In 2010, a severe drought in Venezuela threatened to severely curtail the production of hydroelectric power, which normally provides 65% of the country’s electricity. The need for replacement power was intimidating: nearly a gigawatt of continuous duty power, preferably in distributable 45 MW blocks. PDVSA, Venezuela’s national oil company, turned to Solar Turbines and their 15 MW gas turbine Titan 130 Mobile Power Unit (MPU). Solar was able to ship the units in the required time and satisfy the customer’s needs for having emergency power placed and available should they need it.
The Solar Turbines MPU is a complete power plant solution that offers a suite of modular options that include natural gas, liquid, and dual fuel designs. In addition, switchgear and the motor control center are standard equipment, making the installation a simple matter of locating the equipment and connecting it together. The MPU’s trailerized modules arrive on site ready to be piped, wired, and commissioned in a time span much shorter than the typical custom power plant design cycle. The compact footprint allows for installation in tight areas such as utility substations or industrial backlots. Designed as a complete power plant, the Titan 130 MPUs are highway transportable, provide easy access for customer connections, require no concrete foundation, have a compact footprint, and offer low emissions options.