

Progress Energy Carolinas to phase out mercury vapor outdoor lighting

The U.S. Congress passed and President Bush signed into law the Energy Policy Act (EPAAct) of 2005. One provision in the law prohibits the manufacture or sale of mercury vapor (MV) lighting ballasts effective Jan. 1, 2008. Mercury vapor is being phased out to protect the environment and to promote energy efficiency in lighting. Progress Energy must therefore transition away from the use of MV and retrofit sodium vapor (they use mercury vapor ballasts) as these ballasts/fixtures fail. The default maintenance replacement for outdoor lighting fixtures will be a standard high-pressure sodium (HPS) fixture or a metal halide (MH) fixture. HPS lighting is 2½ times more energy efficient and MH is twice as efficient than MV.

Mercury vapor lamps are not required to be phased out, so they will continue to be available as maintenance replacements for existing area and street lights, but MV fixtures must inevitably be phased out as existing mercury vapor ballasts and fixtures fail.

Progress Energy has filed with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina to freeze the installation of all new and maintenance replacement mercury vapor fixtures and all maintenance replacement retrofit sodium vapor fixtures.

Pending approval, effective on and after Aug. 1, 2007, when each individual existing ballast or fixture of this type fails, a new energy-efficient compliant default fixture closest to light output (lumens) and type of the existing fixture will be installed in its place at no cost to our outdoor lighting customer (except the difference that might exist in the monthly rate between the existing and replacement fixture). Outdoor lighting customers will be notified when this change in light fixture and associated billing occurs. **No action is required on your part.** Our outdoor lighting customers will see a slight increase or decrease (depending on the fixture replacement) in their monthly electric bills as a result of these changes to allow Progress Energy to comply with this new legislation.

If you should have questions about this law or this phased change-out to maintain continuous service to our dusk-to-dawn outdoor lighting customers, please visit our Web site at **progress-energy.com** or call our customer service center at 1.800.452.2777.

