

Weekend storm downs lines, affects Cochise District substations

June 23, 2008



Saturday night's microburst in the Douglas area knocked out an important transmission line and affected approximately 7,150 APS customers. The storm broke six 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission poles with 12-kV underbuild (meaning the 12-kV line was underneath the 69-kV line on the same pole). This caused a loss of source to the San Pedro and Fairview substations.

In Douglas, this meant APS was looking at Sunday's demand for power outstripping the supply. That is unless our commercial and residential customers helped us manage the load, which they did.

"When we called and asked for help, almost to a person the response was quick and absolute," said **Don Hudgins**, Manager, Cochise District, Energy Delivery.

Among those reducing electrical demand were Cochise College and the Chemical Line plant. In addition the company brought its Fairview Combustion Turbine online. It provided up to 16 megawatts of power.

As customers stepped up to the plate, two crews from Deer Valley arrived to start repairing the storm's damage. By 9 p.m. Saturday power had been restored to nearly all customers.

These actions weren't enough, however, to cover fully the loss of the two substations. As a result on Sunday it was necessary to invoke involuntary rotating curtailment for residential customers during the heat of the day.

Work replacing the downed poles and lines continued into late Sunday and that's when Hudgins and the crews saw another example of community support. The U.S. Border Patrol provided two banks of flood lights, which allowed our crews to work through the night.

By this morning, the substations were back in service thus avoiding the potential for a new round of rotating curtailments.