Automated Switches

Florida Power & Light Company is building a stronger and smarter grid using advanced technology, including automated switches to help monitor and manage the energy grid, detect and prevent power issues, and get life back to normal faster when outages do occur.

FPL is leveraging automated switches, among other smart grid technologies to deliver reliable service by detecting, preventing and mitigating power interruptions – decreasing the number of customers affected by outages. To date, FPL's automated switches have helped us avoid more than 4.6 million customer interruptions.

Automated switches work similar to a breaker in your home, but with the added benefit of being able to automatically re-energize – improving the self-healing capabilities of the energy grid.

**Example:** One of the most common causes of momentary power interruptions, “flickers,” is when a tree branch or palm frond touches overhead power lines. If there's an issue on a power line, the device opens - turning off power to the line.

In many of these cases the switch automatically isolates the issue so fewer customers experience the outage. Then it restores power to the line when the branch is gone. This quick response is helping decrease the number of customers affected by outages – helping us deliver reliable service that ranks among the best in the nation.

**Customer benefits from technology enhancements**

- Improved service by more than 30% in the last seven years
- Greater than 99.98% service reliability
- Reduction in the number and length of outages
- Enhanced detection and prevention of outages
- Faster repairs and more accurate time estimates for restoration
- Reduced operating costs and increased efficiencies - helping keep bills low
- Fast response during high-profile events (i.e. business, political, sport, entertainment)