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SEL and PSE&G Partner for Major Improvements in Distribution Reliability

PULLMAN, WA — May 20, 2010 — Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories, Inc. (SEL) and Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) of Newark, New Jersey, are teaming up on a grid modernization project to improve system reliability to some 2.1 million New Jersey electric customers. SEL will provide engineering services and equipment to upgrade 40 substations and implement 62 advanced loop schemes (ALS) across the PSE&G distribution system over the next few years to help the utility reduce momentary outages and prepare PSE&G for future smart grid growth throughout New Jersey.

The distribution feeder upgrades incorporate advanced recloser controls on looped feeders with the implementation of a close-before-open scheme to maintain service to as many customers as possible under any conditions and to reduce “flicker” caused by system switching. PSE&G expects the ALS to reduce momentary outages for 84 percent of the utility’s customers. High-speed communication between recloser controls using MIRRORED BITS® communications and substations is the key enabler to the performance and security of this application.

“By replacing existing electromechanical relays and hard-wired control and monitoring with SEL microprocessor relays and controls over fiber-optic interfaces, PSE&G is creating a state-of-the-art distribution automation system,” said SEL Engineering Services Manager Chris Clippinger. “Single-phase clearing of faults and a close-before-open scheme provide excellent improvements in the performance and reliability of the grid.”

The new fiber-optic communications network will position PSE&G for future smart grid initiatives, such as an advanced metering infrastructure. The fiber network was designed to handle many other smart grid initiatives with the ability to isolate each if required or share communications when appropriate.

One of the largest combined electric and gas companies in the United States, PSE&G is also New Jersey’s oldest and largest publicly owned utility. It serves nearly three quarters of the state’s population in a 2,600-square-mile service area, including New Jersey’s six largest cities. For six consecutive years, the utility has also garnered honors as having one of North America’s most reliable electric delivery systems.

SEL partners with utilities around the world to create innovative and intelligent solutions to improve grid performance and reliability. To learn more about smart solutions from SEL, visit www.selinc.com/p109.

SEL serves the power industry worldwide through the design, manufacture, supply, and support of products and services for power system protection, monitoring, control, automation, and metering. SEL offers unmatched local technical support, a worldwide, ten-year product warranty, and a commitment to making electric power safer, more reliable, and more economical.

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