



EVENT OVERVIEW

At 18:21 on 8 Aug 2019, NYSEG experienced a major electric transmission fault on their ETNA 115kv line serving Cornell University Maple Ave substation. The line fault caused NYSEG to open both transmission 115Kv feed breakers, Coddington and ETNA, serving Cornell’s Maple Ave substation. The unplanned outage tripped combustion turbine (CT) 1 and 2 resulting in a campus power outage. After approximately 5 minutes, NYSEG restored power to their Coddington line. At 1850 Cornell Utilities distribution manager instructed Cornell’s central plant operator to close Maple Ave low side breakers, restoring power to campus. Although power was available to campus, multiple downstream circuit breakers had opened resulting in extended outages to multiple facilities. Utilities distribution personnel were called at event origination, arriving on campus at approximately 1915. Utilities distribution personnel performed substation breaker switching operations to reenergize remaining unpowered circuits at 1945.

TIMELINE

- 1821 NYSEG Aetna line 115KV fault
- 1821 CTG1 and CTG2 Trip -Campus power outage
- 1835 NYSEG restores power to Coddington 115kv line
- 1840 CEP plant operator notifies Jeff LaPar and Jim Ciolek of outage- Jeff and Jim begin travel to CU campus
- 1845 Jeff Lapar notifies Mark Howe of event
- 1845 Mark Howe notifies Customer service of outage
- 1850 Jeff LaPar instructs CEP plant operator to close Maple Ave circuit breakers, restoring power to Maple Ave substation
- 1914 CU alerts -Customer service drafts message to campus that power has been restored
- 1915 Jeff LaPar and Jim Ciolek arrive on CU campus
- 1926 CU alerts -Upon notification of multiple downstream facilities still without power, Customer service sends out notice to amend initial notice
- 1945 Jeff LaPar completes circuit switching restoring power to all campus facilities that were without power
- 1952 CU alerts message campus power restored
- 2024 CU alerts message campus power restored
- 2036 Automated CU Alerts call initiated to alert outage and power restored

LESSONS LEARNED

Incident: Initial communication stated campus restored, however multiple facilities were without power
Remediation: Work with Cornell BACSI group to develop building outage map detailing facilities without power