

Electric Power Reliability Improvement Project (Accelerated Phase)

Detroit Edison began its Reliability Improvement Project in 1991 to restore its system reliability to a Best-in-Class rating. The three major objectives of Reliability Improvement were to reduce outages and downed wires, the number of customers interrupted in each outage, and restoration time. Overhead primary electric power lines were inspected, and those that needed restoration improved. During the restoration project, lightning arresters and grounded shield wire were used in many locations to provide safety from lightning. Circuit looping to provide electric power feeds into multiple points on the circuit and automatic, manual, and remote circuit switching were used to isolate electric power line problems during the restoration.

Reliability Improvement has reduced the number of poorly performing circuits from 185 to 40. When outages do occur, today's system is better able to isolate the problem, perform remote or manual switching on the affected circuit, and reduce the length of time customers are without electric power.

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