The PLUG

Staying Connected, Building for the Future

Fall 2024 Edition

We've got the **Power!**

Supplier Spotlight

Kumi Construction Management Corporation

Employee Highlight

Keith Foxx
Senior Advisor

DC PLUG
Making your electric system more resilient.

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WE ARE GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

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We've got the **Power!**

The DC Power Line Undergrounding (DC PLUG) initiative is well under way, and we want to ensure you're plugged in!

In 2012 after experiencing severe storms that caused days-long outages for portions of the District of Columbia, the District government implemented a Task Force to consider improvements to the city's electric distribution system. In response to the findings of the Task Force, Pepco and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) identified the worst-performing electrical feeders in the city in terms of outage history during storms and proposed what would become the DC PLUG initiative.

DC PLUG is a multi-year program focused on the underground placement of the most vulnerable distribution power lines in the District. This partnership between the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and Pepco to improve the reliability and resiliency of the city's energy grid is committed to placing select feeders underground in Wards 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8. About half of the District of Columbia is already served by underground power lines. (Note: only primary lines are being placed underground, while secondary Pepco wires, communications, and fiber will remain above ground.)

Through this partnership, Pepco is responsible for the electrical construction, which includes installation of the cables, transformers, and other equipment required for the feeder to be able to function, while DDOT is responsible for civil construction, which includes installation of the conduit, encasements, and manholes, as well as excavation of the trenches, and repairing the roads.

"This is a true partnership between DDOT and PEPCO designed to ultimately provide safe, reliable power to all District residents," states Ronald Williams who serves as the project's Program Manager for the DDOT team. "This project has been a long time coming, so I'm excited to be part of the team that delivers this important work for the city."

The DC PLUG civil construction phase consists of marking where the feeder will be installed under the road and then cutting the road surface with a large rotating saw. Next, the trench is excavated and the material is removed. Afterward, the conduit is laid and the concrete is placed for conduit encasement. Next, the trench is backfilled and compacted, followed by placing a temporary roadway surface to accommodate traffic. Finally, the road surface is restored.

Civil Construction Scope of Work: Conduit

Marked & saw cut

Trench is excavated

Conduit is laid

Concrete encasement

Trench is backfilled, then temporarily covered

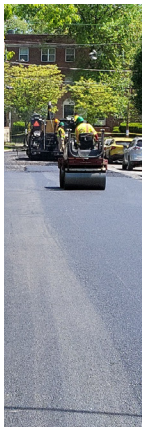
Final restoration

As overhead lines are most susceptible to damage caused by a severe weather event, and fallen trees or poles, this initiative will improve the reliability by minimizing those outages. The project, which aims to be complete by 2028, anticipates having 95% reduction in outages. Additionally, undergrounding overhead lines enhances the aesthetic of the city and increases safety by eliminating overhead hazards.

"For resiliency and reliability in the District, we have selected the least performing feeders based on outage trends and we made sure to cover all District wards for diversification of the program except for Wards 1, 2 and 6 where the feeders are already undergrounded or networked," states Meryem Labriny, manager of project execution for the DC PLUG initiative on the Pepco team.

Since construction began in May 2019, three of the 20 planned feeders have been placed underground so far, connecting residents in the Wards 3 and 4 neighborhoods of Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Friendship Heights, American University Park, and Tenleytown.

The first feeder to be completed as part of this work was completed in July 2021, and has already shown a 95% improvement in resiliency and reliability against major storm related outages for nearly 600 customers. Additionally, the team reported that 100% Certified Business Enterprises (CBEs) were used for the civil and electrical work. A CBE is typically a small and/or local business, or a historically underrepresented business (woman, minority, or veteran), based in the District that has been certified by the Department of Small and Local Business Development.



"We are also proud that through this initiative, we are contributing to the economic growth of the city through job creation by hiring District residents. So far, we have hired close to 150 DC residents under prime and subcontractors. Additionally, between DDOT and Pepco, we have about 12 contractors that are DC residents," states Meryem.

