

# Electrical Contractor

## MME Restores Power to Telecom Hub at Ground Zero

FOLLOWING THE SEPT. 11 ATTACK ON AMERICA, Michael Mazzeo Electric (MME) Corp., Long Island City, N.Y., was called in to restore power to a building at Ground Zero in New York City that housed a major telecommunications hub for a leading provider (unnamed for security reasons.)

Facing unimaginable challenges, MME's CEO Michael Mazzeo, President David Parker, General Foreman Don Mazzeo, Foreman Bruce Edwards, and sub-foreman Gerry Grantz led a team of Local 3 electricians on a project that would test their abilities.

To restore telephone service MME had to first restore power. Flooded switchgear, which was deemed unsafe and unusable, jeopardized the integrity of the entire electrical system. Electrical service for the area had been distributed from under the World Trade Center buildings, forcing local utility Con-Edison into uncharted territory.

MME installed temporary generators and strung cables to various panels and floors to refeed equipment. The crew cut feeders to panels and splice boxes and refeed them with temporary power from outside generators.

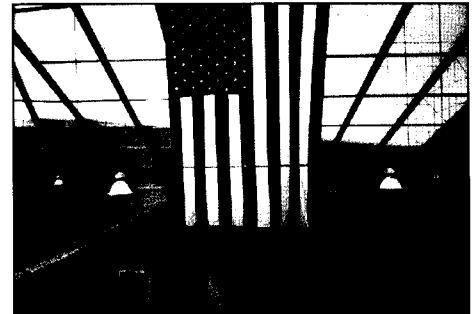
With the most critical of equipment powered up, lighting and cooling became the next hurdle. The site required more lighting for servicing and restoring the network, but the power generated heat- the enemy of electronics and computers.

Three-and five-ton spot coolers were installed in equipment areas to battle heat buildup.

MME was carefully able to restore service to the switchboards in the basement and connect them back to Con-Edison. With the switchgear finally deemed usable after modifications and testing, a plan was put into place to restore the 120/208 voltage from the generators outside to refeed the normal Con-Edison services inside. When Con-Edison restored power to the building, the temporary feeders were lifted from the generators and normal service was restored.

Mazzeo's close working relationship with the customer allowed for the smooth transition to occur with minimal disturbance to service. Power has been restored to the building, but the process of re-splicing and reconnecting power is slow and tedious. Con-Edison has redirected feeders from other substations and continues to run additional feeders to the building.

Beyond the generators and coolers installed, the project has so far required the following amounts of cable:



- 75,000 feet of 4/0 flexible copper cable (14.175 miles)
- 20,000 feet of 1/0 flexible copper cable (3.78 miles)
- 10,000 feet of 3/0 THHN Wire (1.89 miles)
- 10,000 feet of 2/0 THHN Wire (1.89 miles)
- 10,000 feet of 1/0 THHN Wire (1.89 miles)

**EC**

- Jack E. Pullizzi