

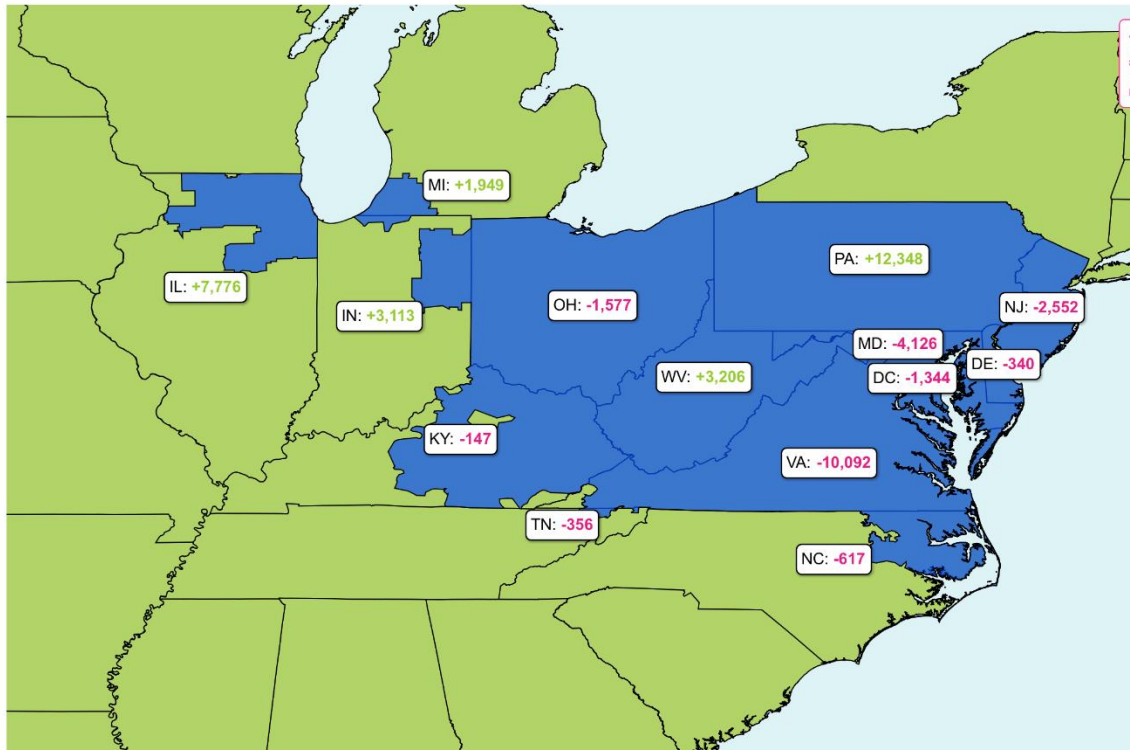
House Bill 1270 Natural Resources – Wildland Areas – Overhead Transmission Lines seeks to permanently remove 400’ (200’ new ROW for NextEra Energy on both sides of the existing Potomac Edison ROW) in the Big Savage, Bear Pen and Dan’s Mountain Wildland Preserved areas for NextEra Energy to build a new high voltage transmission line. The NextEra MARL project is for the specific purpose of moving coal generated electricity through four states (PA, WV, MD, VA) to power data centers in Loudoun County, Virginia.

The MARL - Mid-Atlantic Resiliency Link, is a 145-mile greenfield 500kV high voltage transmission line from the 502 Junction substation in Pennsylvania that connects with multiple West Virginia coal generating plants to move electricity through Western Maryland to Loudoun County, Virginia. Virginia’s Clean Economy Act 2020 prohibits fossil fuel generation to replace retiring plants. However, Virginia imports massive amounts of “dirty” electricity to power their data centers.

Tracking of Virginia’s imports of electricity is done by PJM hourly. Virginia typically imports between 3,000+ to 10,000+ MWs of electricity every hour. PJM expects Virginia’s data center needs to explode by 7,500 MWs by 2027/2028 and has ordered numerous transmission projects that impact Maryland landowners and preserved/conserved areas. These extension cords will increase the importation of electricity into Virginia instead of solving Virginia’s generation problem. PJM has yet to follow the recommendations by their Independent Market Monitor, Monitoring Analytics to compare the cost of building generation to building transmission. Instead, PJM just moves electricity generation around their RTO region via high voltage extension cords never really solving the problem of sufficient generation to power the grid. During the 2022 Window 3 RTEP, PJM ordered \$5.1 Billion in transmission projects in MD, VA, PA, and WV for the stated purpose of powering data centers. Presently PJM is looking to approve another \$6+ Billion in transmission projects again in MD, VA, and WV in the 2024 Window 1 process for even more data center electricity.