As of September 2024, six feeders are in the construction phase, 11 feeders are in the design phase, and three feeders are complete. For more up-to-date and specific construction impacts visit dcpluginfo.com.

Supplier Spotlight

Kumi Construction Management

Our supplier spotlight series is all about sharing the stories of the businesses who are working hard behind the scenes to create better-connected communities and more streamlined infrastructure. In this first installment, we're shining a light on Kumi Construction Management Corp. Kumi, founded 16 years ago by Charles Kumi, specializes in all things construction management from inspection services and scheduling to cost estimating and QA/QC (quality assurance and quality control).

Gerald Anekwe, PE (Professional Engineer), project manager on the DC PLUG project, shares his experience working on this significant initiative for the city and what he and his colleagues at Kumi are most looking forward to when the work is complete.

In his role as project manager and resident engineer, Gerald has three major roles: ensuring the contractor completes the project according to the specifications, overseeing the schedule and the budget, and managing the stakeholders.

"What makes Kumi unique is that we are strictly a construction management company. Most companies in our category have multiple specialties and services, but we have a singular focus on construction management, and that's why we do it so well. We keep the main thing the main thing," states Gerald.

Thus far, Kumi has successfully completed Feeder 308 located in the Ward 3 neighborhood Tenleytown, they are nearing completion of Feeder 15009 in the Ward 4 neighborhood Takoma Park and Brightwood, and they are beginning work on Feeder 15166 in the Ward 8 neighborhood Congress Heights.

As part of their work on the DC PLUG initiative, once the feeder is completed, Kumi ensures that sidewalks and roadways are restored to their original condition and add greenery to complement the work.

"My idea of success is having the residents know and see the difference this project has made for their power and the overall betterment of their community. Our goal is always to leave a project or place better than how we found it. To walk away and have no phone calls with complaints about our work."

Kumi has completed 30 projects in the District over their nearly two decades in business. They hold CBE and DBE (Disadvantaged Business Enterprise) certifications in the District, along with more than a dozen other certifications in the DMV region, New York, and New Jersey.

"As a company, the more we do, the easier it becomes. We are a pioneer on this DC PLUG project and it is already creating new opportunities for us. We are now leading the way in this type of work."

Fun Fact

Gerald is a resident of the Ft. Stanton neighborhood in Ward 8 and previously worked on the DC PLUG project as an employee of Pepco.

Fun Fact

Keith loves stand-up comedy and refers to himself as a "generative AI nerd." In his free time, you may find him laughing at comedy videos on YouTube or learning about and practicing the next AI technology that is going to transform his industry.

Employee Highlight
Keith Foxx

The city-wide effort to underground power lines does not happen without the hard work and expertise of talented professionals across many industries. In our first employee highlight, we'd like to introduce you to an important team member who is responsible for planning, developing and implementing program execution strategies that help with the overall success of the DC PLUG projects.

Meet Keith Foxx, senior advisor for the DDOT Program Management Team, Capitol Underground Partners. He leads FOXXSTEM, a civil and structural engineering company that plays key roles in major infrastructure projects around the region.

As senior advisor on the DC PLUG initiative, Keith serves as the liaison with major program stakeholders and helps lead a team of professionals from Delon Hampton and Associates, McKissack and McKissack, RK&K and TB&A who all serve as consultants in various roles. He takes great pride in being able to work on a project that provides significant contracts to District-based businesses.

"Since I have been on the project pretty much from Day 1, there is a personal feeling of achievement in building a unique partnership and program that had never been done before. We have developed some significant relationships and trust in our project delivery skills, thus allowing FOXXSTEM to flourish."

According to Keith, the most fulfilling parts of his job are solving new challenges that arise daily and applying solutions to multiple projects simultaneously. He also enjoys sharing his past experiences and lessons learned while seeing his team members grow individually in their careers.

