October 6, 2020

Dear VML/VACo AEP Steering Committee Member,

In 1978, the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) and the Virginia Municipal League (VML) created the VML/VACo Steering Committee to negotiate rates for all public entities in the Appalachian Power Company (APCo) service territory. The Committee has achieved success in ensuring fair, just, and reasonable electric rates for schools, jails, utility plants and governmental facilities. More information may also be found on the following link https://www.vml.org/vml-vaco-apco-steering-committee/.

The work of the Steering Committee is funded by assessments to members proportionate to the kWh usage of each. In recent years, there has been a decline in members paying their assessments. Currently, the Steering Committee is facing a critical time, as activities include participating in the APCo base rate review (setting rates for all your citizens and businesses) and negotiating a new rate for your local government. Additionally, the Committee is trying to fold in the ability for localities to generate their own electricity and to do so with creative partnerships with private sector entities. It is essential, now more than ever, that the Steering Committee have full participation from all members represented by the work of the Committee. Simply put, lower rates equal economic development options for your locality and a better quality of life for your citizens.

It is important that the Steering Committee have the appropriate designated contact. It is anticipated that the designated contact person will be a conduit for member entities and share the relevant information provided from the Steering Committee to those internally in your organizations who have a need to know and/or interest in Steering Committee activities. The current designated contact list for each member entity is enclosed, should you need to update the designated contact person please notify Sandra Harrington via email at sharrington@vml.org.

The VML/AEP Steering Committee will meet electronically on October 14, 2020 (tentative agenda enclosed), we encourage you to attend the meeting to ensure continued success in securing reasonable electric rates for Steering Committee members.

Sincerely,

Michelle Gowdy
Executive Director, VML

Dean Lynch
Executive Director, VACo