



Tuesday, June 12, 2001

OU to receive electrical system upgrade

By **Jeff Samoray**, *OU Web Writer*

Oakland University's electrical power capacity will be significantly upgraded this summer and next summer with the replacement of underground power lines and the addition of a Detroit Edison substation.

The upgrades are necessary to improve the reliability of OU's power supply, increase the campus' power capacity and to replace aging power lines, Deferred Maintenance Project Manager Dan Niezurawski said.

When the \$4.8 million project is completed, OU's power capacity will increase from about 7,000 KVA (kilovolt amps) to 15,000 KVA.

The project will be done in two phases with the first phase beginning in late June. In both phases, individual campus buildings will be tied into a new distribution cabling system.

The first phase, to be completed before fall classes begin September 4, includes North and South Foundation Halls, the Oakland Center, Kresge Library, Recreation and Athletics Center, the sports bubble, Central Heating Plant, Wilson Hall, Vandenberg Hall, Hamlin Hall, Hill House, Van Wagoner House, Fitzgerald House, Annibal House and Pryale House.

Buildings that will be affected during next summer's second phase include Dodge Hall, Hannah Hall, the Science and Engineering Building, O'Dowd Hall, Elliott Hall and Varner Hall. The remaining main campus buildings are on secondary power feeds and will not be affected by the upgrade.

Since the existing power lines are encased in concrete conduits throughout the majority of campus, digging only will be necessary on the north side of North Foundation Hall to facilitate system modifications, and between Hill House and Van Wagoner House to gain access for new equipment installations.

West campus buildings will be impacted by temporary power outages of 10-15 minutes during both phases of the project as the switch is made from the old system to the new. Power outages will be temporary and backup generators will be provided to Hill House and the Oakland Center to minimize disruptions, Niezurawski said. The campus community will receive advance notification of all planned momentary power interruptions, he said. The work schedule on the individual buildings has yet to be determined.

The power line replacement coincides with the construction of a Detroit Edison substation on the southern end of the main campus off Lonedale Road. Work on the substation will begin early next year and be completed by the end of August 2002.

The substation is mutually beneficial to the university and Detroit Edison, Associate Vice President of Facilities Management Rusty Postlewate said.

"The university has a real need to improve the quality and reliability of its power, and Detroit Edison needed a place to put its new substation," Postlewate said. "OU will have reserved a certain amount of capacity for power. It will be a good quality source to carry us through our power needs for the next 15 to 20 years."

SUMMARY

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