



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging

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AAA TUESDAY E-MAILING
May 20, 2008

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Note: The web addresses (links) in this document may change over time. The Department for the Aging does not attempt to refresh the links once the week has passed. However, this document is maintained on the web for a period of time as a reference. Some links may require registration.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Janet James, Esq., State Legal Services Director

DATE: May 20, 2008

SUBJECT: Free Web Training Series - Financial Strategies for Low-Income Seniors

REGISTER NOW FOR **FREE WEB TRAINING SERIES!**

Hurry! Only 50 seats are available for each session!

Presented by: *AARP Foundation National Legal Training Project*

Topic: [Financial Strategies for Low-Income Seniors in Tough Economic Times](#)

What: Training series that will help you advocate for Financial Security for low-income clients

Who Should Attend:

- Attorneys
- Area Agency on Aging staff
- Advocates for low-income seniors

NOTE: All Trainings will be held at 1:00-2:00PM ET

- **June 3—BenefitsQuick Link**
 - *Presenter:* Lori Strauss, AARP Foundation, National Program Coordinator for Benefits Quicklink

- **June 10—Consumer Frauds and Schemes**
 - *Presenter:* Bridget Small, AARP Foundation, National Program Coordinator for Consumer Frauds Project

- **June 17—Grandparents Issues**
 - *Presenter:* Amy Goyer, AARP Foundation, National Program Coordinator for Grandparenting Program

- **June 24—Reverse Mortgage Options**
 - *Presenter:* Bronwyn Belling, AARP Foundation, National Program Coordinator for Reverse Mortgage Program

- **July 1—Basic Financial Literacy Resources for Low-Income Adults**
 - *Presenter:* Judith Cohart, AARP Foundation, National Program Coordinator for Money Management Program

How to Register: Send an email to mhubbard@aarp.org giving your name, job title, organization, mailing address, email, and telephone number. Once registered, you will be sent information on how to join the “live meeting” so that you can attend the training. Since seats are limited, participants may be encouraged to share a computer for the training.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department for the Aging

MEMORANDUM

TO: Executive Directors
Area Agencies on Aging

FROM: Kathy Miller, Director of Long-Term Care

DATE: May 20, 2008

SUBJECT: Dominion Virginia Power proposed rate increase

Please read the attached letter from Virginia Board, Managing Director of Community Affairs and Philanthropy for Dominion, which explains Dominion's request for a residential rate increase of 18.3%. The increase is necessary to cover higher fuel costs. This request has been filed with the State Corporation Commission and, if approved, will become effective on July 1. In order to ease the burden this increase will have on many consumers, Dominion is planning to increase its contributions to EnergyShare by \$5 million. It is also expanding eligibility for Budget Billing. From July 1 through October 1, 2008, eligible customers who do not have past-due balances will be able to enroll in Budget Billing by simply paying the budget amount on their bills.



May 7, 2008

Dear Community Partner,

As a community leader, it is important that you have an understanding of key issues that can impact the people of our region. That is why I am writing to you about a request Dominion Virginia Power has filed with the State Corporation Commission to approve an increase in our electricity rates to be effective July 1.

The reason for our request is the unprecedented increase in the cost of the fuel we use to generate electricity. Fuel – coal, oil, natural gas and uranium – is our largest expense. As is the case with gasoline and home heating oil, the market price for our fuel is soaring. In some cases, the price has increased by more than 200 percent in the last several years.

Utility customers elsewhere already have felt the pinch of higher fuel costs on their electric bills. That largely has not been the case at Dominion. Our fuel rate was frozen from January 2004 to July 2007 and – as part of the transition back to traditional regulation – was limited to the equivalent of a 4 percent increase in residential rates last year. Additional fuel costs were deferred for collection in the future.

Our base rates – which cover all other costs as well as the company's profit – were set by the SCC in 1998 and have been capped ever since. We are not asking for an increase in that portion of our rate.

Here are some other key facts:

- **The proposed fuel rate adjustment would increase the average monthly bill of a typical residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours per month by \$16.61, or 18.3 percent, to \$107.20. Dominion's residential rate would still be about 6 percent below the national average.**
- **Dominion's rates are controlled by the State Corporation Commission. We cannot change them without SCC approval. Our request will not go into effect unless the SCC approves.**
- **The company makes no profit on fuel. By law, we pass along the cost of fuel to our customers dollar for dollar.**
- **We have taken many measures to reduce the amount of fuel we use and to purchase it wisely. This includes running our power stations more efficiently and purchasing power when it is cheaper than generating it ourselves.**

It also is important to note that our request is not related to last year's electric utility reregulation. Fuel adjustments have been a part of utility regulation in Virginia for three decades.

We know that the price increase could have a significant effect on many customers. That is why we have proposed a number of additional initiatives, including:

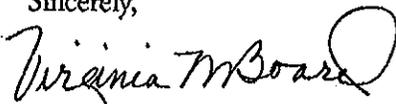
- **Deferring the recovery of \$697 million of fuel costs.** This deferred amount would be collected over three years starting in July 2009.
- **Contributing an additional \$5 million to Dominion's EnergyShare program.** This will allow for a significant increase in emergency assistance payments for customers who need help in paying heating and cooling bills.
- **Making it easier to enroll in Budget Billing.** From July 1 to October 1, eligible residential customers will be able to sign up simply by paying the budget amount on their bill if they don't have any past-due amounts.
- **Expanding the eligibility for Budget Billing.** Also from July 1 to October 1, customers who are behind up to one month on their bill will be able to apply.
- **Offering a new billing option called Business Advantage for small and medium-size businesses and most non-profit customers.** This option, available starting July 1, will help them even out their monthly payments.
- **Developing plans to work with non-profit agencies and localities.** We will help them reduce energy costs of senior citizens and low-income clients.
- **Accelerating our energy conservation efforts.** This includes Dominion's energy-saving pilot programs and other energy conservation efforts.

More information about these initiatives is available at our company Web site, www.dom.com.

Over the long-term, the best action is to maintain the wise energy policy enacted by the governor and General Assembly. That policy promotes investment in energy conservation, renewable energy, and generation using clean-coal and nuclear technologies and natural gas. This balance is essential to ensuring reliable and affordable electricity for Virginia's future. For more information about Dominion's strategy to meet our customers' energy needs, please visit our "Powering Virginia" Web site at www.poweringvirginia.com.

Our customers count on us to provide the best possible service at the best possible price. This is especially true in these times of economic uncertainty. We are committed to doing whatever possible to meet their expectations.

Sincerely,



Virginia M. Board
Managing Director
Community Affairs and Philanthropy