Standby power

Case History
Winn-Dixie New Orleans East Store, USA

Where:
The Winn-Dixie New Orleans East Store, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

What:
600 kW diesel generator set atop eight-foot high, flood-protected platform providing electricity to entire retail grocery location in the event of a utility outage

Purpose:
Provide standby power to enable grocery store to remain fully operational in the event of a natural disaster or power outage

Primary choice factors:
Product reliability, PowerCommand iWatch™ wireless remote monitoring system, single-point project management, and comprehensive service and technical support over a four-state region

Standby generators will feed power to Winn-Dixie Stores during outages

NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, USA — In 2005, after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast of the United States, particularly historic New Orleans, local residents, government officials and businesses longed to regain some sort of normalcy after experiencing the most destructive natural disaster in U.S. history.

Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc., one of the nation’s largest food retailers, was able to react swiftly in the Big Easy since the Jacksonville, Fla., company already had begun an aggressive program which allowed them to rebuild damaged grocery stores quickly in the event that a hurricane or other natural disaster caused them to close.

New Orleans East, one of hardest hit areas of all, marked a significant milestone in October, 2007, with the grand reopening of Winn-Dixie's New Orleans East Store during a historic remote NASDAQ opening bell from the rebuilt location. It marked the first NASDAQ remote opening ceremony from a grocery store and the first ever in Louisiana.

The 50,709-square-foot location was the first full-service grocery store to return to the storm-ravaged community and the company took the opportunity to build a prototype store that showcased all of its latest design concepts.
One less visible but extremely important addition is a 600 kW diesel generator from Cummins Power Generation Inc. that is capable of providing electricity to the entire store in the event of a power outage. The standby generator features a PowerCommand iWatch™ wireless monitoring system that links the generator set with cellular and satellite networks. The standby generator, complete with Automatic Transfer Switches (ATS) and a 3,600-gallon sub-base fuel tank, sits atop an eight-foot-high, flood-protected platform.

According to Shawn Sloan, director of energy for Winn-Dixie, the complete reconstruction of the New Orleans East store is part of a multi-phase effort in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and Mississippi to upgrade nearly 500 stores within the next four years.

“When natural disasters strike, a fully powered retail grocery location plays a critical role in devastated communities,” Sloan said. “These standby generators will enable our stores to remain fully operational — providing refrigeration, lighting and business services — in the event of a natural disaster or power outage.”

Aggressive delivery schedule in the bag
Cummins Power Generation is working with its distributor, Cummins Power South LLC, as the primary equipment and service supplier, and Preservation Power LLC, the firm selected by Winn-Dixie to manage the project, to meet an extremely aggressive schedule for the first two phases of the project. Due to the program’s magnitude, the project has necessitated a “total team approach,” according to Ted Jonczak, president of Preservation Power, since it involves understanding engineering, permitting, construction and compliance regulations across four different states.

In addition, Cummins and Preservation Power teamed up to assist Winn-Dixie in solving a number of store energy load management issues, resulting in substantial cost savings.

While Preservation Power and its subcontractor, Chain Electric, helped expedite permitting and commissioning, Cummins was able to compress the delivery schedule on the 600 kW diesel unit to help the project set a record from order placement to commissioning and operation. And while diesel generators are reliable and require minimal maintenance, Cummins Power South will continue providing comprehensive service and technical support on the nearly 100 completed generator installations to date.

“As a team, we were able to bring Winn-Dixie a complete value package from design, procurement, expediting and permitting to project construction, management, maintenance and repair,” said David Hagewood, vice president Power Generation, Cummins Power South.

Hagewood noted that standby power for the New Orleans East store and a number of other Winn-Dixie stores along the Gulf Coast was put to the test with an active hurricane season. While multiple Winn-Dixie stores experienced outages, all of the generator sets kept the stores powered up throughout the storms.

For more information about integrated standby power systems, contact your local Cummins Power Generation distributor or visit www.cumminspower.com.