



# City of Bowie

2614 Kenhill Drive  
Bowie, Maryland 20715

## MEMORANDUM

To: City Council

From: *JLF* David J. Deutsch  
City Manager

Subject: Bowie Electric Reliability Action Plan Update

Date: March 19, 2009

City Council has requested that representatives from BGE provide an update regarding the implementation of the Bowie Electric Reliability Action Plan. Attached is information pertaining to this matter (see Attachment 1). BGE will be represented by:

- Michael Fowler – Senior Government Relations Representative, Public Affairs
- Rodney Oddoye – Supervisor, Customer Reliability Management
- Doreen Hartley – Director, Customer Relations Contact Center
- Danny Davis – Supervisor, Forestry Operations

### Public Service Commission Involvement

Attached is the testimony that was shared with the Public Service Commission (PSC) when the PSC received a briefing from BGE regarding the status of this project in September 2008 (see Attachment 2). This attachment outlines issues raised by the City and our residents regarding this program.

BGE is also providing reports to the PSC on a bi-weekly basis regarding the status of this project. These reports are shared with City Council when they are received by staff. Attached is the latest report received from BGE dated February 25, 2009 which provides a summary where the project stood at that point (see Attachment 3).

BGE provided a tour of Bowie for certain members of the PSC staff on March 5, 2009. While the City was made aware of this meeting, the City did not receive a specific invitation to attend.

**MAYOR** G. Frederick Robinson    **MAYOR PRO TEM** Todd M. Turner

**COUNCIL** Dennis Brady ♦ James L. Marcos ♦ Diane M. Polangin ♦ Isaac C. Trough ♦ Geraldine Valentino-Smith    **CITY MANAGER** David J. Deutsch  
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The PSC is also placing a BGE progress update concerning the Bowie Electric Reliability Improvement Program on an upcoming meeting agenda.

PSC staff have been informed about the March 23<sup>rd</sup> briefing for City Council and invited to attend if their schedule permits.

#### Department of Natural Resources Involvement

The role of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding this project is as follows:

- The City has received a blanket permit from DNR that is awarded on an annual basis that provides the City the authority to make determinations regarding the trimming or removal of trees located on City property or within the public right-of-way area for City streets. This authority is granted because both the Parks and Grounds Superintendent and the City Forester have taken a course and passed a test that designates them as Roadside Tree Experts. BGE is working directly with the City regarding these removals.
- Regarding trees removed along State rights-of-way, such as Rt. 450 and Rt. 197, BGE will contact DNR and arrange for a DNR forester to visit the site and obtain their approval before any tree removal work is performed. BGE is also working directly with the City regarding these removals as well.
- Regarding trees removed along County rights-of-way, BGE must receive the approval of the County Roadside Tree Expert before removal can occur. The City is also consulted on these issues.

#### Staff Issues at this Juncture of the Project

At this point in the project, City staff has the following issues associated with this project:

- BGE is proposing to potentially move more poles toward the street for this project. This could involve up to 80 locations. Staff has expressed our strong opposition to this potential action. BGE has indicated that they are revisiting this issue.
- The City and BGE are still working through issues related to liability for damages to sewer laterals and water mains during the initial stages of the trenching associated with the installation of underground wires. Since BGE has changed their procedures and process regarding the location of these water and sewer laterals, there has been only one water line struck over a two month period. Since it has always been a City desire to have as many lines located underground as possible, staff fully supports BGE's efforts in this area. However, the installation of underground lines in already established neighborhoods creates complications.

- There remain outstanding variances regarding the action that BGE is proposing to take on private properties. According to the latest PSC report provided by BGE (see Attachment 3), there were 194 outstanding variances at that time, which represents 5.15% of affected customers. BGE has indicated that the names of the customers who have filed variances are proprietary and cannot be released to the City. Staff's concern is that the customers who have filed for variances are probably the most adamantly opposed to the work BGE is proposing. If BGE determines that they need to assert their rights regarding this program with customers who have filed for a variance, there may be an onrush of dissatisfied customers.
- Staff continues to be concerned about the aggressive nature of trimming in back yard areas. Staff perspective is that BGE needs to be less aggressive in cutting trees that have minimal impact on electric dependability. BGE has taken a very strict approach regarding the adherence to tree trimming standards presented previously to City Council.
- Staff continues to work with BGE concerning removal of trees along State rights-of way. Following the review and approval by DNR regarding these removals, BGE meets with the City to review mitigation requirements of the DNR permit and to review City concerns regarding the proposed work. The City will then send a letter to residents affected by the proposed work explaining what is proposed and asking residents to contact the City if they have any concerns. City Council is also notified. However, there are areas, such as Grady's Walk, where the removal of a significant number of trees that are currently acting as a buffer for homes located along this right-of-way, will have a major impact on the residents living in this area. BGE has committed to use the Right Tree Right Place program to restore some of this buffer area. However, the removal of large trees with the replacement of smaller trees is still going to have an impact.

