

Subject: DES- Street Light Oversight and Responsiveness

**FY 2018 Proposed Budget
Budget Work Session Follow-up**

4/5/2017

The following information is provided in response to a request made by John Vihstadt for the work session on 3/28/2017:

Street Lights Owned by DVP and VDOT: The Manager has lamented the poor oversight and responsiveness by DVP and VDOT as to the maintenance of their streetlights. How do we ensure that we are clear and resolute in holding DVP and VDOT accountable for their respective streetlights inventories rather than being resigned to filling the gap left by inadequate maintenance on their parts?

County staff, including the County Manager, is actively engaging with Senior Dominion Virginia Power (DVP) management and has met several times with DVP over the last several months to improve response time for major outages on streetlights. There is some indication of improvements being made in this area. In parallel, the County staff is also working with the Virginia Energy Purchasing Governmental Association (VEPGA) to negotiate the upcoming FY 18 agreement. This agreement will be used to negotiate energy rates, street light rates, and potential additional penalty clauses to improve DVP response times.

In addition to directly engaging with DVP, the County Manager has included in the FY 2018 proposed budget additional street light staff resources, including a streetlight engineer and program manager, who will hold DVP accountable to repair, maintain, and report on progress relative to street light outages in the County. Staff conducted a total field inventory in October 2016 of all streetlights that were out in the County. There were approximately 450 streetlight outages in lights belonging to DVP, which were reported by County staff via the DVP on-line outage system. The follow-up and coordination necessary to get these repaired will be part of the responsibilities of these new positions.

What additional leverage do we have with the Commonwealth, either through our legislative delegation, with the Executive Branch or with state regulatory bodies in this regard?

VEPGA is the official body to formally discuss County's concerns regarding DVP issues. The County Manager's liaison to DVP has also been actively involved with the recent DVP meetings to provide additional leverage to get County concerns on street light matters heard and acted on. In the next two months, staff is planning a DVP Board work session for further discussion and to report on the progress to date.