

Metro Rail Prepared to Keep Service Moving During Power Shortages

(Jan 12) Emergency infusions of electrical power from the Northwest and Canada narrowly averted "rolling blackouts" in the Los Angeles area, Thursday evening, but those areas served by Southern California Edison remained under a Stage Two power alert Friday.

Edison provides most of the electricity for the Metro Blue Line and Metro Green Line and, with the possibility of continued power problems, the MTA is closely watching the situation.

Metro Rail officials, however, were breathing much easier about the Metro Red Line. The subway draws its electricity from DWP, which generates its own power, and would not be affected by a power shortage.

Prepared for blackouts

Following Edison's Thursday evening announcement, Héctor Guerrero, facilities manager, Rail Operations Control, said, "The MTA is prepared for the blackouts and we intend to keep the same level of service to our riders so they can get home on time."

Had some electrical substations on the Metro Blue or Metro Green lines been affected by rolling blackouts, ROC supervisors would have directed energy from other substations to keep rail service moving.

Edison has told the MTA it will give the agency a 10-minute courtesy notification of any power disruptions that would affect MTA facilities. That would give Metro Rail a window to take the steps necessary to provide continuous service.

In the unlikely event of a complete shutdown of electrical power on the Metro Blue or Metro Green lines, the MTA will provide emergency bus service along the rail corridors.

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