"I enjoy knowing that we are affecting people's lives positively by increasing the resilience and reliability of a critical resource like power and energy to homes and businesses."

Prior to starting the DC PLUG program, Keith was the deputy program manager for Wards 7 & 8 capital infrastructure projects for DDOT. Before that, he was an engineering consultant with about 15 years' experience working on DDOT projects.

Meet Minnie Elliott, a long-time resident who has been making a positive impact in her Ward 5 community for more than 30 years.

Retiring with more than 40 years of service to DC Public Schools and other DC government agencies, Minnie brings her heart to serve and willingness to uplift her neighborhood to her role as president of the brookland Manor/Brentwood Village Resident's Association. She shares why she's so excited about the improvements that DC PLUG is bringing to her community.

In Their Words **Community Spotlight**

What do you do as President of the Brookland Manor/Brentwood Village Resident's Association?

We see our role as not just to support the members living in the complex, but to help better the neighborhood. We often host giveback events, educational seminars, and volunteer events ranging from planting flowers to hosting day trips. Additionally, we have a coalition of different organizations that specialize in meeting the needs of specific groups like seniors, single mothers, and teenagers in the community. They will raise funds to support different expenses they may have (rent, food, etc.) and even host career fairs and specialty events like Mother's Day and Father's Day celebrations.

How do you feel about the upcoming improvements in electrical infrastructure?

I did some research on the underground power lines beforehand, and I think it is a wonderful thing. Before installing them, we could be without electricity for up to two weeks with the overhead wires being down. I can already see the difference as there are fewer exposed wires.

What has engagement from the project team looked like in your neighborhood?

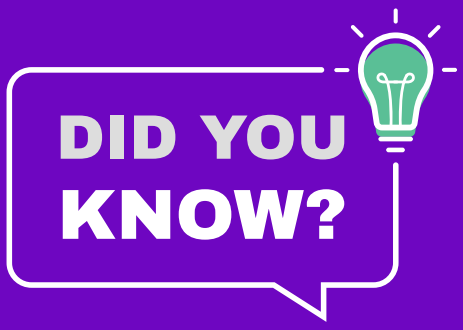
I was really impressed to see how quickly the work was done and I got to meet several people on the project. They were helpful in explaining things to the seniors and children to help us to understand what was going on. I was amazed at the work they were doing and how dedicated they were to get it done regardless of the weather.

What are you most looking forward to once the project is completed?

I'm looking forward to seeing the difference that it's going to make when the storms come. I know it will be a big improvement and I can already see that it is better organized and beneficial to the residents health-wise.

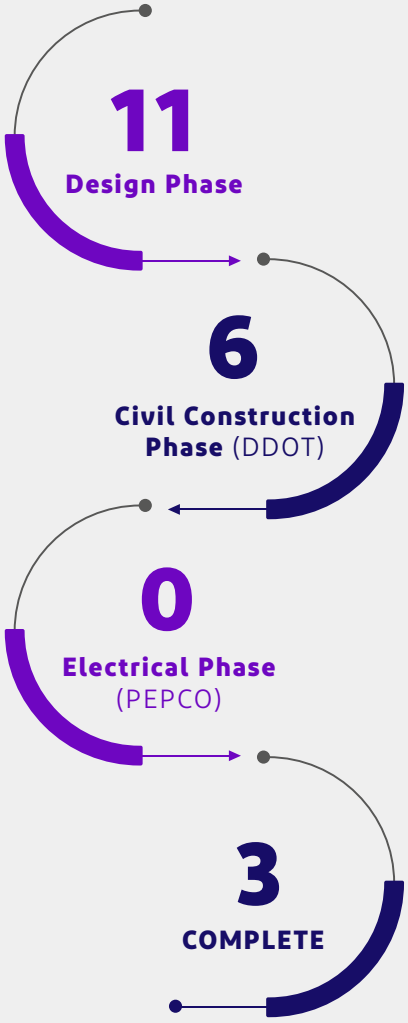
Knowledge is Power

Ramp up your construction knowledge with these definitions and Fun Facts. Don't forget to take notes - this won't be the last time you hear construction lingo!



