

NOTICE ABOUT UNRELIABLE ELECTRIC SERVICE FROM NOVEC

First of all, neighbors: PLEASE send your name, address, and e-mail address to our Board president, Vinnie Burruano at vince.burruano@ricoh-usa.com. We need to have current e-mail addresses for all residents to keep them apprised of the NOVEC situation and other homeowner issues that arise.

This is an update on the meeting on March 30, 2011 that Mike McKinney, one of our neighbors, and our HOA President, Vinnie Burruano, had with our VA Delegate, Tim Hugo, and our representative to the Board of Supervisors, Pat Herrity.

THANK YOU to the 30+ people who submitted e-mails about their negative experiences with NOVEC to our representatives. Both men were absolutely convinced that we had a serious situation after they started to read the e-mails. During the meeting both Mr. Hugo and Mr. Herrity stated that the situation we are experiencing with NOVEC is completely unacceptable. If not for your help, there would have been an entirely different outcome.

Here is what happened on March 30:

1) It is now apparent to both representatives that "fortifying or hardening the electric lines" is not a viable option. Information from the horticulturists presented by Mike is incontrovertible. The mature forest that surrounds our power stations and electric wires includes thousands of diseased trees. When NOVEC built this system through the forest, they did not take into account the environment, weather, and the ecology of the area surrounding their power stations and lines. Cutting the trees is not a solution as the trees outside the 30 foot easement are so tall that they will still fall onto the lines in windy and inclement weather and cause power outages.

2) Our representatives now understand that NOVEC officials are in denial of the situation we are enduring and have been non-responsive, if not completely oblivious, to our pleas. They now realize that NOVEC is NOT providing us with the service that we are paying for and that we have endured hardships not experienced by the other citizens in Fairfax County.

3) Our HOA has asked for a public forum with NOVEC executives to express our opinions and listen to their answers. Our HOA is on board in representing us in this issue.

Reps. Hugo and Herrity have agreed to attend this meeting. It should be organized soon, and mailings will be sent out to all members of the HOA to let them know the time, date and place where the meeting will occur. We need 100 percent participation from the HOA (or as close to it as we can get) so that we can present a united front.

PLEASE let your neighbors know that this issue is serious and affects all of us, even those on the grid with Dominion VA Power. If a significant number of the 270 homes serviced by NOVEC end up having to purchase back-up generators, the value of homes in our neighborhood will plummet. This situation is not one that just affects those on the NOVEC feeds.

4) Tim Hugo is exploring the possibility of transferring our electric power from the NOVEC grid to Dominion VA Power. NEVER in the history of the Commonwealth of VA has a neighborhood been changed from one power company to another.

In order for this to occur, NOVEC would have to agree to release us from their grid and DVP would have to agree to pick us up on their GOOD feed into the neighborhood. Right now they have 2 feeds into our neighborhood, and one of them is also problematic. I believe (but am not sure) that the HOA would have to vote on this measure. IF it comes to that, our HOA will inform us of the procedure that will be followed for this to occur.

Remember, this switch from NOVEC to DVP is just a "possibility" at this time. We do not know if this will happen -- it is in discussion. If this does not happen, NOVEC will be asked to bury the lines in the forest to the Johnny Moore and Pope's Head power stations. These two stations feed into two different sections of our neighborhood. Of course this will cost them millions of dollars. It is unclear at this time as to what their response will be to these demands -- but all issues are finally on the table, which is a big step forward.

5) It is possible that there will be a fund set up to reimburse homeowners for expenses that they will incur during FUTURE power outages -- appliances that are destroyed, food that has to be thrown away, hotel expenses, etc. Again, this fund has NOT yet been set up and is just a possibility that is under discussion. It would not be a bad idea for you to start collecting receipts if you incur costs in the future related to power outages and surges, in case such a compensation fund is established.

6) Both Tim Hugo and Pat Herrity want us to contact them directly when we experience a power outage or even several flickers of power, however short in duration. Here are their phone numbers. Please call the following numbers and/or email to let them know that you have no power. They need to see how often this is occurring:

Supervisor Pat Herrity: 703 451 8873 and/or e-mail: pat.herrity@fairfaxcounty.gov

Delegate Tim Hugo: 703 815 1201, OR 804 698 1040 (in Richmond) OR 908 625 1935 to reach his Chief Legislative Aide, OR 703 774 5286 to reach his Chief of Staff and/or e-mail: delthugo@house.virginia.gov

Of course we will keep you informed as developments unfold. Thanks again for your help, and continue to talk to your neighbors about the importance of this issue.

Please let us know if you are interested in being on the committee or in helping to further this cause. Much work still needs to be done. When sending e-mails, please include BOTH addresses below in addition to Tim Hugo and Pat Herrity's offices:

Vinnie Burruano: email: vince.burruano@ricoh-usa.com
Andrea (Andy) Novotny: email: annovotny@msn.com