

CASE STUDY



Demand Response: Mining



“The [Demand Response] program really doesn’t have much of an impact on our operation. It has gotten to where it is just business as usual, and it works out pretty well.”

**Vice President
Mining Operations**



Did you know that Pacific Gas and Electric is offering financial incentives to mine owners and operators who participate in its Demand Response programs? PG&E’s Account Services division will work with you, free of charge, to develop a plan of action that allows you to participate in a Demand Response program. By shifting energy-intensive activities to off-peak demand periods, some of our customers have saved up to \$20,000 annually.

DEMAND RESPONSE OPPORTUNITIES

Case in point: two large aboveground sand and gravel mines specialize in producing different sizes of rock aggregates. Each site sells over a half a million tons of aggregate annually and has seven employees. The most electricity-intensive pieces of equipment are a 1,100-horsepower dredge pump and a 300-horsepower booster pump used to transport the aggregate material to the plant. For example, the sand screw motor draws 75 horsepower while conveyor belt motors draw 10–20 horsepower.

The Challenge

A large mining operation wants to take advantage of financial rewards offered through Demand Response participation without delaying orders.

The Solution

For more than two years, these two mines had been enrolled in a curtailment program requiring them to reduce a predetermined amount of load. Their local utility account representative alerted the mining company the day before the event. When a curtailment event took place, mining operations were completely shut down. But in this case, the shutdown actually worked in favor of the mining company. According to the Vice President, “We tend to build up a lot of inventory. Therefore, a shutdown generally does not affect us much.”

His Demand Response program called for these reforms:

- Key Equipment: Turn off pumps and shut down non-essential motors.
- Lighting: Reduce or turn off all non-essential lighting.
- Cooling: Pre-cool when necessary, but always turn off HVAC during DR event.

“We have been able curtail successfully pretty much 100% of the time,” says the Vice President. “We’ve never had a problem.”

NEXT STEP

Contact your PG&E representative or call our Business Customer Service Center now at 800-468-4743. We will help you determine what Demand Response program is right for you and how it can complement other programs in your Integrated Energy Management portfolio. Earn incentives with PG&E’s Technical Audit/Technology Incentive program for the identification and installation of demand response enabling equipment. Complete details on these no-cost programs are available from your PG&E representative and our web site: pge.com/DemandResponse.



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