#### Improvements in Electric Dependability

Staff perspective is that the efforts taken by BGE to date have resulted in improved reliability of electric service in Bowie. Staff is receiving considerably fewer phone calls regarding electric outage issues. The reliability of the system has greatly improved during weather events that in the past would have resulted in significant power outages. Objective information shared with the BGE Bowie Task force in December also note improvement. BGE will continue to work with the BGE Task Force to provide ongoing objective performance information regarding the impact of this program. Finally, the data provided to the PSC last May regarding the performance of individual feeders throughout the BGE system showed improvement on Bowie feeders.

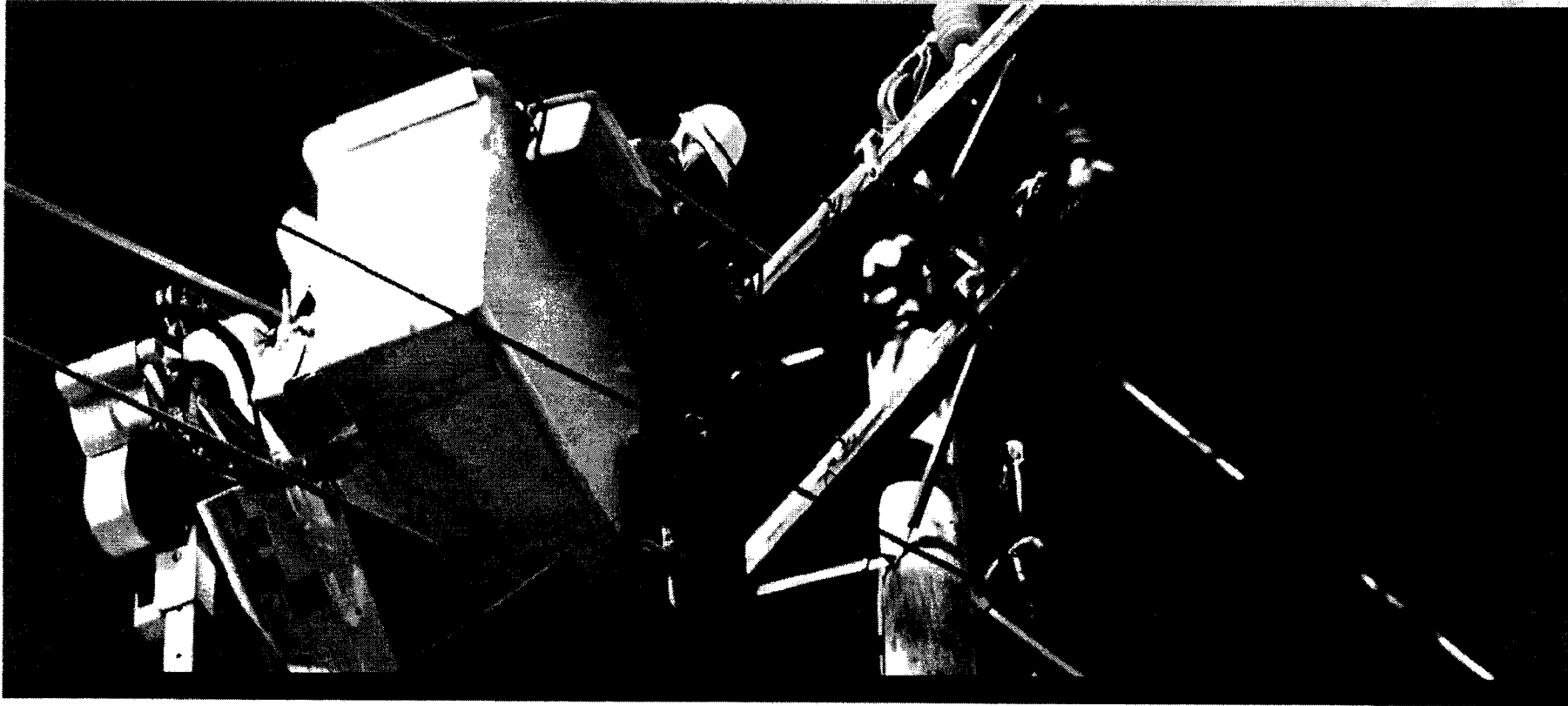
## Conclusion

Staff perspective is that it is important to see this project through to completion. It would not be fair to customers who have already made concessions to request BGE to discontinue this program at this time. While staff still has concerns and issues as noted above, we feel that the public good of achieving greater dependability of electric service is an important issue for the Bowie community and that the program that BGE is implementing is having a positive impact on electric dependability. Staff regrets the loss of trees that have been removed as a result of this program. The preservation of the urban tree canopy in the community is also a worthwhile public good. The clashing of these two worthwhile public goods (Electric Dependability Improvement versus the Preservation of the Urban Tree Canopy) is what makes this such a difficult public policy matter.

DJD/JLF/adf

Attachments

# Bowie Electric Reliability Action Plan



March 23, 2009

**BGE**  
*We're on it.™*

# Agenda

- Reliability Update
  - Feeder performance
  - Bowie vs. BGE System
- Project Progress Update
  - Construction
  - Vegetation Management
- Communications Update

## Feeder performance

- On 5 of the 6 feeders that have been completed we have seen a minimum improvement of 95% for no. of customer interruptions
  - 7442 – defective UG equipment affected BTC
- On 5 feeders with work underway but not completed we have seen similar gain for no. of customer interruptions
- Above data is through December 31<sup>st</sup> 2008
