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A Practical Overview of Microgrids

Mike Dempsey, P.E. Eric Putnam, P.E.





Definition

The **U.S. Department of Energy**'s official definition of a microgrid is "a group of interconnected loads and distributed energy resources within clearly defined electrical boundaries that acts as a single controllable entity with respect to the grid [and can] connect and disconnect from the grid to enable it to operate in both grid-connected or island-mode."



Definition

The **U.S. Department of Energy**'s official definition of a microgrid is "a group of interconnected loads and distributed energy resources within clearly defined electrical boundaries that acts as a single controllable entity with respect to the grid [and can] connect and disconnect from the grid to enable it to operate in both grid-connected or island-mode."



Common Features

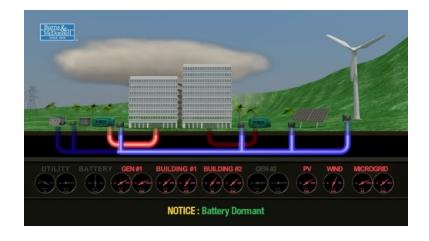
- Decoupling of Generators from Loads
- Seamless Transitions to/from Utility
- Increased Redundancy of Generation





Common Benefits

- Increased Situational Awareness for Operators
- Integration of Renewable Resources
- Multiple Modes of Operation Both Islanded and Grid-Tied





What Microgrids are Not

- Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS)
- Controls-Only Solutions
- One Size Fits All





Assessment Process

- Identify All Sources of Power
- Identify All Loads to be Served
- Determine Criticality of Each Load and Capabilities of Each Resource
- Utility Interconnection Requirements



Distribution System

- Identify Point(s) of Common Coupling with Utility
- Determine if Seamless Transition is Required
- Evaluate which Components of System Must be Dynamic





Control System

- Evaluate Existing Control System's Capabilities
- Determine New Control and Data Points
- Determine Cyber Security Risks

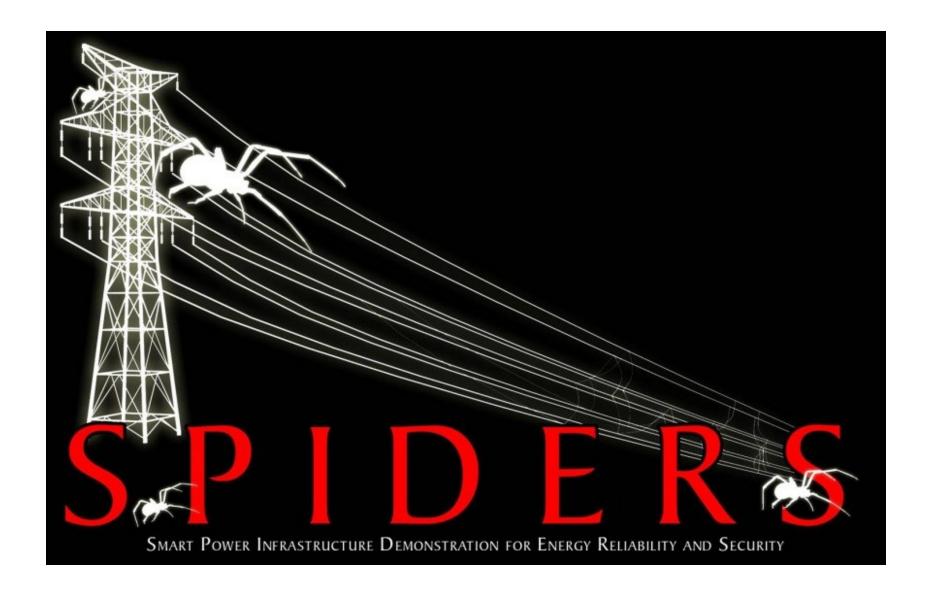




Case Studies

- SPIDERS
- GRU & U of Florida Shands Hospital
- TECO
- AE Dell Children's Hospital
- UT Southwestern Medical Center
- U of Iowa







