Loudoun and rural Frederick and Montgomery Maryland land owners. It would also be much less costly than the July 9th MARL alternative and the original December 5th MARL project.

PJM states that they do not route the transmission lines. PJM only reviews the solution proposals that the energy companies provide. Incumbent transmission owners have priority in their own areas , Dominion will not propose a line along Route 7 as the Loudoun County does not want a transmission line there, at this time.

*Note: There are also Appalachian Trail crossings at Route 9 and Route 50 in Loudoun County that would also provide highway routings into Data Center Alley .*