- Very minimal impact to Bowie feeders during four Minor Storms experienced YTD 2009 on BGE System
  - Bowie customers impacted were predominantly on feeders where work is yet to begin

# Reliability Update

Bowie (21 Feeders) All Weather

YEAR	SAIFI	SAIDI	CAIDI
2005	2.26	7.48	3.31
2006	4.19	24.89	5.94
2007	3.48	24.83	7.14
2008	2.04	6.40	3.14
2009 YTD (Feb)	0.15	0.29	1.88

BGE System All Weather

YEAR	SAIFI	SAIDI	CAIDI
2005	1.56	4.02	2.57
2006	1.93	8.00	4.15
2007	1.64	5.87	3.58
2008	1.83	6.43	3.51
2009 YTD (Feb)	0.14	0.35	2.57

## Construction Overview

- Significant construction work underway
- City provided with weekly crew locations
- Communicating with property owners to reduce inconvenience
- Planned outage notifications taking place
- Approximately 1049 customers contacted with 977 property impacts, 0 variances
- Infrastructure upgrades
  - Poles, wire, transformers, switches, reclosers, fuses
  - Selective OH to UG relocations
- 33,513 feet of UG cable installed in duct via directional drilling

## Construction Overview (cont'd.)

- Current estimate 850-900 poles to be renewed project-wide
  - Approximately 330 poles renewed to date
  - Approximately 10% moved closer to street project-wide
    - 35 moved to date
- Justification
  - Safety of operators/field personnel when accessing
  - Critical equipment for emergency restoration
  - Avoidance of property damage
  - Obtain proper road clearances

## Vegetation Management

- Approximately 4,908 customers contacted
  - 3,975 property impacts
  - Approximately 200 variances
  - Variances average between 5% & 7% at any given time
- Approximately 8,400 trees with DBH > 8" removed
  - average of 85 trees removed per Overhead mile trimmed
- Approximately 70% of scheduled vegetation mgmt. complete

## Vegetation Management (cont'd.)

- Reimbursement program
  - Nearly 3,800 trees eligible to date
    - DBH > 8"
    - In maintained areas
    - Reimbursement up to \$100 for each qualified compatible tree
  - Just over 300 trees reimbursed to date
  - Deadline extended – 5/31/09 for 2008 work



## Communications Update

- Last Open House to be held April 2<sup>nd</sup> at City Hall
  - Feeders 7436, 7437, 7438 and 7444
  - Will receive vegetation management only
- Next edition of periodic newsletter in final editing
- Buckingham Park Arbor Day ceremony – April 4

