

## What West Virginia Policymakers Need to Know: MARL and Valley Link Transmission Projects



### Purpose of the Projects

- The proposed MARL (NextEra) & Valley Link (FirstEnergy, American Electric Power (AEP) and Dominion) transmission lines were conceived through the PJM Interconnection planning processes – not designed to address West Virginia interests.
- Designed to move bulk power across West Virginia to serve large electricity demand growth in Northern Virginia, driven primarily by data centers.
- Not designed to serve current or future West Virginia load requirements.

### No Benefit to West Virginia's Local Grid

- No new substations are planned in West Virginia as part of MARL project.
- These projects do not and will not connect to or improve local distribution systems.

### Misleading Claims About Reliability

- West Virginia landowners and residents are being told these lines will:
  - “Improve the local grid”
  - “Prevent blackouts”
- These claims are incorrect - High-voltage transmission lines do not reduce local outages.

### What Actually Causes Blackouts in West Virginia

- Most WV power outages are weather-related caused by storms, high winds and trees falling on distribution lines.
- Most outages are restored within hours, not days.
- Improving reliability requires tree trimming or burying distribution lines - not building long-distance transmission corridors.

### Who Pays the Cost

- West Virginia ratepayers will pay for these projects through higher electric bills.
- Latest cost estimate for MARL is over \$900M – Valley Link is estimated at near \$2.5B and will likely increase.
- 50% of the costs are paid by parts of northern Virginia. WV and other PJM states will pay the rest.
- Continuing to supply West Virginia electricity to northern Virginia undermines WV's ability to attract large industry. Virginia wins – West Virginia loses.
- West Virginia's landscape, environment and tourism appeal will be damaged or ruined – not Wild and Wonderful.
- Thousands of WV landowners, including multi-generational farmers, will have their property degraded or destroyed by the rights-of-way.

### Bottom Line

- MARL and Valley Link are transmission-through projects, not service-to projects.
- They serve Northern Virginia data centers, not West Virginia communities.
- They do not improve reliability to WV, do not prevent blackouts, and do not address local grid issues.
- West Virginians bear the cost while others receive the benefit.

Learn more from just a few of our many landowners here:

**For more information: [www.wvatli.org](http://www.wvatli.org)**

