

BENEFITS OF VEPGA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2017-2018

Lower electricity rates	VEPGA rates are estimated to save members approximately \$36.5 million on an annual basis, or an 8% overall reduction as compared to what VEPGA members would pay if their rates were set by the Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC). This reflects a \$6.2 million savings in base rates achieved as a result of 2014 contract negotiations, \$7.4 million in fuel savings due to a monthly rather than annual calculation, and \$22.9 million attributable to savings on Dominion's transmission rider and rate adjustment clauses (RACs).
Budget planning benefits	While base rates are frozen during the current contract term, RACs and riders are not. To improve budgeting certainty, VEPGA RACs and riders are re-set just once each year, on July 1 st . Members are notified by March of the overall level of rates that will be in effect as of July 1 st . Dominion notifies VEPGA of its RAC and rider revenue requirements in late January, which VEPGA then reviews to ensure accurate implementation.
Legal and consulting expertise	By retaining counsel and consultants with considerable expertise in energy matters, VEPGA can take advantage of Virginia law allowing localities to negotiate rates, terms and conditions rather than have them set by the SCC. Negotiations for the 2014-2018 Dominion contract resulted in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• new Schedule 134 designed for VEPGA's largest accounts;• new Schedule 133 to supplement Schedule 132 for dynamic pricing;• expanded renewable energy and distributed generation options;• revisions to Schedule 102 to qualify low-usage traffic signals for unmetered service;• lower excess facilities charges and revised line extension policies to reduce costs;• updated LED streetlight Schedule SSL; and• more detail on Dominion construction projects and associated costs.
Resources	Resources on VEPGA's website, at http://vepga.org , include VEPGA's <i>Elected Officials Guide to Ensuring Fair Regulation for Electricity</i> (updated in 2016), contract documents, educational and meeting materials, listings of member jurisdictions and VEPGA Board members, and contact information for Dominion personnel. An updated website is expected in mid-2017.
Periodic Rate Comparisons	Every 14 months Dominion conducts a rate comparison analysis as required by the VEPGA contract, with the next analysis due this August 2017. Dominion's June 2016 analysis identified potential savings of \$2,870,758 for VEPGA members if they were to switch to different rate schedules. Average savings are \$7,456.51 , with some accounts showing much higher potential savings.
Legislative Monitoring	During the General Assembly session, VEPGA provides updates on energy bills that could impact local governments.
Joint Action Committee	VEPGA's Joint Action Committee (JAC) meets quarterly with Dominion representatives to address issues regarding street lighting construction, maintenance, repair, and billing, as well as work projects such as relocations and overhead-to-underground conversions. The JAC has achieved quicker response times for streetlight repairs and identified recurring billing problems for resolution.
Energy Efficiency and Conservation Committee	The EECC assists VEPGA members in controlling energy use and cost within their organizations by arranging for presentations on topics associated with rates, federal and state programs, new technologies, renewable resources, available grants, metering, and legislative issues. The use of WEBEX capability allows VEPGA members to participate without the need for travel and gives presentation flexibility to subject matter experts.
Green Option	Using the renewable energy rate schedule, Rider G-CM, VEPGA members can purchase renewable energy credits for 0.2 cents/kWh , which compares favorably to the price of 1.3 cent/kWh in the Rider G tariff for customers subject to SCC regulation. Rider G-CM helps VEPGA members achieve goals such as LEED certification, the Green Government Challenge, and the Green Schools Challenge.