Plans to power Inland Port area moving forward

By Cheryl P. Allen
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Greer Commission of Public Works is moving a step closer toward building a new substation aimed at servicing future growth surrounding the South Carolina Inland Port.

Officials are currently working on a lease purchase agreement and have assessed acreage on Victor Hill Road.

The goal, they say, is to be proactive in providing electricity for new commercial and residential growth.

"We currently serve the port but this one will take up future growth around the port over toward (Interstate) 85," said Operations Manager Randy Olson.

Construction has yet to begin but the high-voltage facility would be built on five acres on Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport property at Victor Hill Road and Hendrix Road, Olson said.

"We've got other parts of the city south of 85 which we serve that may not affect this station at all," Olson said. "You don't know what the maximum demand really will be. We're in fine shape now but we're planning for the future."

If all goes according to plan, the facility will be up and running by summer 2015, Olson said. "Until we sign that lease purchase agreement, we really can't touch the property," he said. "We've done surveys but I'm speaking of construction."

The GSP Airport District is in negotiations with Greer CPW discussing land lease for a future electrical station, said airport spokeswoman Rosylin Weston. "The details are not worked out yet," she said.

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> **RANDY OLSON**
> Operations Manager

CPW owns and manages four other electrical substations on Hammett Bridge Road, Duke Street, Country Club Road and State 101 North. General Manager Jeffrey Tuttle estimated the cost of the newest facility at about $2.5 million dollars.

"When you try and provide utilities, you can't wait until you need them," said Commissioner Eugene Gibson, noting it will take several months to build the substation.

"And we didn't know anything about Bass Pro when we started planning for this substation," Gibson said, adding that the new substation would service that store if CPW becomes its electrical provider.

The giant outdoor retailer announced last month plans to open a store in Spartanburg County on the northeast corner of State 101 and Interstate 85, serving as the primary anchor for a 75-acre mixed use development that would include retail, hotels and restaurants.

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