# Appendix

SAIFI – System Average  
Interruption Frequency Index

SAIDI – System Average  
Interruption Duration Index

CAIDI – Customer Average  
Interruption Duration Index

DBH – Diameter at Breast Height

Feeder	Neighborhood
7417	Fairview/Highbridge Park/Stewart's Landing
7418	Long Ridge/Princeton Square
7419	Tulip Grove
7420	Foxhill/Someset/Tulip Grove
7421	Old Chapel Estates/Chapel Forge/Overbrook/Rockledge/Whitehall
7422	Huntington/Huntington Crest/Rolling Hills/Rockledge/Belair Greens/Grady's Walk
7434	Derbyshire/Bowie Forest/Buckingham
7436	Forest Hills/Longleaf
7437	Idlewild/Bowie Forest
7438	Victoria Heights/Yorktown/Overbrook/Chapel Forge/Belair Town
7440	Pointer Ridge/Devonshire Estates/Lake Village Manor/Mitchellville/Ridgeview Estates
7441	Glen Allen/Covington Manor/Heather Hills/Mitchellville/Mitchellville East
7442	Pointer Ridge/Northview/Grovehurst/Amber Meadows/Enfield Chase/Oak Pond/Oak Tree/Ternberry/Archstone/Tall Oaks Crossing/Ridgeview Estates
7444	Amber Meadows/Lake Village Manor/Oak Pond/Oak Tree/Mitchellville
7445	Collington Station/Collington Manor
7447	Evergreen Estates/Covington Manor/Mitchellville East/Mitchellville/Northview/Pin Oak Village
8413	Old Stage/Westview/Woodmore Highlands
8414	Meadowbrook/Chapel Forge
8462	Ensleigh/Essington/Heather Hills/Kenilworth
8463	Bowie Commons/Enfield Chase
8465	Saddlebrook

**City of Bowie Comments Before the PSC Regarding the BGE Bowie Electric Reliability Improvement Program**

Thank you for the opportunity to present the City of Bowie perspectives regarding the BGE Electric Reliability Improvement Program.

The City is appreciative of the efforts of BGE in implementing this program and is still supportive of this project.

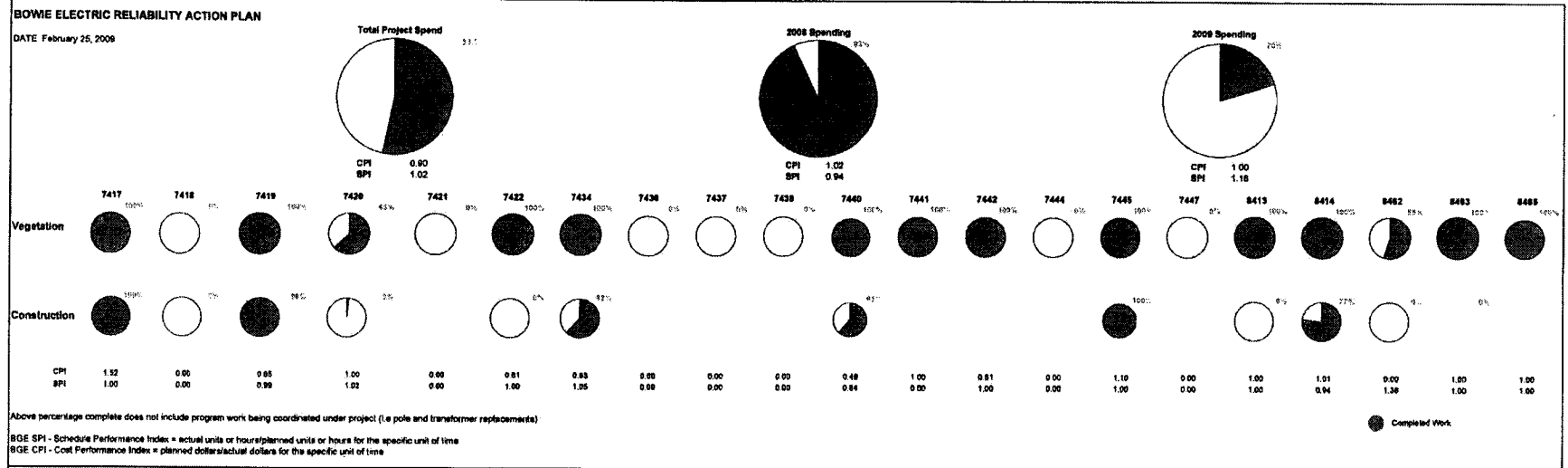
It appears from preliminary data that the program is having some success in terms of improving the dependability of electrical service in the City of Bowie.

