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# Power Transfer and Paralleling

## **Case History**

McIlhenny Company

### **Where:**

McIlhenny Company processing plant and corporate headquarters, Avery Island, Louisiana

### **What:**

- PowerCommand® DMC 200 paralleling system with remote monitoring
- OTPC 2000 amp transfer switch and two 750 kW generator sets
- OTPC 600 amp transfer switch and 250 kW generator set
- OTPC 1600 amp transfer switch and 500 kW generator set

### **Application:**

Standby power

### **Primary choice factors:**

- Advanced technology and design
- Ease of installation
- Ability to deliver a custom-engineered paralleling system with innovative PowerCommand digital controls
- Quality of service

### **Distributor:**

Cummins Mid-South

## **McIlhenny Company protects world-famous Tabasco® sauce with a standby power system from Cummins Power Generation**

Tabasco sauce is the product of a family-owned and -operated business that proudly traces its roots back to 1868. That's when Edmund McIlhenny gave up banking to devote his energies to growing pepper plants and bottling hot sauce made from his family's secret recipe.

McIlhenny Company makes the world-famous Tabasco sauce at the company's base of operations in Avery Island, Louisiana, about 135 miles west of New Orleans, near the Gulf of Mexico. The company produces up to 720,000 bottles of the popular condiment every day, and ships them to 160 countries and territories around the world. The story of how the company makes its renowned sauce is described on its website: [http://www.tabasco.com/tabasco\\_history/hot\\_pepper.cfm](http://www.tabasco.com/tabasco_history/hot_pepper.cfm).



A 500 kW generator and 1600 amp OTPC transfer switch protect the Corporate Office, which also serves as the emergency response headquarters and shelter during a hurricane. The factory, the levee, the dewatering pumps and the two 750 kW generators in the factory building can all be monitored from the Corporate Office building during a storm.

### Hurricane Rita prompted new measures to safeguard fields and factory

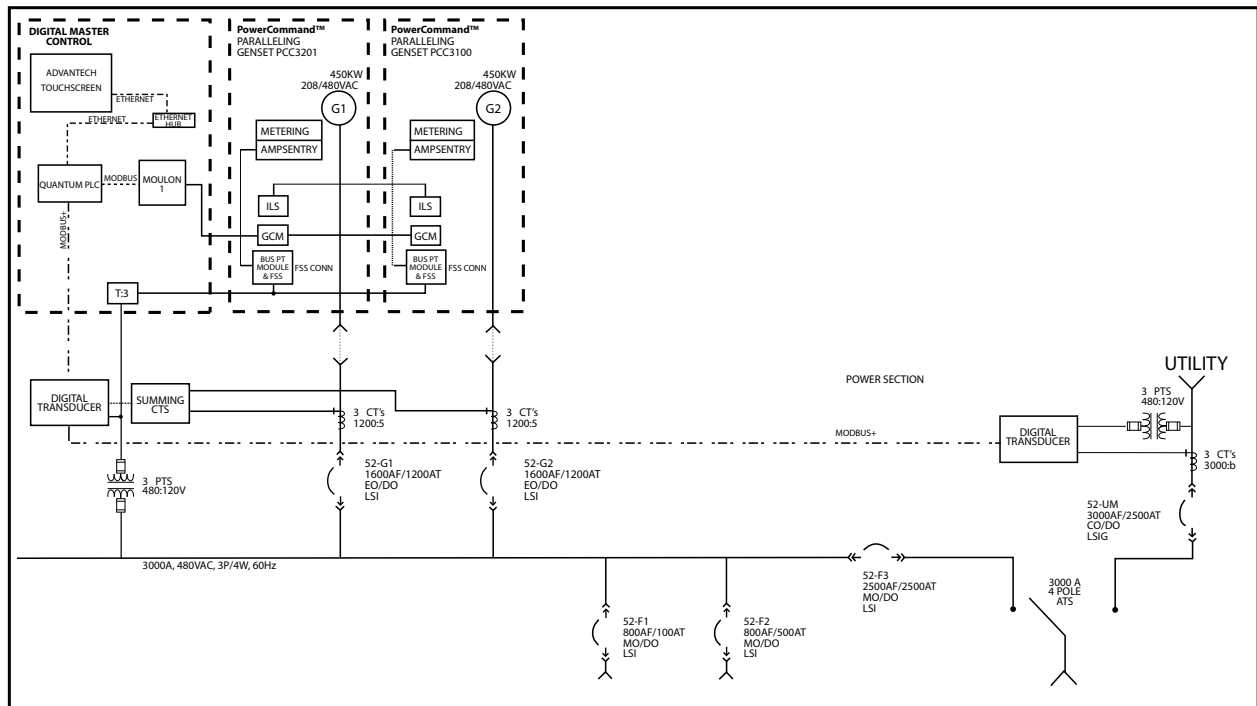
This successful business was put at risk when Hurricane Rita slammed ashore in 2005, hitting Avery Island hard. McIlhenny Company executives thought that their plant and nearby pepper fields would be safe, since Avery Island is higher ground than other places nearby. But it was a very close call — too close for comfort. The low-lying fields where the seed crop for Tabasco’s special peppers is grown were under water. In fact, the storm surge reached within a few inches of the factory floor where the sauce is bottled.

