

**PROJECT:**

Brookfield Zoo, Brookfield, Illinois

**ISSUE:**

- High electric costs
- Unreliable power
- Disruption of the zoo's environmental systems

**SOLUTION:**

Installing a 2,200 kW natural gas power generation system

**RESULTS:**

- Lower energy costs
- Improved reliability
- Comfortable environment for animals and guests

## BROOKFIELD ZOO TRADES IN BEASTLY ENERGY COSTS FOR SAVINGS AND RELIABILITY

With traditional electric power sources, Brookfield Zoo had been experiencing high energy costs and sporadic power outages which were frustrating for employees and potentially disruptive to the smooth operation of the Zoo's environmental systems. But the Zoo was able to eliminate both of these problems using a natural gas cogeneration system. And you might say they've been wild about the results.

Nicor recommended a 2,230 kW power generation system fueled by natural gas. The system is comprised of two Waukesha 1,100 kW power generator engines, plus a 1,600 kW stand-by diesel engine. The power generation system operates in the daytime during peak electric hours and switches over to the electric utility at night, which reduces overall electric supply cost. The natural gas/diesel system also eliminates outages at any time by automatically picking up the entire load in the event of an electrical power interruption. The system went on line in February 1997.

"We feel very fortunate to have eliminated two problems with one solution," explains Rich Soderquist, Brookfield Zoo's Director of Operations for Buildings and Grounds. "Obviously, the savings on our energy costs is a huge benefit. The natural gas system is very cost-efficient and that has a tremendous impact on our bottom line. In addition, we can now immediately respond to any power supply disruption with confidence. But ensuring the right amount of warmth and light in our animals' homes and a great experience for our guests are also top priorities, and are key to our reputation as leaders in the zoo community. This system helps us prove our reputation is deserved."