



MOORES BRIDGES STANDBY GENERATOR FACILITY

NORFOLK, VA

THE CHALLENGE

The City of Norfolk came to Pizzagalli when the probability of a hurricane threatened power loss and interruption in the delivery of fresh, safe water to the City’s wholesale and retail customers and residential homes.

THE SOLUTION

To avoid power loss at the treatment plant, three 1,600-kilowatt, 480-volt generators with 4,160 step-up transformers needed to be found, delivered, and connected in just three days.

DESCRIPTION

Pizzagalli immediately located the required equipment on day one, and by day three, all three machines, transformers, and required materials were on site and set in place. Introducing the generators as an emergency power source was complicated because hard wiring could not be completed without interrupting the permanent Virginia Power feeds. By disconnecting two of four high service pumps from the permanent power supply and hard wiring a single emergency generator to these pumps, the city was still able to deliver 24 million gallons of already treated water to area residents within minutes of power loss. The other generators were wired to their transformers but not yet to the treatment system. These connections would be made if and when the power failed. The site was completely prepared 24 hours before the expected arrival of the hurricane. By early the next morning, conditions were rapidly deteriorating and the plant lost power seven hours



earlier than planned. The City started the single generator connected to the high pressure distribution pumps and continued to deliver water. Pizzagalli’s team was on site within two hours. Crews worked to modify the existing electrical switchgear to allow connection of the generators to the treatment systems. All connections were completed and operations had resumed by 3:00 that afternoon. The combination of exceptional foresight and planning by the City Utilities Department as well as the commitment of Pizzagalli to customer service made possible the uninterrupted delivery of fresh, safe water to all of the city’s wholesale and retail customers and avoided what could have been an extremely difficult ordeal for many families throughout the Tidewater area.



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