

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

**In Reply Refer To:**

OEP/DG2E/Gas 1

Dominion Cove Point LNG, LP and  
Dominion Transmission, Inc.

Docket No. PF04-15-000

August 17, 2004

Ms. Anne E. Bomar, Managing Director  
Transmission, Rates and Regulation  
Dominion Cove Point LNG, LP  
Dominion Transmission, Inc.  
120 Tredegar Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**Re: Approval of Pre-Filing Review Request and Establishment of PF Docket**

Dear Ms. Bomar:

Thank you for your letter dated July 28, 2004, as supplemented on August 12, 2004 requesting use of our Pre-Filing Process for the planned Cove Point LNG Expansion Project. We believe that beginning the Commission's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review prior to the receipt of your application will greatly improve our ability to identify the issues early and produce a better NEPA document. Therefore, I am granting your request and instructing staff to begin working to prepare the environmental impact statement (EIS) for this proposal. We have selected Tetra Tech FW as our third-party contractor for this effort, and request that you proceed with executing the contract so that it may begin work as soon as possible.

Your letter states that Dominion intends to file its application with the Commission in the first quarter of 2005. The letter does not include an anticipated authorization date. However, based on Tetra Tech FW's proposed schedule for the completion of the EIS, we have determined that the schedule would allow only seven months between the filing of the application and the completion of the final EIS. While staff is committed to completing the final EIS as rapidly as possible, the proposed schedule does not allow adequate time between the issuance of the draft EIS and the completion of the final EIS. Therefore, once Tetra Tech FW is available to start work, determining the appropriate schedule for the EIS will be our first order of business.

Your project has been assigned Docket Number PF04-15-000. All future "pre-filing" correspondence and submissions by Dominion Cove Point and Dominion Transmission for this project should reference this docket number. If you have any questions, please contact Alisa Lykens at (202) 502-8766.

Sincerely,

J. Mark Robinson  
Director  
Office of Energy Projects

cc: Public Files, Docket No. PF04-15-000