Purpose of SPIDERS

REDUCE DIESEL FUEL CONSUMPTION

&

INCREASE RELIABILITY

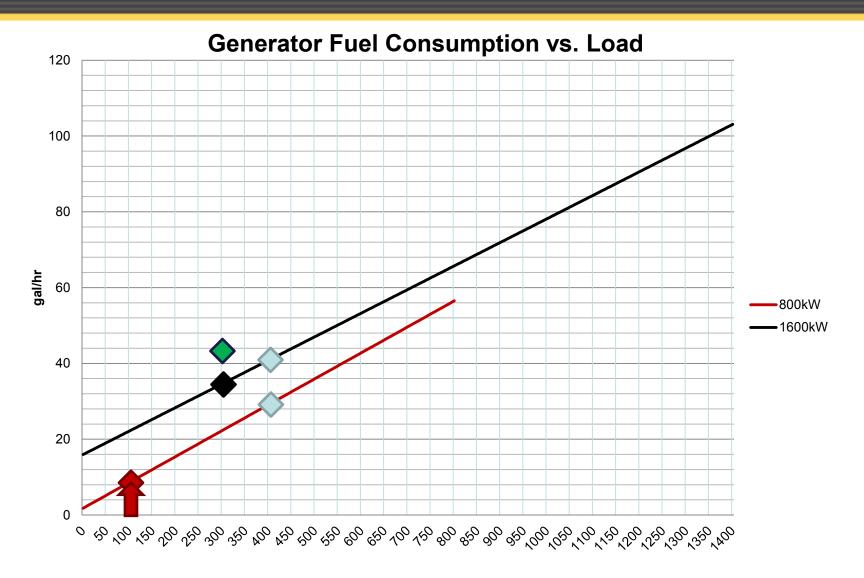


Distributed Approach

- Any Power Source Can be a SPIDERS Generator
- Controls are Distributed to Match Generators and Loads
- Dynamic Electrical Topology Responds to System Events



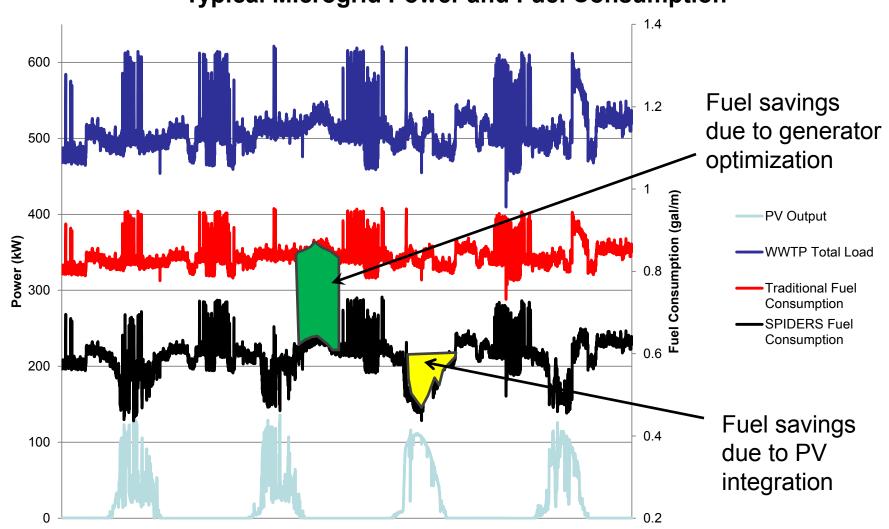
Generator Optimization





Phase I Performance







SPIDERS Phase I





Phase I Components



DoD Owned Substation

TPERC

Distributed Microgrid Control System

15kV Feeder

Renewable Island





800kW Generator 1600kW Generator



Critical WWTP Loads



SPIDERS Phase II





SPIDERS Phase II

- Three Microgrid Diesel Generators (3MW total)
- 1MW PV Array
- Five Bi-Directional Hi-Speed Electric Vehicle Charging Stations (300kW / 400kWh total)



EV Charging Stations

- Five, 100kVA Stations
- Four Quadrant Control Permits VAR Support of Utility or Microgrid Even Without Vehicles
- Aggregator Allows Smart Charging of Fleet Based on Utility and Functional Requirements