A feeder is an electric power line that distributes power to up to 1,100 customers within a specific geographic area. Over the course of the project, 20 feeders will be placed in Wards 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8.

Feeder Project Status



This project feeder status is as of September 2024.

Asked & **Answered**

You've got questions and we've got answers! In this section, we'll answer questions we receive from you via our project email at questions@dcpluginfo.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Where can I see the construction schedule?

Construction schedules by ward are available at dcpluginfo.com.

How will you minimize the impact on traffic around construction sites?

We are coordinating with DDOT to create traffic control plans that help ensure the public and our workers are safe, while keeping disruptions to a minimum. Proper flagging and signage is used to minimize traffic delays. As crews work, we ask customers to remain clear of worksites so crews may work safely, efficiently, and effectively, and for the safety of residents. Cyclists are urged to take extra caution on the roads in these areas.

Will my power be shut off for the DC PLUG initiative construction?

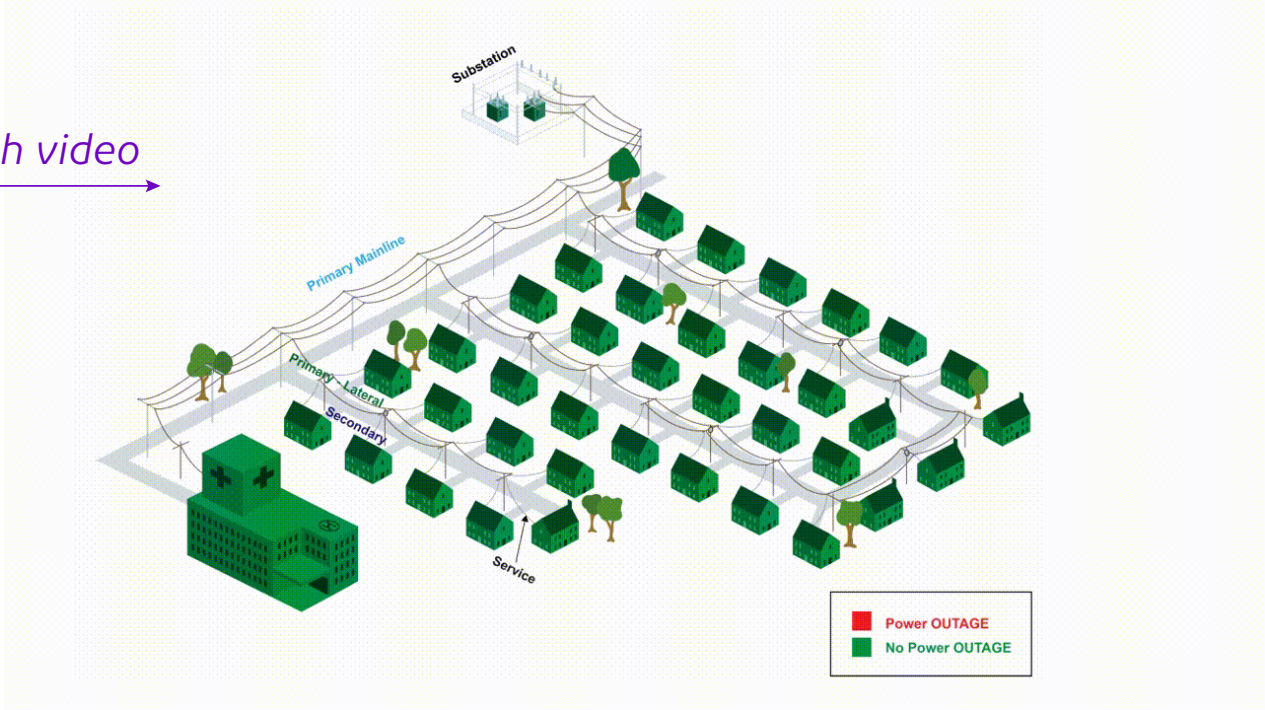
Only periodic scheduled outages, not to exceed four hours, are expected during construction. These temporary service interruptions are necessary to complete some of the work safely. Customers will always be notified when these outages are scheduled using the same notification process that Pepco regularly uses. This includes notification at least three days prior to an outage.

