



# Rental Power

## > Case History

Minnesota State Fair, USA



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### **Where:**

Minnesota State Fair, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA

### **What:**

Special event auxiliary power

### **Purpose:**

Provide Rental Power for the State Fair's Midway rides, grandstand lighting and cooling, and even on-site trash compacting

### **Primary choice factors:**

Low-noise, fuel-efficient Rental Power units backed by responsive local, factory-trained service personnel

## **Flexibility is key requirement for Rental Power at Minnesota State Fair**

ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA, USA — In its nearly 150 years of existence, the Minnesota State Fair has grown to be one of the largest state fairs in the country, attracting nearly 1.7 million visitors each year. Originally conceived as a territorial fair in the 1850s to encourage agriculture in the region, the present-day Minnesota State Fair also provides a forum for industry, the arts and entertainment. But without the more than 3.8 MW of Rental Power provided by Cummins Power Generation Inc., it wouldn't be nearly so bright or entertaining.

The fairgrounds, located on 320 acres of land, encompass a complex of livestock buildings, a coliseum, a grandstand and racetrack, and street upon street of permanent exhibit buildings, small entertainment venues and concessions.

The center for games of skill, rides and entertainment is the Midway. While the permanent buildings on the fairgrounds are serviced by the local utility, the Midway uses so much power for so short a period that self-generated or rental power has been the only practical answer.

Photo credit: Ben Franske



Grandstand lights and cooling units were powered by 600 kW of Rental Power from Cummins Power Generation.

Photo credit: Ben Franske



Rental Power units from Cummins Power Generation have been designed for quiet operation.

**Providing power since 2002**

Cummins Power Generation has provided Rental Power units for the Minnesota State Fair since 2002.

“We have a contract through 2011 to supply at least eleven 350 kW mobile diesel generators to power the 68 rides and 50 games of skill in the Midway area,” said Tom Smith, rental sales manager of Cummins NPower in St. Paul, MN, the local Cummins Power Generation distributor. “In addition, we have supplied two 300 kW generators for the grandstand for entertainment lighting and temporary cooling units. We have even had a 60 kW unit powering the garbage packer because of shortages of utility power on site.”

Although utility power has always been available on-site, it was neither economical nor practical to have high-capacity distribution lines and transformers in place when they were only going to be used for 12 days a year. The units operate a total of about 275 hours during the 12-day run of the fair.

**Rental Power provides flexibility**

“Flexibility is the main reason we use Rental Power for the Midway rides, games and lighting,” said Jim Sinclair, assistant manager of the Minnesota State Fair.

*“In general, rental generators simply give us a high level of flexibility as demand for power goes up and down. They also give us flexibility in placement of the rides and games. With rental generators, we can move the power as we need to.”*

“For each new fair, we often have rides that haven’t been here before, and that changes our power needs, load factors and how we balance electrical loads,” says Sinclair.

Fair officials continue to choose Cummins Power Generation for Rental Power year after year. Cummins offers local 24/7 parts and service availability, technologically advanced equipment, high fuel efficiency and competitive pricing.

**Quiet, fuel-efficient operation**

According to Smith, the Rental Power units are located in and around the rides and games in the Midway to reduce the amount of cabling. Exhaust silencers and sound-attenuated enclosures significantly reduce operating sound levels. The clean, attractive enclosures blend in with the surroundings.

Fuel efficiency of new Rental Power units has proven to be significantly better compared to generator sets used in previous years. Recent Cummins engine design changes to improve exhaust emissions have contributed to reduced fuel consumption per kilowatt hour. The results are lower operating expenses and less maintenance.

**Personalized support is important**

“We are very pleased, not only with the equipment, but with the service,” said Sinclair. “Any time we have a question, the Cummins Power Generation distributor is not only available on the phone, but also in person. That personalized touch is important. The equipment is great too. It is efficient, it is quiet and it is good-looking.”

For more information about Rental Power or other energy solutions, contact your local Cummins Power Generation distributor or visit [www.cumminspower.com/rental](http://www.cumminspower.com/rental).

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