Phase II Microgrid

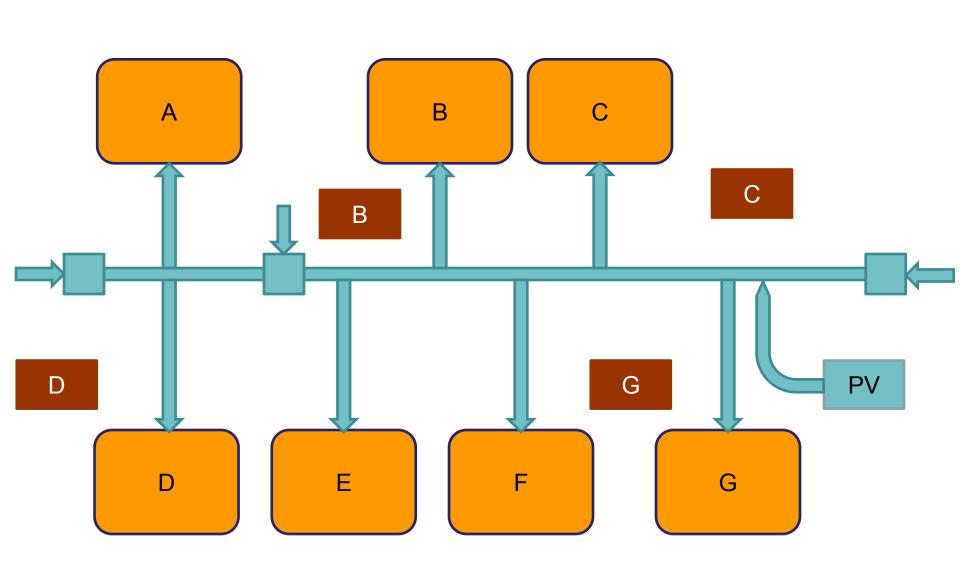


Distribution Line

PV Array

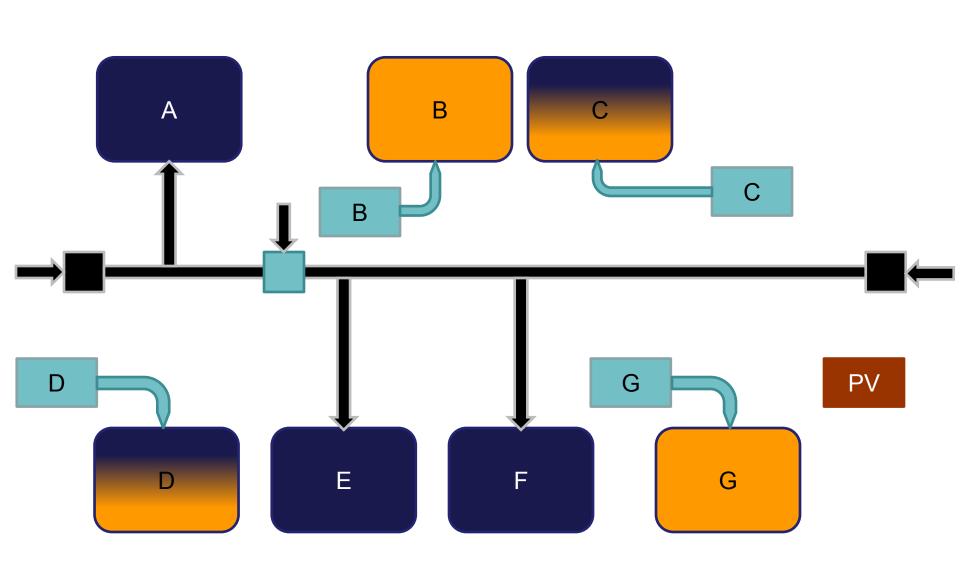


Normal Operation



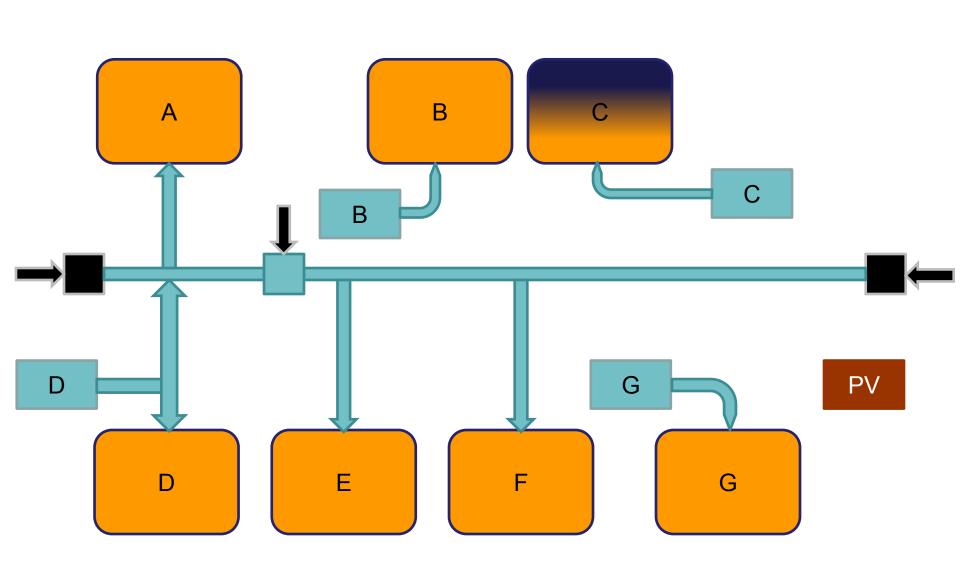


Utility Failure



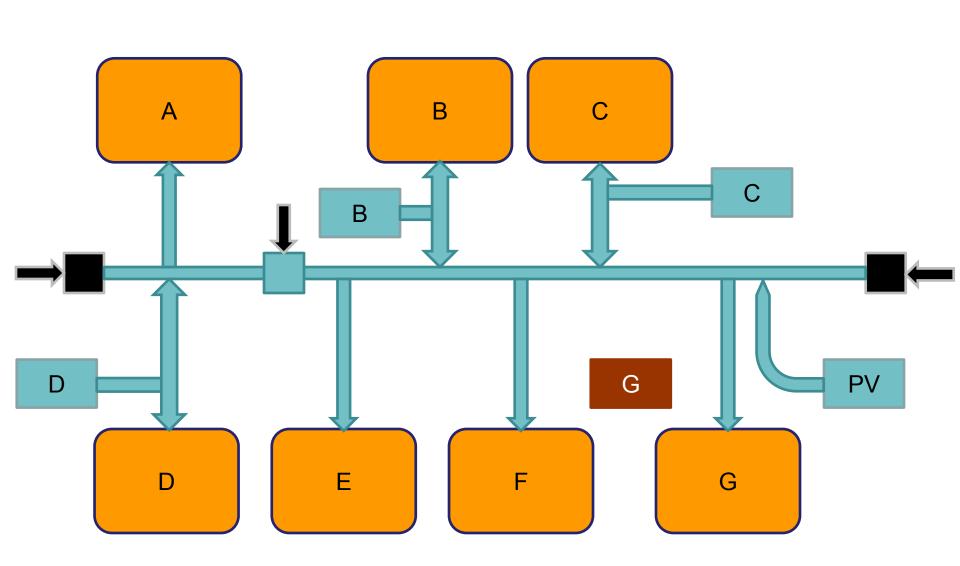


Microgrid Forms



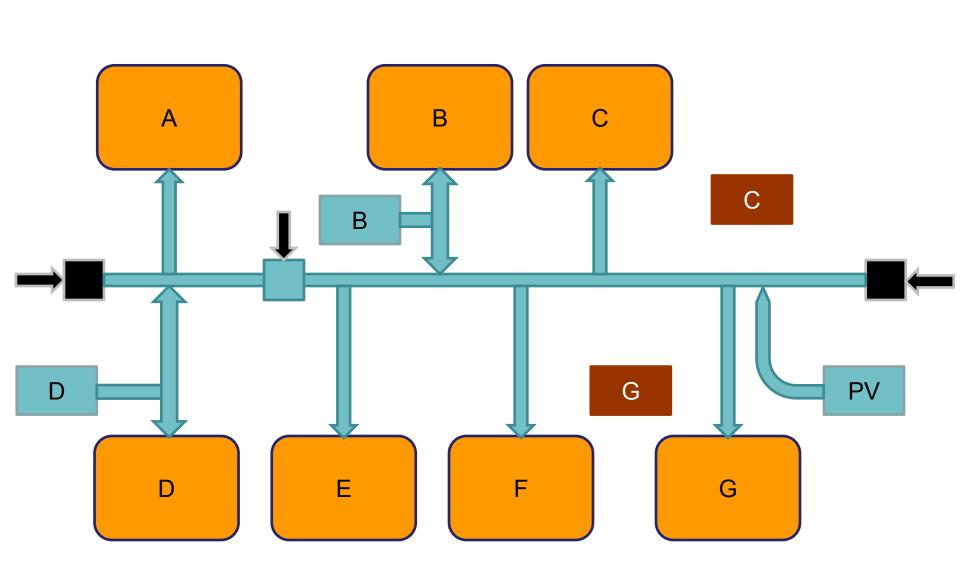


