

National Park Service
2003 Environmental Achievement Awards
Honorable Mention

Facility Management Division
Glacier National Park

Glacier National Park operates a seasonal Ranger Station complex at Waterton Lake that consists of a dormitory, apartments, maintenance structures, and a ranger station. The station was originally supplied with power via two 15 kilowatt propane-powered generators that operated approximately eight hours a day throughout the season. Approximately 1000 gallons of propane, a hazardous material, was shipped to the station during each month of operation.

In order to reduce costs and eliminate the hazards of shipping propane to the site, the Park installed a water-powered turbine in a nearby creek. The turbine is able to generate 15 kilowatts of power even during low creek flow periods. The installation of this turbine has allowed the Park to:

- Eliminate burning fossil fuels at the station complex;
- Cut noise and regulated air pollution associated with generation of electricity;
- Eliminate the hazards of transporting fuel to the site;
- Provide a reliable source of electrical generation;
- Reuse a historical water diversion; and
- Utilize propane generation only in emergencies.

To further reduce power requirements, the Park retrofitted the station complex with energy efficient electrical components. The completed project has met all of its objectives and is in second year of operation. It is anticipated that this project will continue to save the Park Service a minimum of \$12,000 annually for the estimated life of the equipment (30 years).