Control House Upgrades

This investment takes a strategic approach to managing the portfolio of existing control houses. Ten locations have been identified that are in need of expansion or replacement over the next two years. The selected control houses are all older and smaller and have an identified safety issue or have a size limitation for current or future expansion needs. In each case, a field review of the adequacy of the existing control house will be made in conjunction with Facilities Asset Management to determine whether to expand the current structure or simply replace it. This work is further coordinated with FAM to ensure that repairs are limited in cases where the building will be replaced or expanded.

Replacements will generally be with a Power Control Assembly (PCA), which is a modular building that is delivered with racks and selected equipment already installed. This is a new approach for BPA and involves close coordination with the System Protection and Control program and the Power Systems Control and Telecommunications program. Use of PCAs is expected to significantly reduce the time needed to accomplish this type of work, making better use of limited craft labor resources and equipment outages. This should allow completion of replacements that would be difficult to complete using traditional construction methods.

This investment is essential to support a number of projects that are compliance driven and will be delayed without this work. Additionally, the lack of adequate space in the existing control houses has been a significant bottleneck in the implementation of many core-sustain projects. Those projects involve the installation of additional batteries, redundant systems and replacement equipment which require more rack space. Here again, that work must be deferred until the control house facilities are adequate.