

BACK UP POWER PLANT

Project Update – November 2017

Since we announced the development of a State owned back up power plant in August, the construction of nine temporary generators at the General Motors Holden site at Elizabeth and down south at Lonsdale has concluded. Testing and commissioning of the generators is also complete.

Firstly, we would like to thank you for your patience during the construction period.

As we've said, the generators will only be at these sites temporarily to supply emergency power during the 2017/18 and 2018/19 summer periods while the permanent location is being considered. The temporary generators will reduce the likelihood of electricity interruptions for South Australians in times of high demand.

This project is an important part of the broader \$550 million Energy Plan to deliver reliable, affordable and clean power for all South Australians.



Location map of project site



**Government of
South Australia**

Temporary generators

Nine GE TM2500 aero-derivative turbine units were chosen as the preferred option to provide emergency generation to the State because of their ability to operate quickly and effectively when the system is under pressure.

There will be 154 megawatts of generation at the General Motors (GM) Holden site at Elizabeth (five units) and 123 megawatts of generation adjacent to the Desalination Plant at Lonsdale (four units). The hybrid generators will initially operate on diesel fuel over the next two summers, before being moved to a permanent site to operate on gas.

Testing and commissioning

Testing and commissioning of the temporary generators was carried out during October and November 2017. Testing involved switching on the units one at a time and switching them on together to simulate an emergency response. Once operational, the units will be tested one at a time, once a month during the day for less than 30 minutes each. This approach will minimise any disturbance to nearby businesses and residents.

Operation

The Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Essential Services Commission of South Australia (ESCOSA) have approved the generators to start operating, if needed.

They will only be switched on as a last resort if there is a high risk of load shedding forecast for South Australia. A look at the National Electricity Market shows that load shedding events have occurred infrequently and have typically lasted less than an hour. As such, the temporary generators are forecast to operate only a few times a year and for short durations.

There may be times when you can hear the units being switched on, but we hope that you understand they are operating to provide reliable energy in your local area and for all South Australians.

For more information

The State Government has built the back-up power plant to reduce the risk of interruptions to your electricity supply. When the power plant is switched on, nearby businesses and residents may be able to hear the sound of the temporary generators.

If you would like to speak to a member of the project team, please call 1300 764 489 during business hours Monday to Friday or email OurEnergyPlan@sa.gov.au.

For more information about the temporary generation project or to view a copy of the proposed Noise Management Plan please visit OurEnergyPlan.sa.gov.au

