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Selection, sizing, installation and maintenance of these units can impact your energy efforts.

Fig. 1. These six 2 MW generators installed at a Saint Gobain glass bottle manufacturing site in Wisconsin allow the facility to operate "off grid" when required by the local utility, as well as provide for standby emergency operation of the plant.

In many facilities, the process of selecting a standby generator can either go relatively quickly or painfully slow.How you approach the specification, purchase, installation and maintenance issues will ultimately influence the speed and agony factors of your new genset.

Why would you need a generator for backup power?

What happens in your facility when the power goes off? Do the employees simply go home to wait out the event? What do you have to do to start the facility or get the process back up? Are there machines that need to run off the excess material in order to start anew? Does some equipment need to be cleaned out in order to be restarted? How much material did you consume in waste or scrap because the process wasn't completed in time? How long does it take to get started again–*and do you know what the resulting costs are*? Is it possible that lives could be at risk when power goes away and people are stuck in elevators or automatic access areas?

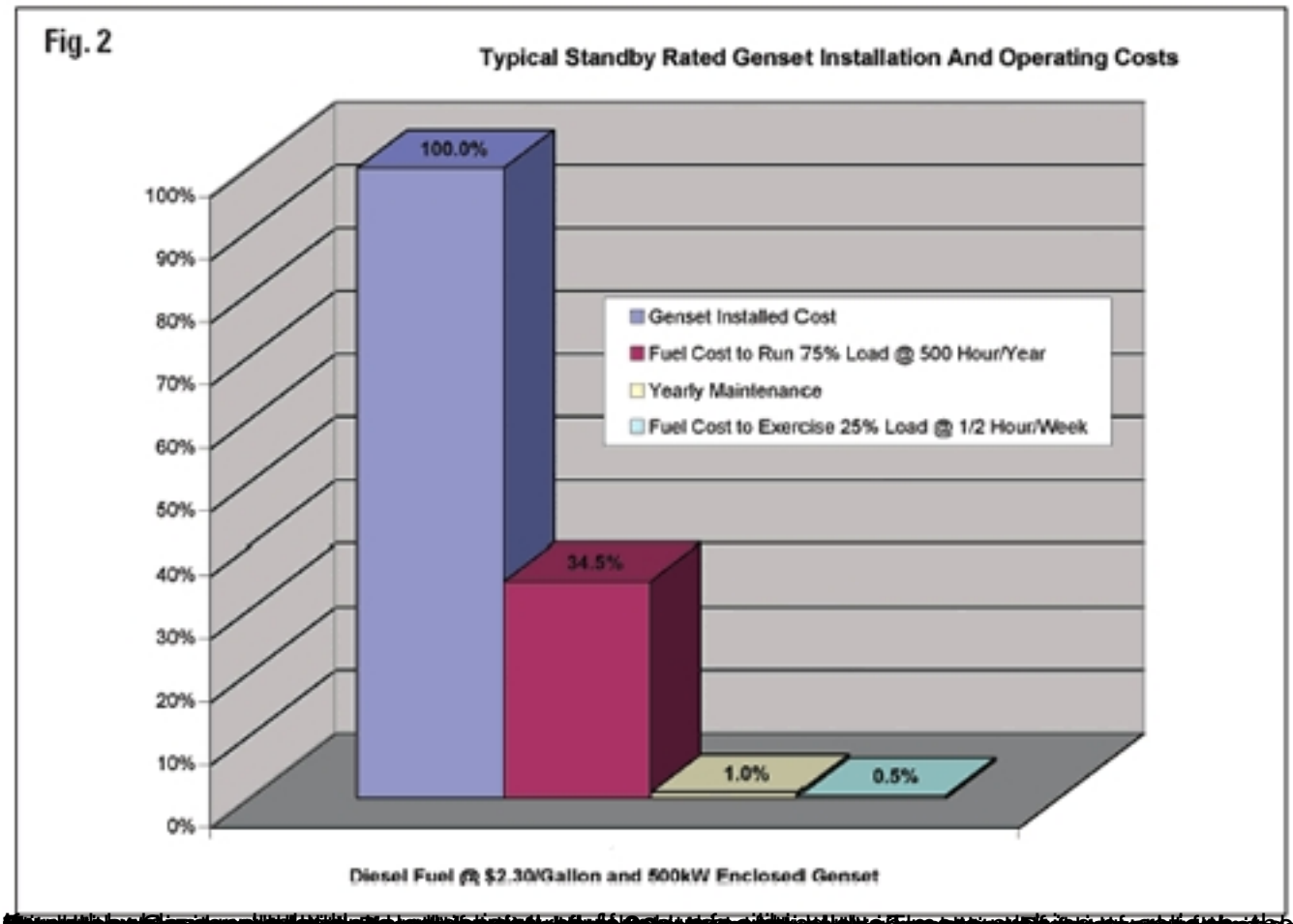
Fig. 2
Typical Standby Rated Genset Installation And Operating Costs
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
100.0%
34.5%
1.0%
0.5%
Genset Installed Cost
Fuel Cost to Run 75% Load @ 500 Hour/Year
Yearly Maintenance
Fuel Cost to Exercise 25% Load @ 1/2 Hour/Week
Diesel Fuel @ $2.30/Gallon and 500kW Enclosed Genset

[redacted]