Microgrid Fully Formed



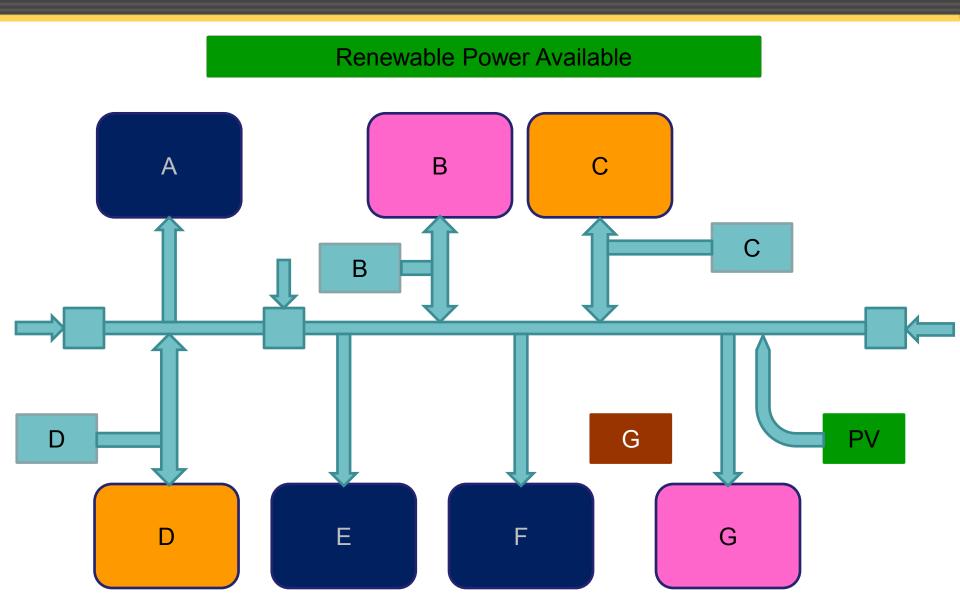


Generator Optimization





Microgrid Differences





SPIDERS Phase III









SPIDERS Phase III

- Microgrid to Support Entire Military Base
- EPA Tier 4i Generators Permit Economic Dispatch for Utility Ancillary Services
- Battery Storage for Blinkless Transfer to Microgrid for Critical Buildings on Utility

Loss

Distributed Solar Power



SPIDERS Successes

- Cyber-Secure Controls
- Stable Operation of Microgrid with 90% PV Penetration
- Bi-Directional Charging of Electric Vehicles in Grid-Tied and Islanded Operation
- Optimization of Distributed Generation
- Increased Reliability



