
From: Bob Hammond
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2020 6:53 AM
To: City Council
Cc: Michael Jones
Subject: Electrical Outage Response

On September 23rd and September 26th, the City experienced power outages lasting several hours each which is unusual based on past history. The outages occurred on both sides of the truck route from the border south to Rite Aid. It took considerable time for the crew to locate the underground cable faults. Because each was a primary circuit serving multiple customers, additional time was needed to safely isolate and “backfeed” power from other circuits which is a difference from power outages in the past involving secondary or smaller cables. We believe the recent storms including rain after a relatively dry period of time contributed to these faults as well as the cables involved being fairly old. Other communities in our region also had similar underground power outages. The City Light department have since repaired these two cable faults and are taking other steps to try to identify vulnerable cable circuits in order to lessen the probability of future outages. Alternatives are also being taken to provide better after-hour communications to allow customers to report outages while allowing crew members to spend their time trying to get power restored as soon as possible.

Bob Hammond, P.E.
Interim Public Works Director
360.332.8820
509.440.2803 (cell)

All emails to or from me are considered public records and may be subject to disclosure. Please consider the environment before printing this email.