

Equipment failure at VS station caused outage

By Nick Baptista, The Valley Springs News, Wednesday, December 19, 2012

An equipment failure at the Valley Springs PG&E Substation was the cause of Monday's Mother Lode region power outage.

PG&E crews discovered a piece of equipment failed at the station, according to PG&E spokesperson Brandi Ehlers. The station is located at State Route 26 and Double Springs Road in Toyon.

A \$40 million upgrade and expansion project is under way at the Valley Springs PG&E Substation and other PG&E facilities in the area, but it does not appear the cause of the outage was the new equipment, Ehlers said.

The electricity went out just before 12:30 p.m. Monday and power was restored to the majority of Valley Springs customers just after midnight, she added, and everyone else in Valley Springs had their power by 3 a.m.

Mar-Val has their power back by midnight.

"It was a trial to get through it Ok," said a store spokesman. "It was also a trial for the whole town since there were no grocery stores open here, or in San Andreas or Jackson."

In all, power was out for 35,600 electrical utility customers in Amador and Calaveras counties, Ehlers said.

Mar-Val employees were kept busy during the unintended closure by moving meats and other spoilable items to their large freezer to stay cool during the outage. The grocery store was up and running back to normal by Tuesday morning.

Consolidated Fire Authority Deputy Chief Jason Robitallie said there were no emergency calls during the power outage.