

Communications Division Statement



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2019

Contact:

Lisa LaPlante, Communications Manager
702-293-9302 or llaplante@bcnv.org

Boulder City Tap Transmission Substation Project Statement

BOULDER CITY – The staff in Boulder City Utilities and Public Works Departments pulled together the following information at the request of residents regarding the delay in energizing the Boulder City Tap Transformer.

- Staff installed the new transformer next to the current unit in Spring 2018, and noticed the leak in July 2018. Staff notified the manufacturer via phone.
- One of the manufactured parts needed to be replaced with a new manufactured part which took several weeks to complete.
- Once the manufacturer received the part, the City was notified the part was incorrect and another one had to be manufactured.
- The manufacturer's crews were onsite the week of January 28, 2019 to install the new part. Staff is currently testing the system under pressure to insure the new part does not leak. We plan on keeping it under pressure for 2 more weeks. Once we confirm that the repair is complete and the product meets our expectations, we'll release final payment to the manufacturer, Virginia Transformer.
- The City holds a 5-year warranty on the new transformer, which will begin once we release final payment.

The following pages provide background on the project.

**BOULDER CITY
CITY COUNCIL**

MAYOR
RODNEY WOODBURY

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
PEGGY LEAVITT
WARREN HARHAY
RICH SHUMAN
KIERNAN MCMANUS



MEETING LOCATION:
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER
401 CALIFORNIA AVENUE
BOULDER CITY, NV 89005

MAILING ADDRESS:
401 CALIFORNIA AVENUE
BOULDER CITY, NV 89005

WEBPAGE:
WWW.BCNV.ORG



CITY MANAGER:
ALFONSO NOYOLA, ICMA-CM

CITY ATTORNEY:
STEVEN L. MORRIS, ESQ

CITY CLERK:
LORENE KRUMM, MMC, CPO

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR:
MICHAEL MAYS, AICP

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR:
KEEGAN LITRELL, P.E.

UTILITIES DIRECTOR:
DENNIS PORTER, P.E.

POLICE CHIEF:
TIM SHEA

FIRE CHIEF:
KEVIN NICHOLSON

FINANCE DIRECTOR:
DIANE PELLETIER, CPA

PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR
ROGER HALL

Boulder City Tap Transmission Substation Upgrade Project Background

The BC Tap upgrade project involves replacement of:

- a transformer that connects the Boulder City 69,000 Volt transmission system to the 230,000 Volt regional transmission system owned by the U.S. Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)
- 230,000 Volt circuit breakers and associated sensors and relays that protect the WAPA system from a failure on the Boulder City system

The project requires that BC Tap be taken off service for an extended period of time to allow structures to be built and the equipment to be installed and tested. As BC Tap is the only backup power source for the entire City, the main priority of City Staff is that the station must be available during the summer months, when the risk of an extended City-wide electrical outage is least acceptable.

Due to the layout of the BC Tap substation, it is possible to install the new transformer alongside the old transformer, leaving the old transformer in place and ready to be energized if needed. However, once installation of the circuit breakers is started, the substation becomes unavailable as a backup power source for the City until construction is complete, and all equipment is tested and accepted by WAPA for connection to their system.

Given this situation, City Staff's original plan was to install the new transformer in the spring of 2018, followed by installation of the circuit breakers and protection system in the fall of 2018. However, after its installation in April, 2018, the new transformer was found to have oil leaks that the manufacturer considered acceptable, but City Staff did not. The manufacturer did eventually accept the oil leaks as warranty issues, and completed repairs at the end of February, 2019.

The delay in transformer installation has led to a further delay in the second phase of project – installation of the circuit breakers and protection system. City Staff has determined that starting phase 2 of the project now, this close to summer, is needlessly risky: any issue that arises that would prevent WAPA from accepting the new installation for connection to their system could make BC Tap unavailable to provide backup power during the months when the need for air conditioning is most important. The better course of action is to continue to rely on the old transformer for backup power this summer, and to commence breaker replacement starting in October 2019.

Lisa LaPlante

From: Josh Gorman <josh@gorman-co.com>
Sent: Monday, October 29, 2018 3:29 PM
To: Jim Keane; Marvis Poole
Subject: Re: VTC service

Jim

The parts arrived at VTC. They are currently fabricating the solution and plan to be able to ship to you all next week.

What address do you want it sent to? I am told it will weigh between 300 -400 lbs.

The service team is working with the sub contractor that initially dressed the transformer to come out and make this repair.

I will send you all a drawing soon of the piece for your files.

Josh Gorman

Sent from my iPhone

On Oct 18, 2018, at 7:54 AM, Jim Keane <JKeane@bcnv.org> wrote:

Josh:

Any update? Also, do you have any plans of the repair that you can send us to review?

Thanks.

*Jim Keane, P.E., Acting Public Works Director/City Engineer
City of Boulder City
401 California Avenue, Boulder City, NV 89005
(702) 293-9200 / jkeane@bcnv.org*

From: Josh Gorman [<mailto:josh@gorman-co.com>]
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 6:53 AM
To: Jim Keane <JKeane@bcnv.org>; Marvis Poole <MPoole@bcnv.org>; Rory Dwyer <RDwyer@bcnv.org>
Subject: RE: VTC service

Good morning guys,

I wanted to give you an update on the VTC repair. The parts for the new piping should be arriving to the factory the end of next week. It will take a couple weeks to fabricate the part. Then we can schedule the site visit to get it installed.

