

Lightning Brings Longest Shutdown Of Power On Dam

Distribution System Hit
By Lightning Early
Yesterday

9/28/32

The longest shut-down of power since the Hoover dam project was commenced took place early yesterday morning when lightning disrupted service on the entire project for two hours and 33 minutes.

All electrically operated devices depending upon the Nevada-California Power company source of supply, including Boulder City, was completely paralyzed until a stand-by condenser was put into use.

A flash of lightning caused the interruption at 1 a. m. yesterday in the substation near the dam site on circuit number one of the Six Companies distribution system.

The same flash caused a high potential surge on the main bus of the station, which ruptured the insulation of one of the condensers, thereby shutting it down for about two hours for repairs, according to H. O. Watts, superintendent of the power company, Hoover dam substation.

Actual service, however, was out for less than three hours.

Work, being carried on thru the graveyard shift in the canyon as well as elsewhere, was paralyzed, and water gained somewhat in the cofferdam area, where it was being pumped out by electrical power.