



**Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia**  
1333 H Street, N.W., 2nd Floor, West Tower  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
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**AGNES ALEXANDER YATES**  
**CHAIR**

August 10, 2007

Commissioner Joseph Fengler  
ANC Commissioner 6A02  
District of Columbia Government  
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A  
P.O. Box 75115  
Washington, D.C. 20013

Dear Commissioner Fengler:

Please forgive my delay in responding to your email of last month regarding proper coordination between utility companies as it relates to the District of Columbia Department of Transportation's ("DDOT") Streetscape Project in the H Street N.E. corridor. As I indicated in my e-mail of July 5, 2007, the District Department of Transportation has not involved the Commission in its Streetscape Project. However, I contacted the three utilities the Commission regulates and asked each one to advise me of the timing for utility projects and any upgrades or repairs being planned in coordination with the Streetscape Project. Below is a summary of the scope of each of the utility's projects, and a brief discussion of the manner in which the utilities coordinate among themselves and with DDOT and the community.

**1. PEPCO**

According to PEPCO, the current excavation work on H Street N.E. is in conjunction with a PEPCO project to supply power to the new Northeast Substation No. 212. This entails installing two (2) new 69KV lines within a new conduit and manhole system from Benning Substation No. 41 to the new substation. The estimated completion date for this project is early September 2007.

The Streetscape Project requires that PEPCO relocate its facilities along the south side of H Street from 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to 14<sup>th</sup> Street. Construction will consist of building underground conduits and manholes, removal of cables from the old conduits, abandoning the old conduits and manholes, and installing new cables. PEPCO is coordinating its construction schedules with DDOT. Pepco anticipates starting work in January of 2008 with a targeted completion date of November 2008.

Additionally, PEPCO currently has a project in place to extend a new six feeder Low Voltage Alternating Current (LVAC) group requiring construction of a new conduit on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, N.E. The projected completion date for this project is June 2010.

Customer service construction work may entail street cuts during the 2008 through 2015 timeframe. This work cannot be identified and planned in advance of customers' applications for new or upgraded electric service connections.

## **2. Washington Gas**

According to Washington Gas, it has been coordinating its work with DDOT since the inception of the Streetscape Project and WG plans to upgrade its existing low pressure system. Existing low pressure gas mains are located on both sides of H Street and will be below the proposed tracks of the streetcar. Existing mains will be replaced with 6" high pressure plastic to be installed north of the street's centerline of H Street, N.E. from 14<sup>th</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, N.E. WG also plans to install high pressure gas mains at every intersection for future high pressure connections for potential new business projects and low-pressure upgrades and replacements. This project is scheduled for planning and design this fiscal year with the construction cost budgeted for fiscal year 2008. Construction of this project will be coordinated with PEPCO's installation of the 69kv line for Eckington Place, N.E.

DDOT has another streetcar project connecting to this line along Benning Road, N.E. Washington Gas is planning to perform some upgrades on those facilities as well.

## **3. Verizon**

According to Verizon, it has been involved in discussions with DDOT regarding the H Street and Benning Road projects. However, Verizon currently has no plans for any facility upgrades. While Verizon has no overhead facilities on H Street, it does have a substantial amount of conduit and manhole systems in place under both H Street and Benning Road. DDOT will lay an 8" wide concrete base for the Streetscape project which will impact 14 Verizon manholes in that area. Verizon reports that DDOT has agreed to pay for and construct any necessary changes related to Verizon's manholes and to use approved District of Columbia contractors.

Commissioner Joseph Fengler  
ANC Commissioner 6A02  
August 10, 2007  
Page 3

4. *Coordination*


In addition to the utilities' responses summarized above, my staff contacted the utilities to obtain more information regarding the coordination between the utilities and DDOT. The utilities informed staff that DDOT has been conducting monthly meetings in which the utilities have reported their monthly project status, their time schedules, the sequencing of their work in consideration of each others' schedules, facility design and installation requirements, safety and DDOT's overall project schedule. The utilities report that DDOT assures detailed coordination schedules with the utilities and the utilities report similar coordination among themselves. Further, the utilities report that DDOT is responsible for overall coordination with the community and all utilities work through DDOT for this purpose.

My staff has also discussed specific requirements and design issues with Ms. Katrina Ricks of DDOT who is leading the DDOT H Street and Benning Road project. She confirmed that DDOT is receiving adequate co-operation from all the utilities regulated by the Commission in all aspects of the project, and is satisfied with the working relationship worked out by all the parties involved. Ms. Ricks and Dr. Joseph Nwude the Commission's Deputy, Director Executive for Regulatory Matters, agreed to share information, going forward, on the progress of the project to enable the Commission to provide appropriate oversight.

In a summary, it seems that DDOT has designed programs with the utilities and is satisfied with the manner in which their participation is being coordinated. We will continue to provide oversight during the course of the project.

Thank you again for contacting me. Should you or your staff require additional information, please contact Ms. Linda Jordan, Director of the Office of Consumer Services, on (202) 626-9169 or Dr. Joseph Nwude, Deputy Executive Director for Regulatory Matters on (202) 626-5156.

Sincerely,



Agnes A. Yates