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A more flexible and economical system was needed by a large Louisiana municipal utility system. They knew that the pumping stations for supplying water and the lift stations for removing sewage were necessities. However, they realized that providing back-up power to every pump and lift station was neither practical nor affordable. Even in areas where State or Federal grant money might be available to purchase the gen-sets, the cost of maintaining the many scattered units would be prohibitive.

The solution chosen was to provide a small fleet of trailer based diesel generator sets which would be stored at a central facility. This enables the gen-sets to be routinely tested and maintained at a minimal cost, yet would ensure high reliability of the units when they were needed. Each water pump and lift station was provided with a power transfer switch and a Cam-lok power interconnect station designed by **J Custom Supply, Inc.** of Zachary, LA. Thus each pump or lift station can be operated when needed by a relatively few gen-sets which are time shared between multiple locations. There is an increase in flexibility in that the gen-sets can be made available to provide emergency power for lights or housekeeping functions at the scene of an emergency that does not involve the loss of electric power, such as a train wreck, bridge failure or priority highway repairs.



The need for flexible emergency power systems is not limited to South Louisiana. From Washington State to South Florida, rural and metropolitan areas alike may need emergency power due to snow storms, heavy rains and flooding, power black-outs or and act of deliberate destruction of parts of the National power grid. The loss of television and the use of the microwave oven are only nuisances. However, the loss of water for fire fighting, or the loss of the ability to maintain basic sanitation systems, are both unacceptable and unnecessary.

Here is an example of an installed Transfer Switch. The lower panel opens to reveal Cam-lok connectors for attaching the power cables from the gen-set. The switches, the interconnect cabinet and the custom power cables were supplied by J Custom Supply, Inc. Systems are available for single or three phase, 120, 240, or 480 volts with cables and connectors rated for 150 to 1100 amps.

