

Jack B. Johnson
County Executive

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT



Department of Public Works and Transportation
Office of the Director

October 5, 2009

The Honorable Ingrid Turner
Prince George's County Council
District 4
County Administration Building
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

Dear Council Member Turner:

In response to your inquiry on behalf of Bowie City Council Member Geraldine Valentino-Smith concerning tree clearing work performed by Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) on Old Chapel Road, as well as on Mitchellville Road, it should be noted that our landscape architect, Wayne Lucas, has been working with both BGE and representatives from the City of Bowie throughout the entire process regarding the clearing.

Based on your inquiry and the concerns expressed by Council Member Valentino-Smith, we will meet with representatives from BGE to:

1. address these concerns;
2. have BGE apply for a permit to perform landscape work in order to address the stated concerns;
3. develop a landscape design plan for each of the referenced areas;
4. install landscape materials included in the approved plans; and
5. require BGE to replace any landscape material that dies during the two-year period, which is the maximum required of county contractors.

However, prior to our meeting with BGE, the City of Bowie must first agree, through a signed Memorandum of Understanding with the county, to assume management and maintenance oversight of the referenced areas during the two-year period for which BGE is responsible. Also, the City of Bowie must agree to undertake responsibility for landscape maintenance after the two-year period expires for BGE. If the city does not agree to be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the installed landscaping, we cannot require BGE to agree to these terms because, as you are aware, we do not have the funds or the personnel to do the required maintenance.

Inglewood Centre 3
(301) 883-5600

9400 Peppercorn Place, Suite 300
FAX (301) 883-5709

Largo, Maryland 20774
TDD (301) 985-3894

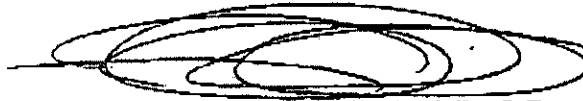
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Please discuss this with the City of Bowie and let me know if the city concurs. If so, we will forward the Memorandum of Understanding to the Bowie City Manager for signature. Upon receipt of the signed Memorandum, we will contact representatives from BGE and move forward. In the meantime, should you have additional questions about this, please contact me or Susan Hubbard of my staff at 301.883.5600.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Haitham A. Hijazi, Ph.D., P.E.
Director

cc: J. Rick Gordon, Acting Deputy Director
Gwen Clerkley, Associate Director, OHM
Wayne Lucas, Landscape Architect, OHM
Susan Hubbard, Public Information Officer