State Net Import/Export Map (Hourly)

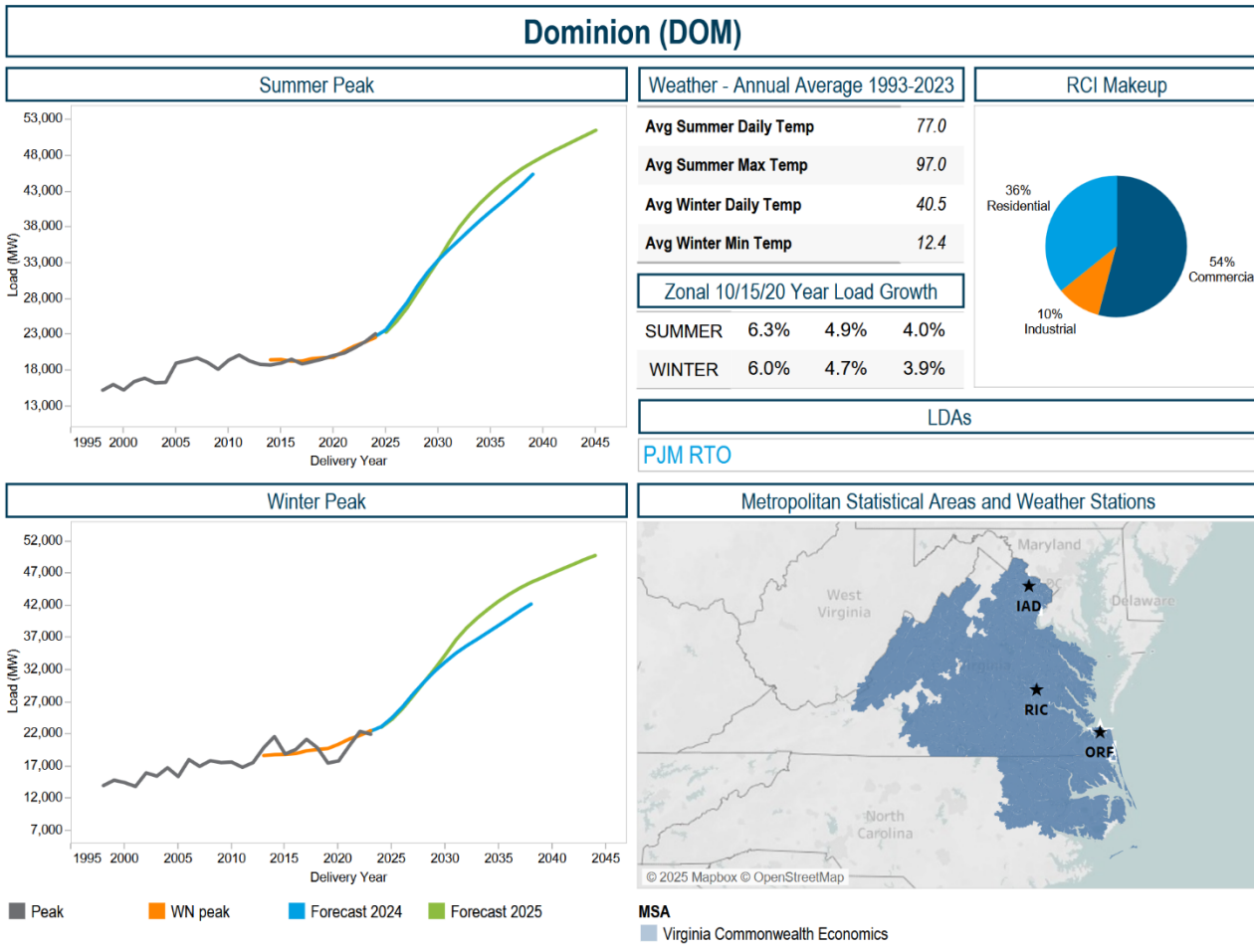
As of 1.20.2025 5:00 am EPT



On January 24, 2025, PJM released their 2025 Long Term Forecast Report – please see link:

https://www.pjm.com/-/media/DotCom/library/reports-notices/load-forecast/2025-load-report.pdf?fbclid=IwY2xjawIJ1z9leHRuA2FibQ1xMAABHZhZxakhN576FFgiq5U0kNEeUzbSp_TPpY8H44PSgBo60IXZVqVovffQ_aem_szbQn8iSDO99KSFGMNWocw

What this report shows is that the Dominion Energy zone in Virginia will continue to need more and more electricity primarily for data center growth. See the chart below from the report. At what point does Maryland say NO, we don't want to be the gateway via high voltage transmission projects for Virginia electricity?



