

NEW DISTRIBUTION AUTOMATION EQUIPMENT BRINGS MORE RELIABILITY

Sylvan Lake, Alberta – FortisAlberta has recently completed the installation of a Distribution Automation (DA) system in Sylvan Lake to provide more reliability and shorter power interruption times for our customers.

The FortisAlberta Control Centre is a central feature of our company's ability to limit the impacts of outages and improve outage restoration times during weather events and other incidents. Through our Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system that integrates the DA systems, our system operators can see the current status of SCADA-enabled equipment like reclosers and switches and operate them remotely.

This technology helps to minimize the outage duration to affected customers by automatically isolating the faulted section of the electricity system to quickly restore power to as many customers as possible, without any human interaction. In some cases, we are now able to restore power in seconds or minutes in a situation that would have once taken hours.

"This system plays a large role in restoring power to as many customers as it can in as little as under one minute," says Curtis Eck, Vice President, Engineering. "Technology helps us immensely with power restoration, but we still need our workers in the field to help with manual work such as repairing damage from trees falling on our power lines."

Since 2012, we have installed over 20 DA equipment schemes in communities across the province. In addition to Sylvan Lake, we recently installed DA systems in Brooks and Edson and are completing the installation in Hinton. FortisAlberta continues to add SCADA devices to our lines to extend the reach of our automated system to all areas within our service territory.

About FortisAlberta

As owner and operator of more than 60 per cent of Alberta's total electricity distribution network, FortisAlberta's focus is delivering safe and reliable electricity to more than half a million residential, farm and business customers. The Company serves more than 240 communities with 124,000 kilometres of distribution power lines across Alberta.

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