

2/18/22

RE: GWJNF Forestwide Fiberoptic Telecommunication Line Project

To whom it may concern:

The Virginia Department of Transportation Planning and Investment Management Division (Bristol District) and associated Residency Offices have reviewed the information that you attached in an email related to the GWJNF Forestwide Fiberoptic Telecommunication Line Project.

Without more detail on the specific locations of installation, it is difficult for us to provide feedback on how the project might impact existing or proposed transportation facilities. Please provide details on specific installation locations to the appropriate Bristol District Residency Office as soon as they are available.

In the absence of more details on specific installation locations, we offer the following comments:

- One of our primary concerns would be locations where the installation of the utility may create interference with our ability to maintain any roadway, shoulder, ditchline, and drainage structures. During installation, VDOT would be concerned over any structures or assets that sustain damage. It would be the responsibility of the contractor to limit impacts to existing drainage structure and conveyance channels within VDOT right-of-way.
- Per our Land Use Permit Regulations:

“ c. The installation of parallel utility service connections, not to exceed 500 feet in length, shall be placed along the outer edge of the right-of-way with a minimum of 36 inches of cover. Telecommunications and cable television service connections may be placed with a minimum of 18 inches of cover; however the permittee assumes full responsibility for any and all damages caused by VDOT or VDOT contractors resulting from a service connection buried with less than 30 inches of cover within the right-of-way. ” We suggest that you increase the trench depth to at least 36" to allow a minimum 30" of cover when on VDOT right-of-way.
- Close coordination with land use permit staff needs to occur for approving proposed locations of fiber optic lines within VDOT right-of-way.
- All traffic control within VDOT right-of-way must be in compliance with the Virginia Work Area Protection Manual.

Respectfully,

Cory Osborne
Planning Specialist/Bristol District
Virginia Department of Transportation
2111 Bonham Rd
Bristol, VA 24201
276-696-3280