

## **The Great Blackout of 2003**

FM Generator, Inc. of Canton was called to New York City and Syracuse, New York for the Great Blackout of 2003. According to FM President Michael Molway, FM technicians performed a variety of services, including generator deployment, hook-up and fueling. When the lights went out in New York, Molway said, FM had two employees in the city performing routine services. After a short time, generator sets were loaded on trucks bound for upstate New York, Albany and Syracuse, for cellular service providers. Molway said the power outage was the ultimate test for generator sets, because there was no notice or preparation, it just happened. Usually when a storm occurs or a hurricane is coming we have time to prepare, he said. With this blackout however, there was no time and the 250 generator sets that we maintain in New York City and upstate New York all came on and functioned for the power outage duration. Our biggest push came from secondary sources, backing up other generator companies who could not service their customers. Molway said New York City was especially vulnerable because the city does not mandate generators in many facilities. Here in Boston he said, there are generators at the subways and most of the other larger buildings, tunnels and bridges, a result of the code mandates after the North East blackout of 1965.