Forwarded this email? Subscribe here for more

Spanberger wants to freeze base rates, but history shows that is not what causes increases in power bills

Power bills rose 65% during a time that base rates for power remained the same.

B RANDON JARVIS

OCT 21 · PREVIEW



READ IN APP

This is the Virginia Political Newsletter covering Virginia politics from top to bottom. Please consider becoming the ultimate political insider by supporting **non-partisan, independent news** and becoming a paid subscriber to this newsletter today.

Upgrade to paid



Power bills increased dramatically when base rates remained the same for decades

Gov. Abigail Spanberger wants Dominion Energy and NextEra Energy to freeze residential base rates for six years as a condition of their proposed $67 billion merger. However that proposal would not prevent customers' total electricity bill from still rising — base rates did not increase from 1992 to 2025, but monthly bills rose 65% between 2007 and 2025.

Spanberger outlined the demand in testimony filed with the Virginia State Corporation Commission on Monday, arguing that the companies have not demonstrated that the merger would adequately protect Virginia consumers. She is also seeking to increase monthly customer credits and impose additional requirements on the companies before regulators approve the deal.

The proposed freeze would prevent increases to base residential rates over three rate-case cycles. But base rates represent only part of a customer's electric bill, so other charges could still rise even if the freeze is adopted.

That distinction is significant given how much Dominion customers' bills have increased over the past two decades.

According to a 2025 SCC report, the typical Dominion residential customer using 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month paid $90.59 in July 2007. By July 2025, that bill had reached $149.92 — an increase of $59.33...