

Utilities and Lifelines – LADWP Power System

Brian C. Koch, SE, PE – Manager of Civil, Structural and Engineering Services Section, LADWP

January 16-17, 2014 - University of California, Los Angeles

Overview of LADWP and Impacts to LADWP Power System



Impacts

- 1.4 million customers lost power for 38minutes
- Within 24-hours, 93% of customers had power
- All areas restored within 2-days

Slide 1



Impacts – What happened?



- Primary damage at Sylmar Converter Station, Sylmar and Olive Switching Stations and Rinaldi and Receiving Station J (Northridge)
- In general, a lot of porcelain insulator failures in stations near the epicenter.
- Lessons learned from 1971 Sylmar Earthquake helped – ANCHORAGE DETAILING! Slide 2



Emergency Response – What we did.







- Emergency Response Plan
 - Operating and Maintenance Turn the lights back on.
 - Engineering Inspections, prepare Damage Survey Reports, prepare cost estimates
 - Resources allocated based on priority that included proximity to epicenter, and importance starting with generation and transmission, then voltage (the higher the voltage station, the higher the priority)

What we learned. What we did.





- Partner and share experiences with other utilities, equipment manufactures, and experts and develop an industry standard – End result, "IEEE 693 - Recommended Practice for Seismic Design of Substations"
- Seismic Upgrades Since 1994, LADWP has invested over \$300 million in facility and equipment upgrades. Some of this was partially funded by FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- Revised our LADWP Seismic Design Criteria to update it based on our experiences from Northridge.

Slide 4



What's next to make our system stronger?

- Out of sight, out of mind? Budget cuts and competing priorities make it difficult to keep seismic upgrades in the forefront. After 20 years without a major quake, other mandates seem more compelling.
- Construction Paradigm "When in doubt, make it stout." For each dollar we spend during construction, \$0.15 is material. Making it bigger does not cost much.
- System Evaluation Find seismic weak links in the system. Evaluate for time and cost to replace. Possibly go above and beyond accepted codes and standards. LADWP does this with:
 - Transformer bushings and foundations
 - Disconnect Switches, surge arresters, circuit breakers, and Current Voltage Transformers (CVTs) are Sine Beat tested above IEEE 693 requirements
 - Selectively using composite polymer insulators

Slide 5

