

Saw Large "Fireball" In Power Line Failure

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP) — A pilot says he saw a huge fireball last Tuesday night in the vicinity of the main power line from here to Niagara Falls, moments after the power failure in the northeastern United States and Ontario.

Weldon Ross of Syracuse, an employee of the Carrier Corp. and a part-time instructor-pilot, told the Syracuse Herald-American he and a student were approaching Hancock Field here "when the lights went out" Tuesday night.

"We were over the high line which runs from Clay to Niagara Falls when we saw the fire flash. It looked like a barn fire, a barn full of hay and it lasted for perhaps 10 seconds."

The New York Power Authority has two 345,000-volt lines that run from Niagara Falls to the Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. station in nearby Clay.

After the blackout, early reports said that it was possible the failure began at Clay but Niagara Mohawk officials had said their investigation indicates the Clay station was operating normally.