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## New substation to improve campus power

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

The power source for the main Oakland University campus soon will be upgraded with the completion of a Detroit Edison substation, located on the south end of the main campus off Lonedale Road.

The \$6 million structure, named the Spencer Substation, will provide a high quality source of power to the main campus for the next 15 to 20 years, said Associate Vice President for Facilities Management Rusty Postlewate.

"It's a general purpose substation meant to serve more than just the university," Postlewate said. "The university granted an easement to Detroit Edison for the substation, and OU also funded a portion of the costs. This benefits the university by providing a more reliable, higher-quality source for power than the current substation." The Carter Substation, located near Walton Boulevard and I-75, is the current source of power for the main OU campus. It uses overhead power lines, but the lines for the new substation will be underground and not susceptible to outages during inclement weather. Nearly 120,000 volts will feed the Spencer Substation. That voltage will be reduced to 13,200 for the switchgear for Oakland University before it is transmitted to university buildings.

J.M. Olson Corporation of St. Clair Shores began construction on the substation last September. The building and internal switchgear are expected to be completed by the end of October.

The substation construction coincides with an electrical system upgrade to the main OU campus, which involves the replacement of aging underground power lines. That project, which began last summer, will be completed by the end of August, Postlewate said. When the project is completed, OU's power capacity will increase from about 7,000 KVA (kilovolt amps) to 15,000 KVA.

"With the electrical system upgrade and the new substation, we'll have a high-quality distribution system and source of power," Postlewate said. "By the end of October, we will perform a switchover from the current substation to the new one."

Because of the necessity to shift electrical loads for the main campus onto a single power line while the electrical upgrades are being completed, all campus employees are asked to help conserve energy by shutting down computers, monitors, lights and other equipment not necessary to conduct immediate business. Comfort air conditioning temperatures may be raised as needed to maintain the electrical service, and employees should dress accordingly on hot days. Further conservation measures soon will be listed on the OU Web site.

If you have any questions or concerns, Energy Manager Jim Leidel may be contacted at (248) 370-4990.

### SUMMARY

The power source for the main OU campus soon will be upgraded with the completion of a Detroit Edison substation, located on the south end of the main campus off Lonedale Road. The \$6 million structure, named the Spencer Substation, will provide a high quality source of power to the main campus for the next 15 to 20 years.

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