Looks like 4-6 weeks.

Josh Gorman

Sales Representative

<image003.jpg>

4819 35th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85040

602 470-0400 (office)

602 470-1733 (fax)

josh@gorman-co.com

<http://www.gorman-co.com>

From: Jim Keane <JKeane@bcnv.org>

Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 4:48 PM

To: Josh Gorman <josh@gorman-co.com>; Marvis Poole <MPoole@bcnv.org>; Rory Dwyer <RDwyer@bcnv.org>

Subject: RE: VTC service

Josh:

Yes, they did get started. I haven't had the chance to get out there yet. They said they will be done by the end of next week.

Thanks.

Jim Keane, P.E., Acting Public Works Director/City Engineer

City of Boulder City

401 California Avenue, Boulder City, NV 89005

(702) 293-9200 / jkeane@bcnv.org

From: Josh Gorman [<mailto:josh@gorman-co.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 2:11 PM

To: Marvis Poole <MPoole@bcnv.org>; Jim Keane <JKeane@bcnv.org>; Rory Dwyer <RDwyer@bcnv.org>

Subject: VTC service

Good afternoon guys,

How is everything going this week with the VTC service? Did they get started promptly on Monday?

Josh Gorman

Sales Representative

<image004.jpg>

4819 35th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85040

602 470-0400 (office)

602 470-1733 (fax)

josh@gorman-co.com

<http://www.gorman-co.com>

Lisa LaPlante

From: Marvis Poole
Sent: Tuesday, January 8, 2019 10:51 AM
To: Jim Keane; Josh Gorman
Subject: RE: VTC repair

Thank you,

Marvis E. Poole
Electrical Distribution Supervisor
City of Boulder City, NV
mpoole@bcnv.org
702.293.9249

From: Jim Keane
Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2019 8:36 AM
To: Josh Gorman; Marvis Poole
Subject: RE: VTC repair

Thanks Josh.

Jim Keane, P.E., City Engineer
City of Boulder City
401 California Avenue, Boulder City, NV 89005
(702) 293-9200 / jkeane@bcnv.org

From: Josh Gorman [<mailto:josh@gorman-co.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 8, 2019 8:22 AM
To: Marvis Poole <MPoole@bcnv.org>
Cc: Jim Keane <JKeane@bcnv.org>
Subject: VTC repair

Marvis

As discussed yesterday, the VTC repair is going to be scheduled for the week of January 28th. Someone from Electrical Technologies will be contacting you to coordinate.

Josh Gorman

Sales Representative

GORMANCO

4819 35th Street
Boulder City, NV 89005

602 470-0400 (office)

602 470-1733 (fax)

josh@gorman-co.com

<http://www.gorman-co.com>

Lisa LaPlante

From: Josh Gorman <josh@gorman-co.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 5:19 PM
To: Marvis Poole
Cc: Mike Sterner; Jim Keane
Subject: Re: VTC - Boulder City, NV conservator pipe replacement

Marvis.

auto correct.

Josh Gorman

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 29, 2019, at 6:18 PM, Josh Gorman <josh@gorman-co.com> wrote:

Thanks Marcus

Josh Gorman

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 29, 2019, at 5:32 PM, Marvis Poole <MPoole@bcnv.org> wrote:

Mike,

Please have crew reach out to me once they arrive on site.
Will give instructions and direction from there.

I have a Substation Tech lined up to meet them and lead them to the Boulder Tap where transformer is located.

Thank you,

Marvis E. Poole
Electrical Distribution Supervisor
City of Boulder City, NV
mpoole@bcnv.org
702.293.9249

From: Mike Sterner [<mailto:Mike@electrical-technologies.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 4:28 PM
To: Josh Gorman; Marvis Poole; Jim Keane
Subject: Re: VTC - Boulder City, NV conservator pipe replacement

All,

Our crew will be on site tomorrow morning at 8AM. We need someone to be there to make sure we can access the site.

John Suman is our onsite contact and lead for this project. His number is

Please reach out to me or John as soon as possible to confirm that someone will be onsite and that you are ready for us in the morning.

Thanks,

Mike

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From: Josh Gorman <josh@gorman-co.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 29, 2019 5:13 PM
To: Marvis Poole; Jim Keane
Cc: Mike Sterner
Subject: RE: VTC - Boulder City, NV conservator pipe replacement

Good Afternoon Marvis & Jim,

Mike Sterner with Electrical Technologies is working to schedule the VTC work for next week. Their crew will be arriving on site on **1/30**.

He has some questions regarding the site, equipment and logistics that he would like to discuss with you in advance. Can you please reach out to him at your earliest convenience? His contact info is below.

Mike Sterner
Project Manager
<image001.jpg>
16145 Table Mountain Pkwy
Golden, CO 80403
Office: (303) 462-0317