However, even though the City still supports this effort, there have been concerns raised by residents as follows:

1. Too many trees are being removed in back yard areas.
2. Trees are being trimmed in a way that leaves them misshapen.
3. Potential loss of tree buffer between residential neighborhoods and major roadways.
4. Program is overly aggressive and is negatively impacting the aesthetics of the City.
5. What is communicated by the Tree Permission Specialist as to what will be trimmed or cut is not always what occurs when the actual trimming or cutting occurs.
6. Tree debris is not always removed in a timely fashion.
7. Stumps are not being removed as part of this program.
8. Trees along hillsides are being removed causing potential erosion problems.
9. Some crews working in back yard areas are causing damage to private property.
10. Timely notice is not always provided for planned outages.
11. Utility poles moved from back yard area to front yard area creating negative aesthetics.

As indicated earlier, while the City is appreciative of the efforts of BGE regarding this program, we want to make sure, as this program is being implemented, that BGE is sensitive to the concerns expressed by Bowie residents and that the environmental and aesthetic impacts within the City are minimized to the extent possible as this program moves forward.

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Project: Budget as of February 28, 2009; Actuals as of February 25, 2009.

Type	Project to Date Actual	Project to Date Budget	Variance	2009 Actuals	2009 Budget	2008 Actuals	Project Budget
Capital	12,878,177	12,921,833	1,048,657	10,703,421	18,200,201	2,172,795	26,779,856
O&M*	3,849,778	4,487,662	517,878	2,870,633	1,000,000	1,279,142	4,717,880
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,825,955</b>	<b>18,398,495</b>	<b>1,833,532</b>	<b>13,574,054</b>	<b>17,200,201</b>	<b>3,451,937</b>	<b>31,497,736</b>

*\*Does not include "non-project" O&M dollars*

**Variance Explanation:**

Capital Variance (under spent) is due to lost production days in early January and February due to inclement weather and crew release for ice storm support. Does not reflect the capital transfers from the tree trimming O/M for the month of February.

O&M Variance (under spent) is due to lost production days in early January and February due to inclement weather and crew release for ice storm support. O&M transfers to Capital for Tree Trimming in support of Construction have not been completed for the month of February.

Plans	Key Accomplishments
<b>Vegetation</b>	<b>Vegetation</b>
7419 Lewis Tree Service has entered customer notifications prior to starting trimming. Trimming expected to start last week of February.	7417, 7434, 7440, 7445 & 8414; Asplundh Tree Expert has completed 100% of tree trimming
7420 Lewis Tree Service has completed 83%. Trimming suspended around "historical area - BeAr Mansion" and along Rte. 197 pending permitting	7419, 7422, 7441, 7442, 8413, 8403 and 8465; Lewis Tree Service has completed 100% of tree trimming
8482 Asplundh Tree Expert Company has completed 55% of the tree-trimming	
<b>Construction</b>	<b>Construction</b>
7419 OH work is 98% complete and URD work is 100% completed. Awaiting coordinated cut-in over Rte. 450 in order to complete all work.	7417 and 7445 are 100% completed for project work.
7420 OH Maha work is 2% complete, 7420 OH Taps and 7420 URD scope and engineering reviews have been approved	
7434 OH work is 89% complete, 7434 URD work is 93% complete, and 7434 URD/OH at Sadler Lane is 25% complete.	
7440 OH work is 25% complete and URD work is 88% complete.	
8414 OH Maha work is 87.5% complete.	
8414 OH Taps work is 60% complete.	
8414 URD work is 84% complete.	
8482 OH & 8482 URD customer notifications have been initiated prior to construction work.	
<b>Issues</b>	<b>General Notes</b>
Discussions continue between BGE and the City of Bowie over liability issues with service strike repairs	
Currently URD sewage services are being located by SoR Dig. ULCS is digging the test pits for the services. This process is yielding positive results.	<b>Date</b>   <b>Comments</b>
	2/25/2009   Bowie Electric Reliability Action Plan had an average of 171 personnel working in the Bowie area at an average of 16 different work locations.
Currently have tree variances (impeding construction on feeders 8414 (Bentley Lane), and 7434 (Swa) Lane)	2/25/2009   PTD, 980 customers have been notified for construction work, of which 800 properties have been impacted with no outstanding construction variances.
	2/25/2009   PTD 4,572 customers have been notified for tree-trimming, of which 3,762 properties have been impacted. 194 Outstanding Variances to date, which is running 5.15% of those impacted.
<b>Communications</b>	