

# News

## Aug. 10 Mtg. on Sites For BGE Substation

by Nancy Jones

Those lazy, hazy days of summer haven't been for BGE officials. Instead, they have been busy designing a proposed regional substation in the midst of the rural area near Butler, something neighbors say is an inappropriate commercial use in the midst of protected agricultural properties.

The latest plans for the substation will be unveiled by BGE officials to community members on August 10, 7:30 p.m., at the regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Hanover Road Association. The meeting, open to the public, will be held at the Pearlstone Conference Center, 5425 Mt. Gilead Road, in Reistertown.

BGE officials are expected to present details about the design, need and timetable of the new facility as well as the findings of an assessment for using an alternative site.

The substation is planned at the former Camp Holiday property, 90-acres located off Kemp Road north of Glyndon. The substation would likely impact 30-to-40 acres of the property.

BGE officials have stated they would place the unused portion in preservation or agricultural use.

An alternative site -- consisting of five parcels -- was identified this spring and BGE officials say they are interested in the site, according to Robert Gould, a vice president with BGE.

**"At the end of the day, the clock is ticking."**

--Robert Gould

### Double tracked

Gould would not disclose the alternative site's location but said it's an attractive site because it is closer to their existing Northwest substation and could provide easier access. However, one property owner is still unwilling to sell.

Both the former Camp Holiday site and the alternative site are being double tracked but there's a time crunch.

"At the end of the day, the clock is ticking," said Gould.

BGE could face potential violations if the company does not meet the region's energy needs by 2015. The project is a requirement of PJM, a transmission organization that dictates the reliability needs in 13 states and the District of Columbia.

BGE has yet to file any development

plans for the substation with Baltimore County but said they would soon.

"We have no ability to shift the date put before us," added Gould. "We have to file something in short order."

For the substation to be open and operating by 2015, BGE would need to start construction by 2013, according to Gould.

### A clear picture

Community members have expressed concerns that BGE is planning on using Kemp Road to access the property, that the location is within the state-designated and protected Piney Run Rural Legacy Area and that the industrial nature of the project does not fit the rural area.

Teresa Moore, executive director of the Valleys Planning Council, said the site chosen is surrounded by permanently preserved property and is meant for agriculture or rural uses.

"It's pretty clear that we will oppose the Camp Holiday site because of its location in the Rural Legacy area," said Moore.

She added that the VPC prefers the alternative site and that the Hanover Road Association is also supportive of the alternative location.

At the upcoming August meeting, Moore said she hopes to get a clear picture of just where the project stands.

"We hope to find out what the current status of the project is and what their timeline is," said Moore.

Hanover Road Association board member Bob Slaterbeck declined to

comment on project specifics because negotiations are ongoing.

"The whole thing is to minimize the impact on the neighborhood," he said. "The meeting is an opportunity for people to be brought up to date and an opportunity for people to ask questions."

### Not swapping problems

Even if something is worked out with the alternative site, BGE's Gould said the company needs to be sure that they are not swapping problems from

one community to another. He added that BGE looked at this same site about two or three years ago for the substation and at that time also ran into landowners unwilling to sell.

"We really are trying to do the right thing here," he said. "We simply have to meet the need in front of us."

Still Moore said she is hoping they have more

time to allow BGE to continue to pursue the alternative location. She wants BGE to ask PJM for an extension.

"We don't think they should be holding BGE's feet to the fire until they know for sure there's even a need," she said.

Other transmission projects such as the Potomac/Appalachian Transmission Highline (PATH) and Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway (MAPP) were recently put on hold by PJM due to new forecasts and planning figures.

PJM spokesperson Paula DuPont-Kidd said in June that they review projects every year and will look at the Camp Holiday project as part of this annual process later this fall.

**"We will oppose the Camp Holiday site because of its location in the Rural Legacy area."**

--Teresa Moore