Gainesville Regional Utilities & UF Shands Cancer Hospital







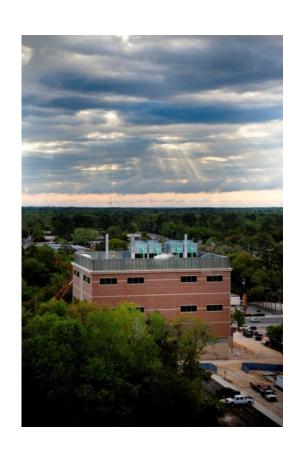
Overall Project

- New Medical Campus Focused on Treatment of Cancer
- Multiphase Construction
- Energy Services Outsourced as Design / Build / Own / Operate / Maintain



Hospital Issues to Address

- Traditional Generator Testing is Not Effective for Long Duration Outages
- Doctors & Nurses Don't Want to Worry About Power
- Cost Efficient Usage of Power is Critical





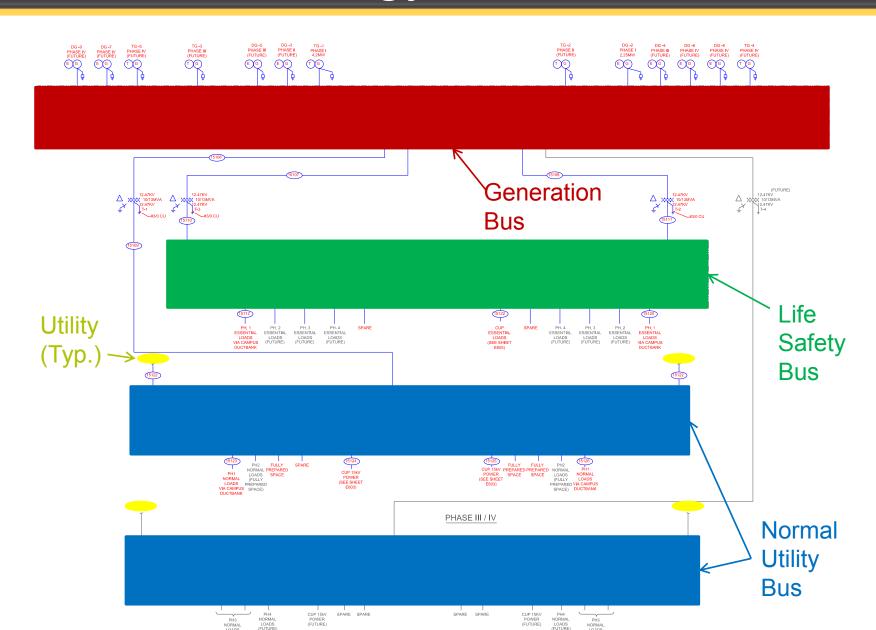
Shands / GRU South Energy Center

- Partnership Between Hospital and Municipal Utility
- Combined Heat & Power for Efficient Generation of Utilities
- Multiple Levels of Redundancy
- Ability to Island





Energy Center One Line





Energy Center Benefits

- Fully Load Diesel Generators During Testing
- CHP Yields 80% Efficient Operation
- Proactively, Manually Island Campus
- Automatically Island Campus for Utility Disturbances



Thermal Energy Corporation & Texas Medical Center







Texas Sized Numbers

- TECO Serves 18 Million Sq Ft of Space Within the 52 TMC Member Institutions
- 120,000 Ton Chilled Water Capacity (Provisions for 48,000 Tons in Future)
- 900,000 lb/hr Steam Generation
- 48MW CHP Turbine
- 16MW Diesel Backup



TECO Operation

- Operating in Deregulated Market Within ERCOT
- Bidding into Day Ahead Market
- Dynamically Changes Energy Mix Based on Market Conditions
- Thermal Storage Tank for Additional Flexibility





Microgrid Benefits

- \$4 Million Savings in Utility Cost in 2012
- Able to Shore Up Local Grid During Periods of Weakness

