

Mercury Vapor lighting maintenance changes effective Jan. 1, 2009

The 2005 Energy Policy Act and the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act are federal laws that require certain changes in Duke Energy's outdoor lighting program. Under the law, replacement fixtures for all Mercury Vapor (MV) lighting installations will no longer be available after Dec. 31, 2008.

In order to provide you with quality lighting services, we have made the following changes to our maintenance program and lighting offerings:

- Lighting rates for MV lighting installations were closed to new customers in 2007.
- Outdoor lighting fixtures for MV lamps will not be available after 2008. If a MV lighting fixture fails or is damaged after Dec. 31, 2008, it will be replaced with a similar High Pressure Sodium fixture from the current list of lighting offerings.
- Routine maintenance of existing MV lighting installations consisting of lamp or photoelectric control replacements will continue as long as parts are reasonably available.

For some customers, these maintenance changes can be significant depending on the number of MV lighting installations currently in service. Duke Energy will work with those customers to make this transition as smooth as possible. We offer a number of energy-efficient options and select lamp wattages for both High Pressure Sodium and Metal Halide fixtures that provide affordable and effective outdoor lighting.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the difference between a lamp and a fixture?

A: A lamp is the bulb or tube that emits light. A fixture is the electrical device containing the lamp.

Q: What is a ballast?

A: The ballast is the electrical component inside the fixture that regulates the energy supplied to the lamp.

Q: How long will MV lamps be readily available?

A: The availability of MV lamps will likely be driven by energy policy initiatives and market demand. We cannot currently determine the time frame when MV lamps will become unavailable.

Q: What is the average life expectancy of a MV lamp?

A: The lamp's life can depend on its type, the fixture type, the position of the lamp when installed, the lamp wattage, and other factors. The average rated life of a 175-watt MV lamp is about 24,000 hours. Please note: the customer's monthly cost for lighting service includes the maintenance of the lighting fixture. There is no charge for the replacement of failed lamps.

Q: Why is the MV lighting being discontinued by law?

A: The amount of energy required to produce a given level of light from a MV lamp is higher than that required to produce the same amount of light from other light sources, such as High Pressure Sodium or Metal Halide. Federal energy policy is serving to encourage a shift to more energy-efficient lighting installations.

Q: How safe is my existing outdoor lighting?

A: All types of lighting offered and installed by Duke Energy, including MV, are installed and maintained under the governing regulations and established safety guidelines to ensure a safe and reliable lighting installation.

Q: Can I order a replacement light now?

A: Yes. You can review the current available lighting offerings on the Outdoor Lighting web pages and contact us with your replacement request at any time.

Q: What if I switch to a new light and do not like it?

A: Service contracts for lighting installations range from one (1) year to 10 years. If lighting service is terminated prior to the fulfillment of the original term of the contract, the customer is billed for 40 percent of the remaining contract amount. There is no charge to disconnect or remove a light after the original contract term has been fulfilled.

Q: What is the monthly pricing difference between a MV fixture and other available fixtures?

A: Pricing varies by rate schedule, lamp type and fixture type. Use the **Contact Us** link on the Outdoor Lighting web pages for current pricing options.

Q: What is the difference in the light output of a MV lamp versus other available lamps?

A: The initial lumen output provided by lamps varies with the light type and wattage. A typical 175-watt MV lamp is rated at 7,500 lumens; a typical 100-watt High Pressure Sodium lamp is rated at 9,500 lumens.