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Virginia Museum of Natural History to be closed September 18
*Installation of Electrical Phase Protection Equipment to require one-day
closing of museum facility*

MARTINSVILLE, Va. (September 13, 2007) – The Virginia Museum of Natural History will be closed on Tuesday, September 18 to allow the installation of electrical phase protection at the new museum. The electrical phase protection to be installed will provide protection from electrical “brown-outs” and other anomalies, which could cause significant damage to electrical equipment in the museum.

The work will begin during the evening of Monday, September 17, and will continue through Tuesday, September 18. During the installation, all electrical systems at the museum will be off. The museum will resume regular operating hours on Wednesday, September 19 at 9 a.m.

The electrical phase protection will safeguard all electrical equipment in the museum during future power outages, including the variable frequency drive used in the HVAC system, the Scanning Electron Microscope, and various other electrical pumps and systems.

Groups involved in the efforts are Square D electrical of Roanoke, Martinsville City Electrical Department, Martinsville City Fire Department, Shively Electrical of Roanoke, and VMNH staff.

About the Virginia Museum of Natural History

The Virginia Museum of Natural History in Martinsville seeks to increase understanding of and appreciation for the natural history of the Commonwealth through education, research, collections, publications and exhibits. The Museum – an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution – is accredited by the American Association of Museums, a distinction earned by fewer than 10 percent of museums in the United States. The Museum is a member of the Association of Science-Technology Centers, Virginia Association of Museums, Heritage Preservation, and is an agency of the Secretary of Natural Resources for the Commonwealth of Virginia. With over 22 million objects in its collections, the Museum reaches nearly 1 million people annually through on-site and traveling exhibitions, classroom outreach programs, the Museum's Web site, public events and publications.

The Museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sundays from Noon to 5:30 p.m. Members are always admitted free. Admission is \$7 for adults; \$6 for senior citizens and college students; \$5 for children and youth 3-18; members and children under 3 free. For more information about membership or volunteer opportunities, please call 276-634-4141 or visit www.vmnh.net.

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