

NTPC staff power up when equipment goes down

Hay River, NT – “NTPC employees should be credited for their swift and decisive action to accelerate repairs of the 18MW Taltson hydro unit,” says Brian Willows, Chief Operating Officer.

From September 9 – 18 Taltson’s generating unit underwent a scheduled maintenance shutdown.

During start-up testing on Friday, September 18 high bearing temperatures were recorded. The unit was shut down and further inspection determined the thrust bearing at the head of the generator had failed rendering the unit inoperable.

NTPC staff took many steps over the next several days to bring the unit back to service as quickly as possible.

The original equipment manufacturer was flown to site over the weekend to assess the damage and assist in developing a restoration plan. Within 48 hours the manufacturer had dispatched five staff to remove the bearing. NTPC located and dispatched specialized scaffolding equipment to the site and located an industrial facility that could repair the bearing.

“A number of people worked day and night until all the resources needed were in place. Their commitment to keep the lights on and keep equipment serving our customers is second to none,” said Willows.

Taltson will be off line for approximately four weeks.

In the meantime all customers in the region continue to have uninterrupted electric service. Because the incident occurred during a scheduled shutdown, all customers were being served by diesel generators.

Diesel production will continue until Taltson is back on line.

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