Please see PJM's forecast for the Maryland zones. Except for the APS zone, growth is mostly at or below 1.0%. The APS zone has a higher load forecast due to data center growth in Frederick County, but by 2032 that load is predicted to only be at 1.5%.

Baltimore Gas & Electric (BGE)

Zonal 10/15/20 Year Load Growth

SUMMER	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
WINTER	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%

Allegheny Power Systems (APS)

Zonal 10/15/20 Year Load Growth

SUMMER	2.5%	1.8%	1.5%
WINTER	2.6%	1.9%	1.5%

Potomac Electric Power (PEPCO)

Zonal 10/15/20 Year Load Growth

SUMMER	0.4%	0.5%	0.6%
WINTER	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%

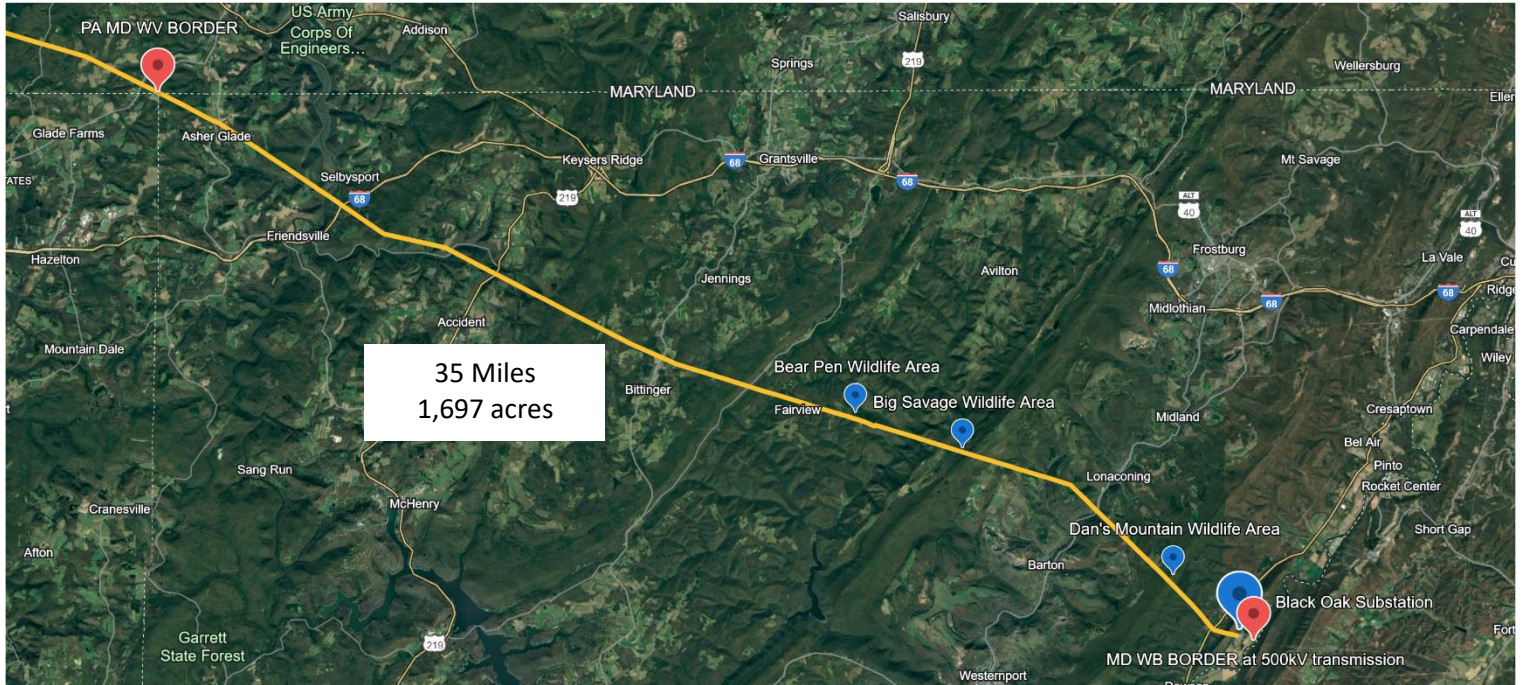
Delmarva Power and Light (DPL)

Zonal 10/15/20 Year Load Growth

SUMMER	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%
WINTER	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%

The MARL project offers no benefits to Maryland. After checking with Senator McKay's office on January 30, 2025, they confirmed that NextEra Energy wants two 200' ROW's one each on both sides of the existing approximate 175' Potomac Edison ROW through preserved wildlands in Garrett and Allegheny Counties. The 35-mile segment through Garrett and Allegheny Counties could impact approximately 1,697 acres including the wildlands preserved areas and privately owned land.

