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NStar upgrades aim to avert Allston outages

By Matt Rocheleau | GLOBE CORRESPONDENT AUGUST 17, 2012

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The Boston Blobe

NStar is installing new equipment that company officials said will allow it to meet electricity demand in a section of Allston where recent outages have frustrated residents and business owners and led the utility to deem that service reliability in the area was substandard.

The effort involves installing more than 10,000 feet of new cable, about 2,100 feet of new conduit, five new transformers, and an enhanced detection system.

The project will increase the area's electrical capacity and will double the number of independent power sources that serve that area, said NStar spokesman Michael Durand.

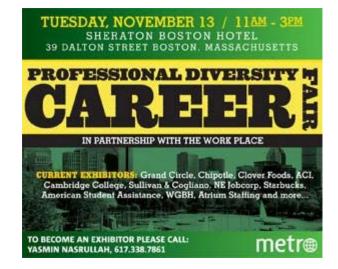
NStar expects to complete all digging work by next week.

The entire project is scheduled to finish by the end of September.

Durand said that the company has taken measures to prevent the upgrade work from causing customers to lose power.

Durand said the new infrastructure is needed because the number of customers and the demand for power in that section of Allston has increased significantly in recent years.

NStar came under sharp criticism from city officials over two major outages earlier this year.



In March, an electrical substation caught fire, cutting power for two days to a broad swath of the city.

An outage in May in the Back Bay affected about 12,500 customers, though it lasted less than an hour.

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