



**U.S. Department of Energy
Emergency Support Function #12**

***Pacific Northwest Storms Situation Report # 1
December 15, 2006 (4:00 PM EST)***

Summary

Highlights:

Severe wind and snow storms hit the Pacific Northwest region on December 14 – 15, 2006, following severe flooding during the past few days. The severe weather resulted in major power outages through the region. At peak there were 1.8 million customers without power which included BC Hydro in Canada. Currently, there are over 1.5 million outages in the region as a result of the Pacific Northwest Storms. This represents about 42 percent of customers in affected utility service areas in Oregon and Washington. See table below.

Because the current wind and snow storms are coming on the heels of extensive flooding in the region, electric utilities are experiencing damage. Wind gusts reached close to 100 mph in some areas of the region. The storm is expected to bring its strong winds and heavy snow into Idaho, Montana and Wyoming Friday and into the weekend.

There are currently no reported major impacts to the petroleum and natural gas infrastructure.

Electric Outage Information

Pacific Northwest Electricity Customer Outages: December 15, 2006

Utility	State	Outages	Total Customers	% w/o Power
Puget Sound Energy	WA	700,000	893,576	78.3%
Seattle City Light	WA	170,000	336,363	50.5%
Snohomish County PUD	WA	67,000	272,829	24.6%
Tacoma Power	WA	100,000	145,375	68.8%
Grays Harbor PUD	WA	22,000	34,096	64.5%
Mason County PUD #3	WA	17,000	31,000	54.8%
Cowlitz County PUD	WA	1,700	40,801	4.2%
Clark County Utilities	WA	3,000	173,000	1.7%
Portland General Electric	OR	165,000	680,093	24.3%
Pacific Power	OR	78,000	447,272	17.4%
Eugene Water & Electric	OR	250	75,298	0.3%
BC Hydro	Vancouver	240,000	NA	NA
TOTAL		1,563,950	3,129,703	

Sources: Puget Sound Energy, Tacoma Power, Grays Harbor, Mason County, Cowlitz County and Pacific Power outages from King 5 News http://www.king5.com/topstories/stories/NW_121506WABstorm_poweroutagesDS.f148d0b.html

Remaining utility outage data obtained from utility websites:

Seattle City Light outages website at <http://www.seattle.gov/light/>

Snohomish County PUD Data (as of 11 AM PST) <http://www.snopud.com/about/CustomerNews/StormUpdates.aspx?p=2214>

Portland General Electric (as of 8 AM PST)

http://www.portlandgeneral.com/about_pge/news/outage_update_1215_8am.asp?bhcp=1

Eugene Water and Electric Board (as of 6 AM PST) <http://www.eweb.org/News/Releases/2006/dec15outages.htm>

BC Hydro (as of 10:45 PST) <http://www.bchydro.com/outages/>

Clark County Utility outage Information (as of 11:45 AM PST) outage hotline at 360-992-8000

Total customer data as of 2005 from EIA: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/esr/table6.xls>



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Restoration Efforts:

Seattle City Light reports no critical services are without power. A total of 61 feeders in the above-ground system went off line and five of those feeders have been restored. The underground system is functioning normally. Crews are being dispatched and restoring power where it is safe to work.

Snohomish County PUD has almost 60 crews in the field to restore power as soon as possible. It is reporting that could be a few days before all power is restored.

Portland General Electric Restoration efforts are expected to continue through the weekend, and perhaps into early next week. PGE has called in additional contract crews as well as crews from utilities in other states to assist with the effort. At the height of the storm, nearly 250,000 customers were affected. This is the largest major storm restoration effort since 1995.

About 250 Eugene Water & Electric Board customers remained without power Friday morning. This is down from a peak of 5,000.

BC Hydro is predicting that some customers may be without power for several days. As many as 800 BC Hydro and contractor staff are responding to the outages.