



U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

US Midcontinent to East Coast Major Winter Storm Situation Report #7
February 4, 2011 (4:00 PM EST)
http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/emergency_sit_rpt.aspx

Summary

Table with 3 columns: Impacted State, Electric Customer Outages, % of State Out. Rows include Louisiana, Ohio, Texas, and a TOTAL row.

Note:

States with less than 1,000 outages are not included in the table. Due to a large number of service providers, including investor owned utilities and cooperatives, the number of customer outages reported may not be comprehensive.

Sources:

Outages obtained from company web sites and DOE communications. Total State customers are based on 2008 EIA Customer Data.

Highlights:

- On February 1, 2011 a major winter storm moved across the Midcontinent States into the Midwest and Northeast. The storm continued through the evening of February 2, 2011. A second system brought ice and sleet to central Louisiana on February 3, 2011. Weather conditions across the Southern region are expected to improve tomorrow. As of 2:00 PM EST February 4, the impacted States report 119,133 customers without power. This is an increase from the 80,628 reported at 10:00 AM EST in Situation Report #6.
AEP Texas is urging consumers to conserve power today (February 4) to help balance the electrical load on the grid and reduce the risk of rolling power outages. AEP Texas lost power generation last night (February 3) and was instructed by the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) to conduct rolling outages in the Rio Grande Valley. These rolling outages lasted from 10:00 pm CST February 3 and ended at 1:00 am CST today (February 4).
The New Mexico Gas Company reported at 7:30 am MST today (February 4) that natural gas supply lines are stable and they do not anticipate additional residential customer disruptions. Workers from Louisiana, Colorado, Texas, and Oklahoma are being brought in to help restore service (relight pilot lights) to those customers that lost gas service. The company estimates that customers in the metro Albuquerque area and its Southwest service area will be relit by tomorrow evening (February 5). Customers in the North Central service area may not be relit until Monday (February 7). The company reported yesterday (February 3) that rolling blackouts in West Texas have impeded the delivery of natural gas coming into New Mexico from Texas. The natural gas shortages in New Mexico prompted the Governor to declare a State of Emergency. All non-essential New Mexico State employees are not required to work today (February 4), the Los Alamos



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and Sandia National Laboratories and various public schools and universities in New Mexico are all closed today to conserve natural gas.

- New Mexico is served by two interstate natural gas companies, the El Paso Natural Gas Company and Transwestern Pipeline Company. The El Paso Gas Company remains on critical operating conditions due to natural gas supply shortfalls. The Transwestern Pipeline Company has issued a Low Line Pack Alert Day for today (February 4). Both pipelines have declared Force Majeure on their lines.
- The Southwest Gas Corporation reported yesterday (February 3) that the cold weather has caused impacts to its residential natural gas customers in Tucson, AZ.

ESF 12 Actions:

- All ESF-12 personnel have been deactivated. ESF-12 personnel staffed the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) in Washington, DC, FEMA Region II RRCC in New York, NY, FEMA Region III RRCC in Philadelphia, PA, FEMA Region V RRCC in Chicago, IL and FEMA Region VII RRCC in Kansas City, MO.

Restoration Activities:

- In Louisiana, Cleco has 800 line mechanics, tree trimmers, contractors and support staff working to restore power to customers statewide. Entergy Louisiana has 150 workers in the Lafayette to Jennings area which was hardest-hit. Entergy's Louisiana utilities estimate that most customers will be restored by late tonight (February 4), while isolated outages in areas with more extensive damage will carry over into tomorrow (February 5).
- AEP Ohio expects to have full restoration is expected by Saturday (February 5). The company estimates the Newark area should have all customers restored by noon today (February 4), the Columbus area should have 90% restoration by midnight tomorrow (February 4), and the Canton area should have all customers by midnight on Saturday (February 5).
- Dayton Power & Light in Ohio estimates that 95% of the impacted customers will have power restored by tonight (February 4). The company has 1,500 workers restoring power across its service area.