Ability to Island for Total Failure of

Electrical Grid





Austin Energy Robert Mueller Energy Center Dell Children's Hospital – Austin, TX



Overall Project

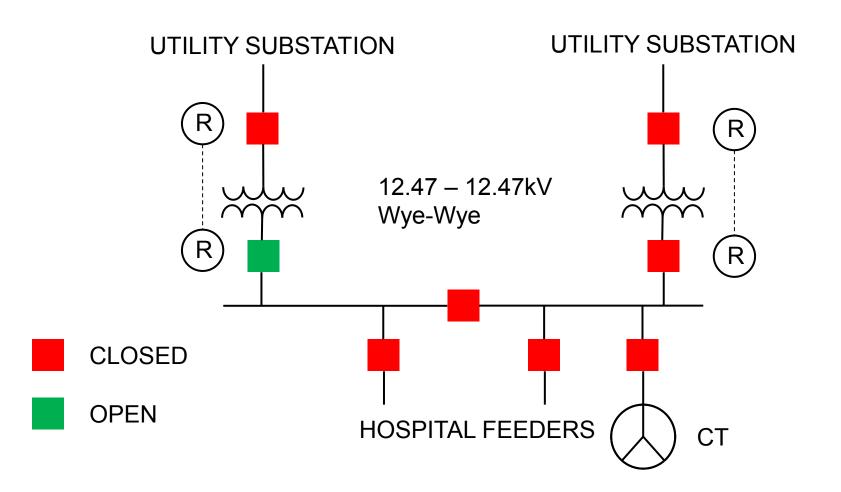
- Solar Mercury 50 Combustion Turbine 5MW
- 35,000 lb/hr Steam Capacity
- Primary Distribution
- Emergency Generation





Initial Utility Interconnection

Initial Operation – Single Utility Feeder





Challenges

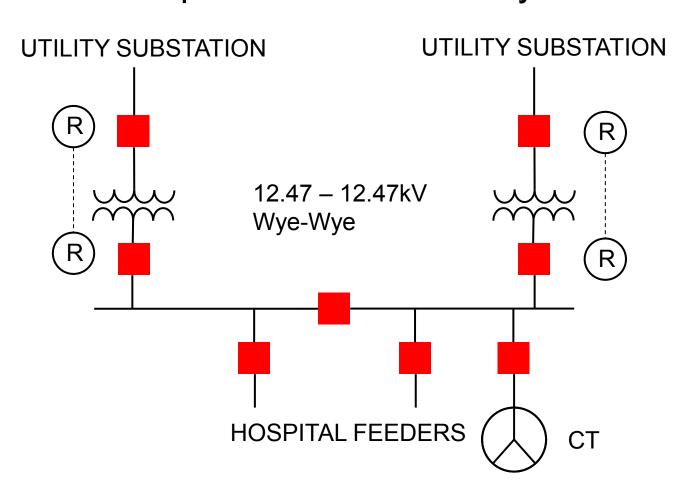
- Reliability Issues
- Frequent Momentary Utility Outages
 - Overhead Exposure
- Transition to Island Mode Not Always Successful
- CT Contribution to Faults Caused Trips





Modified Operation

Modified Operation – Dual Utility Feeders





Reliability Improvements

- Significant Reliability Improvement
- Same Number of Momentary Utility Outages
- Faults Cleared Quickly
- Automatic Reclose on Utility Return
 - Transparent to Plant Operators





UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas – Dallas TX



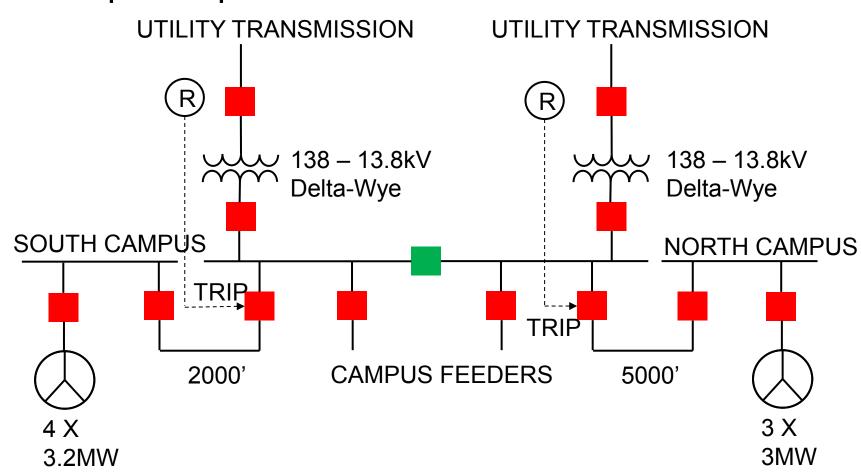
Original Project

- 3 CAT NG Recip 3MW Each
- 4 Deutz NG Recip 3.2MW Each
- Transmission Interconnect
- 21.8MW Distributed Peak Shaving
- Campus Load Exceeds Generation Capacity



Initial Operation

Trip Campus Feeder





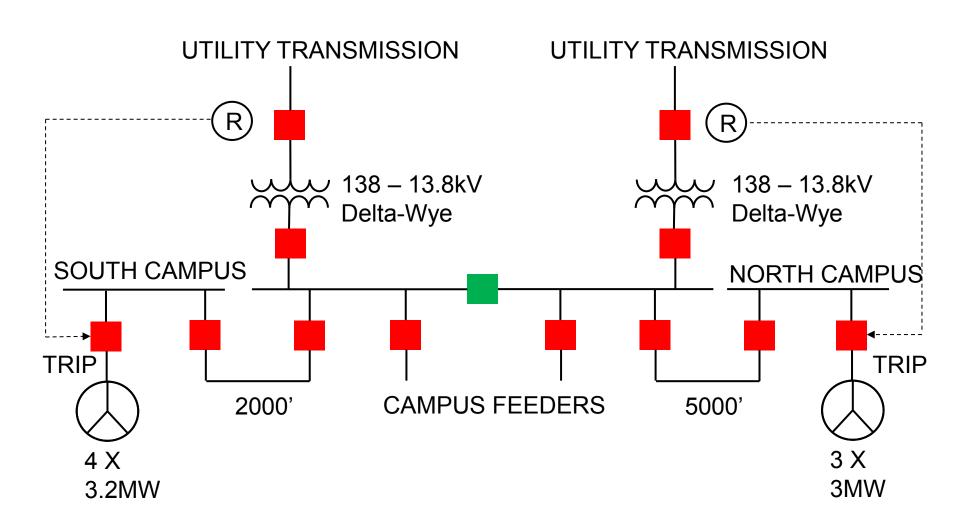
Challenges

- Reliability Issues
- Directional Overcurrent 50 Element Always Asserted
- Load Exceeds Generator Capacity Generators Trip
- Campus-Wide Outage with Utility
 - Available



Modified Operation

Trip Generator Breakers Directly





Reliability Improvements

- Significant Reliability Improvement
- Eliminate Campus-Wide Outages
- Transmission System Very Reliable
- Generator Deployment Economic Only





Microgrid Mode

- Island Operation for Utility Loss
- North Campus Isochronous
- South Campus Baseload
- No Communication Required
- Significant Operator Actions Needed
 - Manual Load Shedding
 - Manual Load Restoration





University of Iowa Backup Power Switching – Iowa City IA



Existing Generation Assets

- Numerous Individual Building Diesel Generators
- East Campus Power Plant
 - Three Steam-turbine Generators
 - 1500kW Emergency/Blackstart Generator
 - 4 2050kW NG Recip Generators Under Construction



Existing Generation Assets

Critical Building Diesel Generators

CBRB II00kW

• BSB 1500kW

MERF 1250kW

Water Plant I250kW

Power Plant I 500kW

Total Rated 6600kW





Options Investigated

- Baseload Building Diesel Generators
- Loadshare Building Diesel Generators
- Recommendation
 - Loadshare
 - Modify Switchgear and Controls





Benefits

- Improved Operator Monitoring and Control
- Minimal Operator Dispatch
- Improved Transient Response
- Minimal Cost Difference





Microgrid Project Goals

- Every Project is Unique
- Leverage Existing Assets
- Minimize Cost
- Maximize Flexibility
- Keep Critical Facilities Online







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