



NERC



Contacts:

Eugene F. Gorzelnik
NERC Communications
609-452-8060
efg@nerc.com

James A. Smith
Bell Atlantic Media Relations
973-649-8850
james_albert.smith@bellatlantic.com

David H. Johnson
AT&T Media Relations
908-234-5254
djohnson3@att.com

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Electric Utilities, AT&T, and Bell Atlantic Conduct Year 2000 Interoperability Verification Tests

The North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC), AT&T, and Bell Atlantic Corporation today announced the successful completion of interindustry verification testing on communications and electric power control equipment. The tests on telecommunications network and electric utility equipment validate the premise that date-time transitions in the new millennium would not affect the ongoing operations of the electric power or telecommunications industries.

The test participants include AT&T, Bell Atlantic Corporation, Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation, New York Power Authority, New York Power Pool, PJM Interconnection, L.L.C., and Public Service Enterprise Group.

All of the equipment tested had previously been subjected to extensive testing by each participant, and the value of this testing was to verify interoperability among the various systems and to test end-to-end continuity of service.

“We are confident that, as a result of these tests, the telecommunications facilities we need to operate the electric systems across North America will be there when we need them, and the lights will be on to usher in the new millennium,” says Michehl R. Gent, President of NERC. The type of equipment included in the electric utility tests include end-element metering devices, supervisory control and data acquisition systems, remote terminal units, multiplexor systems, communications network processors, routers, network time protocol servers, and energy management systems.

“We consider Y2k preparation a cooperative effort, not a competitive activity,” said John Pasqua, Vice President, AT&T Year 2000 Program. “Interoperability testing such as this gives our customers added confidence that the electric power systems and

telecommunications networks will continue to function normally when the new year arrives.”

“Bell Atlantic is pleased to participate in such an important, joint-industry effort to corroborate the Y2k readiness and interoperability of telecom and power company systems,” said Keiko Harvey, Vice President of Central Office and Interoffice Facilities Engineering for Bell Atlantic. “Bell Atlantic recognized early on in the Y2k effort the special relationship that exists between electric power providers and telecom providers like Bell Atlantic. We each rely heavily on each other’s services and this type of testing helps to increase the high level of confidence we each have in those services.”

Although the tests were conducted in the Northeast, the equipment tested is representative of that used nationwide by both the communications industry and the electric power industry.

All tests were executed in accordance with the plans by the participant company’s personnel. The test teams initiated nearly simultaneous date-time transitions in all equipment under test, and conducted post transition evaluations of the data being transmitted and received. Overall, the equipment and services tested functioned normally through the various date-time transitions in all test scenarios. The participants concluded that for the tested systems and dates the AT&T and Bell Atlantic communication equipment and the electric utility monitoring and control systems would interoperate correctly in the year 2000.

More information about the telecommunications interoperability verification tests is available in the report entitled *Year 2000 Interoperability Test Evaluation Report*. A copy of the report is available on the web sites of the following test participants:

NERC – <http://www.nerc.com/y2k>

AT&T – <http://www.att.com/year2000>

Bell Atlantic – <http://www.bellatlantic.com/year2000/>

NERC is a not-for-profit industry group that works with all segments of the electric industry as well as customers “to keep the lights on” throughout North America. It does this by setting reliability standards for interconnected electric transmission system operations.

AT&T is the world’s premier provider of voice and data communications, with more than 80 million customers, including business, government, and consumers. AT&T runs the largest, most powerful long-distance network and the largest wireless network in North America. The company is a leading supplier of data and Internet services for business and the nation’s largest direct Internet service provider to consumers. AT&T also provides local telephone service to a growing number of businesses.

Bell Atlantic is at the forefront of the new communications and information industry. With 43 million telephone access lines and nine million wireless customers worldwide,

Bell Atlantic companies are premier providers of advanced wireline voice and data services, market leaders in wireless services, and the world's largest publishers of directory information. Bell Atlantic companies are also among the world's largest investors in high-growth global communications markets, with operations and investments in 23 countries.

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