

How to read the display

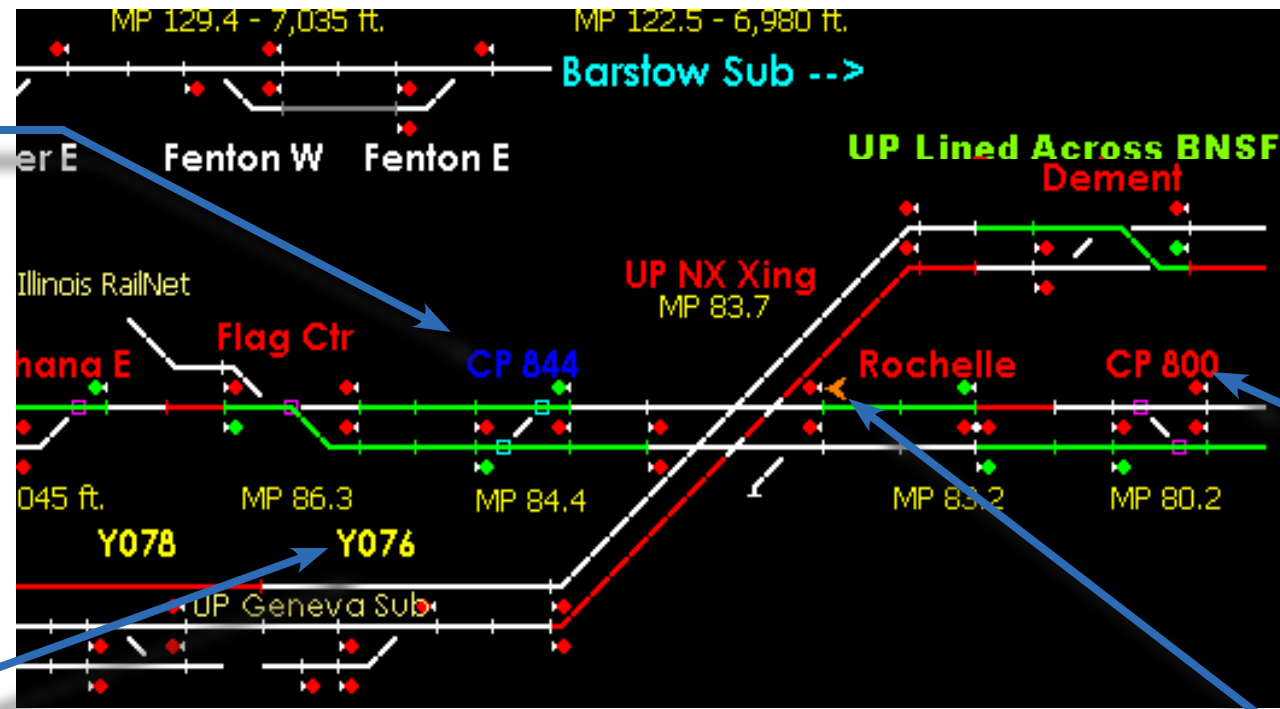
This display is typical of what you may see in a railroad's dispatching center. On it, you can see routes which are assigned by the dispatcher, and show up as green signals, and green segments of track. The arrow next to the signal indicates which direction the route is for. Red lines on the display are occupancy indications – a train.

Many Railroads today use a form of "radio code line" to communicate with the signal system in the field. Utilizing a scanner radio, computer, sound card, and freely available software called "ATCS Monitor" it is possible to decode this information and display it. Monitoring these signals is equivalent to monitoring the railroad personnel's voice communications on a scanner. As with voice, we can only hear as far as our antenna locations will allow.

When the stations is blue, control messages sent from the dispatcher to the station have been recieved. A green track segment and signal while the station is blue indicated that a request for a proceed signal was sent to the station.

A request for a westbound signal on main 1, and a request for an eastbound signal on main 2 at CP844 are shown here.

Stations displayed in Yellow or White indicate that no radio traffic has been recently received for this station.



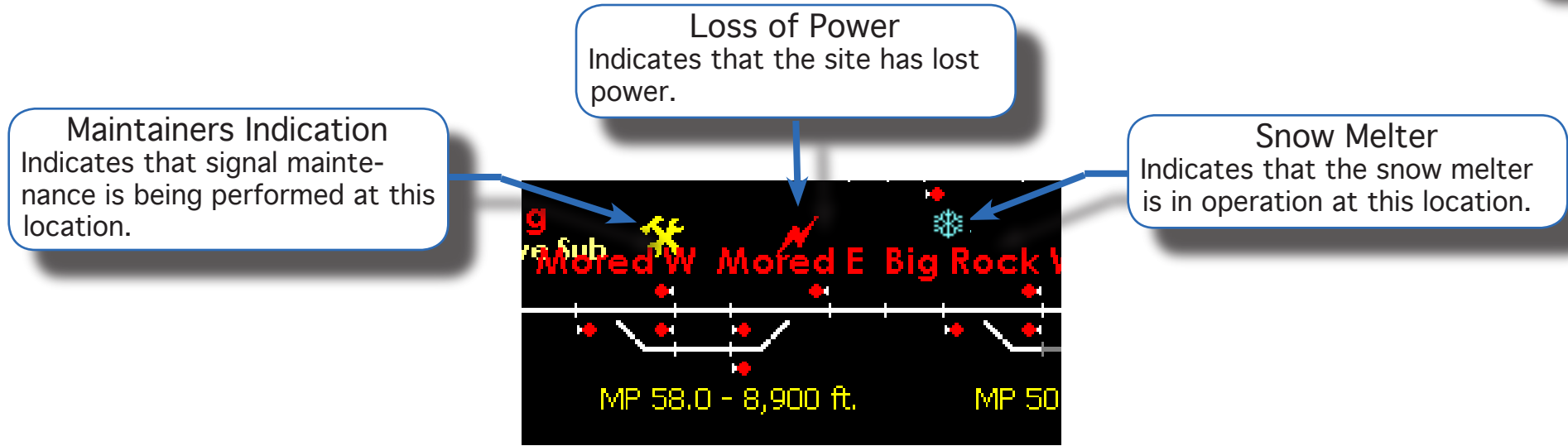
When the UP has a signal to cross the diamonds, you will see this message. See the FAQ for details.

When the station is red, indications have been received from the station. A Red track segment indicate an occupied block. A green signal and track segment indicate a proceed aspect is displayed by line-side signals in the field.

Shown here is train in the westbound approach block that has a proceed signal and will be crossing over at Dement.

An arrow indicates a request from the dispatcher for a proceed signal across the interlocking.

Other things you may see...



Maintainers Indication
Indicates that signal maintenance is being performed at this location.

Loss of Power
Indicates that the site has lost power.

Snow Melter
Indicates that the snow melter is in operation at this location.