

Our Work to Upgrade Reliability

1. Trimming Trees

Many of Pepco's recent outages are a direct result of trees falling on power lines. Pepco is aggressively trimming trees along public rights of way to obtain increased clearance between the overhead electric wires and existing trees. Pepco also will work with counties, communities and homeowners to remove potentially hazardous trees that fall outside of the company's right of way area.

2. Improving Priority Feeders

A feeder is an electric power line that distributes power to up to 1,100 customers within a specific geographic area. Each year, across Montgomery County, Pepco selects and replaces feeders that are performing poorly. As part of our plan to improve reliability, Pepco has expanded this program by 45 percent.

3. Meeting Increased Customer Demand for Energy

Similar to upgrading electric service to your home to accommodate new appliances and electronic devices, Pepco is continuing to upgrade power lines and is adding circuits to accommodate new customers and support increased energy use by existing customers.

4. Installing Advanced Technologies

Pepco is installing advanced control systems that allow the electric system to identify problems and perform switching automatically. These technologies will automatically isolate failed pieces of equipment and restore most of the affected customers within minutes of the failure.

Montgomery County Progress Results

(September 2011 Update)

1. Pepco trimmed trees along 138 miles of power lines in the county in September, bringing the year-to-date total to 586 miles. Pepco has lowered the annual target of trees trimmed in the county from 850 to 800 by the end of the year. This is due in part to the diversion of resources in response of the cleanup efforts from Hurricane Irene and from a tropical storm in September.

2. In September, Pepco completed work on projects in Darnestown, Potomac, Rockville, Beverly Farms, Gaithersburg and Norbeck. Work continues on projects in Chevy Chase, Takoma Park, Silver Spring, Colesville, Bethesda, Four Corners, Potomac, Germantown, Glen Echo, Cabin John, North Potomac and Gaithersburg. Pepco also began work on projects in Colesville, Bethesda, Norbeck, Germantown and Fairland. Work will begin on 11 projects next month, which are in the final design and permitting stages. Pepco has completed 19 of 47 projects year-to-date.

3. All four projects identified during the initial stages of the plan have been completed.

4. Pepco continued work during September on the 15 remaining projects slated for completion in 2011 in the following areas: Linden, Bethesda-Potomac-Quince Orchard-Wood Acres-Beverly Farms-Longwood, Viers Mill Rd-Emory Grove-Norbeck-Rossmoor. Eleven projects have been completed so far this year. The four remaining projects are slated for completion by December.

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Montgomery County Progress Results

(September 2011 Update)

5. Replacing Aging Infrastructure

Pepco has a long-standing project to replace underground cable in residential developments that for the most part was installed during the 1970s. This program replaces cable to prevent future failures and increases the reliability of the distribution system for customers supplied from the underground system.

5. In September, Pepco replaced or renewed 77,300 feet (15 miles) of cable in the county. Pepco expects to replace or renew 175 miles of cable in the county this year. Pepco completed work in Beechdale Ct., West Riding and Montgomery Place. Work began in Oakdale, Twinbrook, Quaker Knoll, Mineral Springs, and Dufief Mill. Work continued in Saddlebrook Park, Danville Ct., Democracy Blvd, Trailbridge, North Farm, Flower Hill, Londonderry, The Sequoia, Dumont Oaks, and Snowdens Mill. In total, Pepco has replaced or renewed 120 miles of cable year-to-date.

6. Selective Undergrounding and Supply Line Enhancements

In areas where traditional modifications on the overhead system have not produced the desired results, Pepco will selectively replace the overhead system with an underground system. In addition, measures will be taken to further protect the high-voltage substation supply lines to reduce the number of outages. By increasing the reliability of the supply lines, Pepco increases the reliability of the substation, which in turn improves the performance of the 12 to 15 individual distribution feeders supplied by each substation.

6. Earlier this year, Pepco narrowed the list to two feeders meeting the undergrounding criteria in the county and started an engineering evaluation on those two feeders. With regards to supply line enhancement, 24 projects are planned for this year, of which eight have been completed and the remaining projects are in progress. Corrective measures will continue into the fourth quarter. Pepco is in the process of planning vegetation clearing on four circuits in the county; 12 circuits have been cleared for the year.