



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

2011 Spring Storm Report # 4

April 29, 2011 (4:00pm EDT)

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 Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and a TOTAL row.

Note:

States with less than 1,000 outages are not included in the tables.

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:

- Beginning Wednesday April 27, 2011, severe storms with heavy rain, hail, and tornadoes impacted States in the Mid-Atlantic and Southern regions. As of 2:00 pm EST, April 29, 2011, the impacted States report a total of 621,040 customers without power. The increase in the number of customers is due to the inclusion of customer outages from the Alabama Rural Electric Cooperative, which was not previously available. Restoration efforts by electric utilities are reported below.
According to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), the storm caused all three nuclear reactor units at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant in Alabama to shut down at 5:36 pm EDT April 27th. The units were automatically and safely shut down after offsite transmission lines serving the plant were damaged. All three units have achieved cold shutdown. The plant's onsite diesel generators and one 161 kV transmission line are providing power to the plant.

ESF 12 Actions:

- ESF-12 is staffing the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) in Washington, DC.



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Restoration Activities:

- EPB Chattanooga is reporting mutual assistance crews from sixteen States are helping with restoration.
- Alabama Power estimates that 95 percent of their customers will be restored by Wednesday (May 4). The company reported that the storm damaged 3,000 poles and 100 transmission structures and destroyed five substations. Company crews continue to work today (April 29) to restore power along with mutual assistance crews from Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Florida, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Michigan and Wisconsin.
- The Alabama Rural Electric Cooperative reported that 300 lineworkers from cooperatives in southern Alabama which were not as hard hit, have joined the restoration efforts. Additionally, crews from cooperatives in Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina have come to assist in the restoration.
- TVA stated this morning (April 29) that 56 transmission lines remain out of service. The company estimated that it would be able to restore service to the majority of its direct and local distributor customers by early next week.
- Georgia Power expects most of its customers to be restored by Sunday (May 1).
- Huntsville Utilities in Alabama reported today (April 29) that it may take 4-6 days to complete full restoration for all of its customers.
- AEP Appalachian Power reported more than 160 line workers from outside the company's service area, as well as 50 damage assessment specialists, are assisting local Appalachian Power crews in the hardest-hit areas of Virginia.
- Entergy has a crew of nearly 2,500 working to restore power. The company's estimated restoration times include: Arkansas – All customers should be restored late Saturday (April 30), except those in the Hot Springs area which will be restored Sunday (May 1). Mississippi – All customers should be restored late Saturday (April 30). The most isolated cases should be restored Sunday. Louisiana – All customers should be restored by late Saturday.
- AEP Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO), which serves Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas, is reporting line crews and other personnel from SWEPCO's sister company in Oklahoma and outside companies -- approximately 165 people – are aiding with the restoration effort. SWEPCO reports some harder hit areas will be restored by Sunday (May 1).