Maryland section of the MARL project – 35 miles impacting 1,697 acres



PJM 2022 Window 3 Project Approved 12-11-2023 NextEra Mid-Atlantic Resiliency Link – MARL

- 145-mile greenfield 500kV transmission line from 502 Junction substation in PA to VA via WV and MD
- Connects multiple WV coal plants to Loudoun County, VA data centers
- **35-miles is in Garrett and Allegheny Counties, MD – 1,697 acres could be impacted**
- NextEra wants two 200' ROW's impacting Big Savage, Bear Pen, and Dan's Mountain Wildlife areas
- **MD House Bill 1270 2025 wants an exclusion to MD 08.01.02.02 State Wildlands System to allow wildlands acreage to be removed to benefit NextEra Energy an out of state transmission company**

The State Wildlands Preservation System law, Section 08.01.02.03 - Permitted Activities can be found at this link: <https://casetext.com/regulation/maryland-administrative-code/title-08-department-of-natural-resources/subtitle-01-office-of-the-secretary/chapter-080102-wildlands-in-maryland/section-08010205-prohibited-activities-state-wildlands-preservation-system>

It spells out certain perimeters that could allow for a transmission line through wildland preserved areas. The law shows that the Governor can with public notice and hearing recommend changes. However, I can find no such public notice or hearing from Governor Moore, only HB 1270 sponsored by Delegate Hinebaugh. Certainly, for a significant proposed change as outlined in Bill 1270, public notice and hearings should have already taken place before introduction of Bill 1270. Do we really think that the MARL project is in the best interests of the State and the State's people? The MARL project only benefits Virginia and NextEra. **The MARL project offers no benefits to Maryland.**

Section 08.01.02.05 - Prohibited Activities - State Wildlands Preservation System

A. Except when expressly permitted under Regulation .03 or .04 of this chapter, the uses and activities in §§B-G of this regulation are prohibited in a wildland. **B.** Permanent Roads, Structures, and Installations. Unless necessary to meet the minimum requirements for the purposes of the administration of the area, permanent roads, structures, or installations may not

be located or constructed within a wildland. Except following public notice and hearing, the Governor, within a specific area and in accordance with any regulations the Governor considers desirable, may determine that the following permanent structures and installations in wildlands will serve the interests of the State and the State's people, and may recommend to the General Assembly passage of a bill authorizing: (1) The establishment and maintenance of reservoirs; (2) Water conservation works; (3) Power projects; (4) Transmission lines; and (5) Other facilities needed in the public interest, including road construction and maintenance essential to development and use of specific areas.

As the NextEra's MARL project proposes a greenfield ROW separate and distinct from Potomac Edison's current ROW, it does not meet the parameters of Section 08.01.02.05 H (2).

Section 08.01.02.03 - Permitted Activities - State Wildlands Preservation System

H. Underground or Aboveground Lines and Related Easements. (1) Wildland areas are subject to: (a) Existing easement for electrical transmission lines, natural gas lines, telephones, or other aboveground or underground lines; and (b) Normal maintenance of lines, or of any easement held in conjunction with the lines. (2) Upgrading or expansion of lines, with necessary approval required by law, is permitted if the rights were in effect at the time of the wildland designation.

I disagree with the statement in Bill 1270 that the MARL project was selected by PJM in an open and transparent process. PJM's process solicitates projects from their member stakeholders, the transmission companies who benefit directly from awards of projects like the MARL and MPRP projects. PJM barely tolerates participation from electricity ratepayers when they do attend transmission expansion meetings and ask questions as I have at PJM TEAC meetings both in person and virtually. PJM hides information from the public with redacted proposal information. Ratepayers/consumers concerns are mostly ignored when approvals are made. PJM refuses to meet with local impacted communities or elected officials. PJM hides behind their designated entity agreements telling the public that is the job of the transmission companies to inform the public. To date, NextEra Energy has provided no information to the public about the path of the MARL project or to engage in public information sessions. Senate Bill 1270 seeks to give NextEra access to public State lands without the public having an active role or conversation about the path of MARL.

For the reasons stated above, I request that the Committee members give HB 1270 an unfavorable report.

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