### Standby power system for increased protection

That harrowing experience prompted the company to take a number of protective measures to ensure that the Tabasco legacy continues, including installing a standby power system from Cummins Power Generation.



A 2000 amp OTPC automatic transfer switch, located on the dewatering pumps platform, monitors utility power to the pumps. If the utility power falters, the transfer switch remotely signals the factory generators to start, ensuring that the pumps will continue to operate.



One-line drawing of PowerCommand standby power system.



Two 750 kW generator sets serve the factory and the dewatering pumps.

One of the reasons that Mcllhenny Company selected its standby power solution from Cummins Power Generation is that the generator set is designed from the ground up to use digital controls. Competing systems had generators that appeared to have been designed originally with mechanical controls in mind and that later were modified for use with digital controls.

Cummins Mid-South worked with Genstar Power Services on the project. The standby power system for the production facility includes two 750 kW generator sets and a custom-engineered paralleling system consisting of a DMC 200 digital master control and four sections of switchgear.

In an unusual configuration, a 2000 amp OTPC transfer switch is built into the paralleling system. The transfer switch monitors the utility power; if the utility power fails, the transfer switch signals the generators to start, and when the generators are up to speed and synchronized, the OTPC transfers the load. When the utility power returns and stabilizes, the transfer switch returns the load to utility power.

### Keeping the bayou at bay

In addition to installing the standby power system, the company built an 18-foot, U-shaped levee at the bottom of the slope leading from the factory down to the bayou. The levee provides protection from bayou flooding, but during a heavy rainstorm or hurricane, runoff from the slope can back up behind the levee and potentially reach the factory. To prevent the water from rising to that level, dewatering pumps are used to pump the water over the levee into the bayou. An electrical failure during a rainstorm could shut the pumps down and leave the factory vulnerable, especially since plant personnel cannot visually monitor the situation during a bad storm.

Tony Simmons, Executive Vice President at Mcllhenny Company, emphasizes that their standby system has proved its value on a number of occasions, including



The PowerCommand DCM 200 digital master control contains the system operator interface and controls system-level functions including load add and load shed sequencing, as well as load demand.



This installation includes a remote monitoring system that allows the maintenance manager to monitor the power system from his desk. A closed-circuit television camera in the generator building makes it possible to read the generator control display from the remote location.



Tabasco Country Store in Avery Island, Louisiana.

during Hurricane Ike in 2008. Describing a more recent power crisis, Simmons said, "The local utility lost power to Avery Island, but the standby power system kicked in and allowed us to run a normal 10-hour shift."

Patrick Castille, Tabasco's head of maintenance, is responsible for monitoring the status of the backup system. "We used the backup power system frequently last year, even in good weather, because we were experiencing frequent utility outages. We rely on our Cummins system to keep us up and running, regardless of weather conditions or utility power failures."

People across the globe have developed a powerful appetite for the famous Tabasco hot sauce. Thanks in part to a reliable Cummins standby power system, the supply will continue, uninterrupted.

For more information about integrated standby power systems, contact your local Cummins Power Generation distributor or visit [www.cumminspower.com](http://www.cumminspower.com).



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