

RADIAL DIESEL GENERATOR SUPPLIES POWER IN UPPER MICHIGAN

FAVORITE vacation spots for many Americans are the eastern end of Michigan's upper peninsula with its fine hunting, fishing, and boating, and beautiful Mackinac Island where they can enjoy the facilities of the famous Grand Hotel. However, this is not all a land of vacations. Sault Ste. Marie, the leading community in the area, is the site of the American and Canadian locks between Lake Superior and Lake Huron, through which pass an endless stream of boats carrying iron ore from the Mesabi range to eastern steel mills. There is also lumbering and farming, papermaking and leather processing, to give the peninsula a healthy year-round economy.

In this area, Edison Sault Electric Company supplies the electrical needs, primarily with power purchased from the U.S. Army Engineers' hydroelectric plant at the Sault Ste. Marie locks, which has an available capacity of about 16,000 kw. Power is also supplied by the company's 2000-kw steam-generating station at Sault Ste. Marie, and two diesel-generating plants, one at St. Ignace and one on Mackinac Island.

Recently the company installed a new Elliott, radial-diesel-driven, 1440-kw, 400-rpm vertical generator at their St. Ignace plant. This unit was originally designed for peaking service and also to insure the St. Ignace area of adequate electricity in case power transmission from Sault Ste. Marie is interrupted by storm or other reason. However, since the installation of this unit was completed in March 1953, St. Ignace has been used more and more as a base load plant and was in service approximately 25 percent of the time in its first year of operation.

The Elliott 1440-kw vertical generator, shown in the photograph at the upper right, is located on the ground floor of the new addition to the St. Ignace power plant. As this unit was originally planned for intermittent service, an electrical strip heater was installed in the bottom of the steel support for the generator and engine to eliminate moisture damage to generator windings.

Located on the floor above, although pictured here below the generator, is the Nordberg 2025-hp 12-cylinder radial diesel.

