

January 11, 2013

To comply with electrical transmission safety laws, Dominion Virginia Power has pruned large trees away from the power transmission lines that run along the Northampton Boulevard transmission line corridor. These trees are along the north side of Northampton Boulevard between Jack Frost Road and Independence Boulevard. The repeated cutting of branches away from the power lines on only one side of the trees is known as directional pruning, and the weight of the remaining branches has caused the trees to lean toward the road. The condition of these trees is further impacted by the fact that there is also a deep ditch between them and the transmission lines, so their root systems provide little support against the trees leaning toward Northampton Boulevard. Two trees have fallen in the last several years, impacting motorists and affecting traffic safety.

In order to enhance public safety, the City of Virginia Beach and Virginia Dominion Power will be working together to remove the large trees and resulting debris in this area. The operation, which should begin on February 4, 2013, will take approximately two weeks and will require closure of one or more westbound lanes on Northampton Boulevard. Please expect some traffic delays on the westbound lanes of Northampton Boulevard from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. on weekdays during the duration of this tree removal operation.

The existing understory shrubs and other vegetation, which are up to 15' tall, will be preserved to the greatest extent possible during this tree removal operation. If enhancement of the buffer north of this busy highway becomes necessary, Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation will examine options for funding to replant the corridor with small trees and evergreen shrubs which will not impact the transmission lines. For more information about the removal of the trees, please contact Symsi Houser at (757) 385-4461 or email shouser@vbgov.com.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we perform these safety enhancements.

Sincerely,

Symsi Houser
Operations Coordinator
Landscape Management Division