

CANADA

CHURCHILL FALLS

On November 3, 2008, a fire hit the surface of a cable shaft at the Churchill Falls 5,428 MW hydroelectric facility in Labrador, Canada. The fire damaged the 245 kV power cables connecting the underground transformers to transformers on the surface. Two of the 11 generating units at the facility became inoperable. This resulted in a reduction in generating capacity available. At the request of the owner of the facility, EHV Power's personnel flew to the facility on the evening of the fire to assess the damage. RGP (Residual Gas Pressure) analysis on the spare LPOF (Low Pressure Oil Filled) cable reels commenced the next day. A day-by-day project schedule was prepared to remove the damaged cables from the tunnel and shaft. Installation of new cables began immediately after the removal. One of the two disabled generators returned to service just two and half months after the fire. Repairs to allow the second unit to return to service occurred in the summer of 2009 upon the arrival of new underground high voltage cable materials.

