



Thursday, June 27, 2002

# Campus power outage averted

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

A potential electrical emergency on the main Oakland University campus occurred Wednesday, June 26, after one of the Detroit Edison power lines serving the campus shut down. Detroit Edison crews restored the downed power line later that day, and full power was restored.

"There are two power lines feeding into the main campus from a Detroit Edison substation," said Rusty Postlewate, associate vice president for facilities management. "We call these the 'A' and 'B' lines. Some of the buildings on campus are served by the A line and others by the B. We lost the B line and had to put the entire power load on the A line, which is just able to carry the entire electrical load, but it was also very close to capacity."

Lynne Schaefer, vice president for finance and administration, sent a broadcast e-mail to the campus community and asked for assistance Wednesday in reducing the amount of electrical load. To minimize the chance of overloading the lone power line, Schaefer asked employees to shut down all computers, monitors, lights and other equipment not absolutely necessary to conduct business. The air-conditioning load also was shut down in unoccupied areas and buildings. The restoration of the power line eliminated the need to immediately shed the electrical load.

Postlewate said the new Detroit Edison substation, which is under construction on the southern end of the main campus off Lonedale Road and scheduled to be completed by October, will considerably improve the power supply to the main campus.

"The new substation, combined with the power line replacement and electrical upgrades we are currently undertaking, will make our power supply much more reliable," Postlewate said. "OU will have reserved a certain amount of capacity for power. It will be a good quality source to carry us through our power needs for the next 15 to 20 years."

## SUMMARY

A potential electrical emergency on the main Oakland University campus occurred Wednesday, June 26, after one of the Detroit Edison power lines serving the campus shut down. Detroit Edison crews restored the downed power line later that day, and full power was restored.

Created by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Thursday, June 27, 2002  
Modified by CareTech Administrator (webservices@caretechsolutions.com) on Thursday, June 27, 2002  
Article Start Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2003