

Media Release

Kaikohe, Wednesday 28 November 2007



Successful completion for Transpower line maintenance

The planned maintenance on Transpower's 110kVa feeder line from Kaikohe to Kaitaia was successfully completed on Sunday.

To enable the maintenance work to be completed, power to 10,200 power consumers across the upper Far North region was cut. The outage area extended to Te Pahi in the north and included all towns and districts in between, including:

- Kaitaia township
- Taupo Bay on the east coast
- All districts north of the Mangamuka Gorge
- All districts north of the Hokianga Harbour with the exception of Kohokohu township and some surrounding areas.

Work commenced at 8:00am and the restoration process began from 3:23pm. Normal power supply was restored to all power consumers by 3:58pm, 1 hour and 2 minutes less than the planned outage duration. Total duration of the outage was 7 hours and 58 minutes.

Local lines network company Top Energy, which weeks before had helped plan and co-ordinate the Transpower outage (including extensive consultation with Federated Farmers and industrial power users) took advantage of the outage to carry out essential maintenance work. The company had identified 20 high-priority sites on its northern network, from Taipa to Pukenui, which required the power to be switched off before maintenance could be undertaken. By programming this work to coincide with the Transpower outage, additional disruption to power consumers has been eliminated.

According to Top Energy Chief Executive, Roger de Bray, the company mobilised a 'small army' of some 50 line engineers, support, operational and Call Centre staff to undertake and co-ordinate the work, including some 30 trucks and other vehicles. 5 contractors and their staff were also recruited, to make sure the work could all be completed in the available time. "It was a huge effort and I want to thank all Top Energy people who were involved. They did a wonderful job. We are also appreciative of the co-operation and support we received in the co-ordination of the Transpower outage and I especially want to thank power consumers for their patience and understanding", de Bray said. END.

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