

NAVMAG Indian Island Turns to Clean, Reliable Electricity to Power Visiting Submarines

Noisy Diesel Generators Being Replaced by Silent, Reliable Shore-based Power

NOISY DIESEL-POWERED generators will soon give way to silent and reliable permanent shore-based power to the pier at Naval Magazine (NAVMAG) Indian Island.

A recently-awarded contract includes running a new 12.5-kilovolt medium voltage transmission system, a utility corridor for maintenance work, engineering costs, a new medium voltage switchgear and safety devices along the designated route to the Indian Island pier. The \$4.8 million one-year project

was scheduled for completion in June 2017. Seattle's North Star construction company is the prime contractor.

The generators are required to provide electrical power for visiting submarines moored to the pier at Indian Island. "This upgrade not only helps the environment, but it results in cost savings and sustained reliability," CMDR Nick Vande Griend, NAVMAG Indian Island commander said. "The project helps us support the fleet when called upon to do so."

"The change to shore-based power and removing the two diesel generators reduces the island's carbon footprint and eliminates noise," explained Gene King, NAVMAG Indian Island facilities manager.

"The power will come from Jefferson County Public Utilities District," King said. "The return on investment coupled with the environmental gains, makes it a win-win for all."

The swap to permanent power also eliminates a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency permit for emissions from the generators. Since 2005, NAVMAG Indian Island has relied upon diesel generators to supply power to visiting submarines.

"The generators had to run as long as a submarine was at the pier, which means 24/7," King said.

This amounted to an average of 18,000 gallons of diesel fuel used per submarine visit. While one generator ran power to the submarine, the other generator could serve



A submarine docks at NAVMAG Indian Island.



Guided-missile submarine USS Ohio arrives at NAVMAG Indian Island.
 MC1 Amanda Gray

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—CMDR Nick Vande Griend

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in a back-up role. Maintenance could then be conducted on the back-up generator. Bill Kalina, NAVMAG Indian Island’s environmental site manager, estimates the generators use about 100 gallons of diesel fuel per hour of use.

“That’s nearly \$300 in fuel costs alone per hour. We will save money over time with shore-based electrical power,” Kalina explained.

Kalina said that the diesel power generators produced more pollution than anything else at NAVMAG Indian Island and require an annual permit from the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA). ORCAA is a local government agency charged with regulatory and enforcement authority for air quality issues in Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Pacific and Thurston counties. The current permit allows NAVMAG Indian Island to run generators until permanent shore-based power is complete. 

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