

Power restored to all but one UCP building

Electricity was restored to all but one of the buildings in the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) complex at the Staten Island Developmental Center, Willowbrook, last night, according to an employee of the developmental center.

Power was restored to six of the seven UCP buildings at approximately 6:40 p.m., according to Joseph Sicorra, acting plant superintendent at the center. The remaining building, No. 16, was still being lighted by an emergency generator, he said, because "additional work still has to be done."

Sicorra said the additional work entailed getting more cable but would "definitely" be completed by noon today.

The power outage was caused by a fault in an internal cable on private property located inside the developmental center, according to a Con Edison spokesman.

Felton King, head of the Civil Service Employees Association local at the developmental center, said as far as he could determine the blackout caused no major problems for the residents at the UCP complex or its staff.

"There haven't been any problems of any drastic proportions," King said, or "unusual problems." He said that one of the buildings involved in the power outage, Building 12, is shared by state and

UCP workers and had there been any complaints or problems he would have heard about them.

"The kids are receiving the best of care," King said.

During the blackout, Con Edison and the Police Department helped provide the affected buildings with power. The police provided six Auxiliary Services emergency generators and spotlights to provide light in the buildings and Con Edison provided a large tractor-driven generator from Queens to provide kitchen services. A standby emergency generator was deployed when the power outage hit and provided power for medical equipment, including respirators and oxygenators.

A similar power failure occurred at the complex about a year ago.

Repeated attempts to reach a UCP official or Linda Buck, who was identified by a UCP switchboard operator as the administrator in charge, during the blackout were unsuccessful. Employees inside the center's main building would not speak during a visit to the center.

"They don't want to speak to anybody," a sergeant of the Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities police, said during the visit.

— STUART SCHUB