If you need to report an unscheduled outage, contact Pepco at 1-877-737-2662, by visiting pepco.com or by using the Pepco mobile app.

Check out other frequently asked questions and answers at dcpluginfo.com/faq.

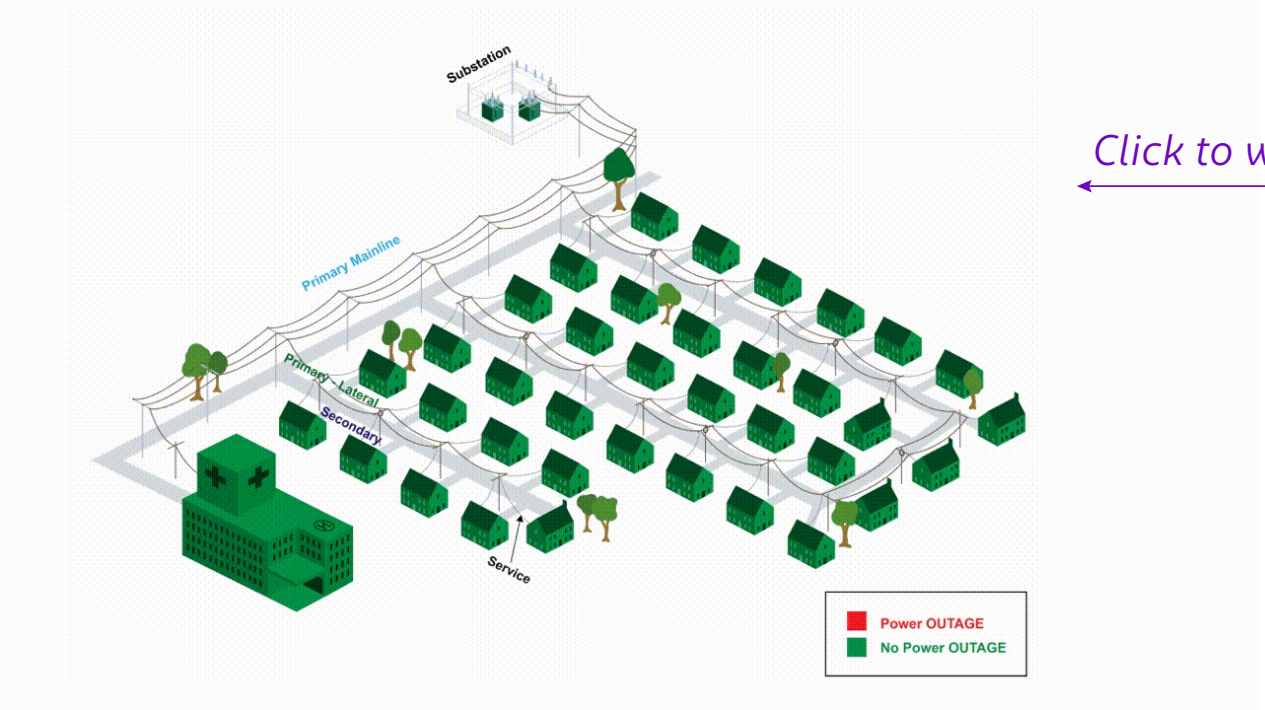
Existing Overhead System
Before DC PLUG

Click to watch video



Proposed Underground Plan
After DC PLUG

Click to watch video



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