



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

2011 Spring Storm Report # 9

May 2, 2011 (10:00am 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, Tennessee, 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 9:00 am EDT, May 1, 2011, the impacted States report a total of 393,592 customers without power. This is a decrease from the 442,493 customers reported in yesterday afternoon's Situation Report #8. Restoration efforts by electric utilities are reported below.

ESF 12 Actions:

- ESF-12 is staffing the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) in Washington, DC and the Region IV Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) in Atlanta, GA. ESF-12 has been activated to the Alabama State Emergency Operations Center (EOC)/FEMA Joint Field Office (JFO) in Clanton, AL.

Restoration Activities:

- Alabama Power continues to estimate that 95 percent of customers who can receive service will be restored by Wednesday (May 4). In its service area, the storm damaged 3,000 poles and 380 transmission structures and destroyed five substations. The company has a total of 10,000 personnel, including crews from eighteen States, working to restore electricity to its customers. Huntsville Utilities reports 3% of power in its service area has been restored as of May 1 and the utility expects that customers will continue to see progress today (May 2) as TVA

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is able to release more power to the distribution system. There are 450 Huntsville employees and crews from Florida, Tennessee, and South Alabama in the field working to restore power.

- EPB Chattanooga reports that there are 1,440 personnel restoring power to its customers. The company still estimates that it might not be able to restore power to all of its customers until Thursday (May 5).
- The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) reported last night (May 1) that 108 connections have been restored between TVA and its direct and distributor customers. The storm had affected a total of 128 of these connections. TVA estimates that it will restore service to a majority of its customers later this week, but some industrial loads may take longer to restore. The company has 4,000 employees and contractors working on power restoration including repairing the over 200 poles or steel structures that were damaged by the storm.
- The storm caused all three nuclear reactor units at the TVA owned Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant in Alabama to shut down on 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. TVA continues to power the plant using onsite diesel generators and one 161 kV transmission line. TVA stated last night (May 1) that the plant will be restarted when the transmission system is sufficiently repaired to accept power from the plant.
- Georgia Power reports near complete restoration as of May 1. The company has some remaining outages in the Trenton area. The company had 500 poles damaged by the storm.
- The Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, a statewide trade association representing the State's 42 EMCs, reports more than 400 utility personnel are assisting EMCs in north and central Georgia to restore power. Crews are working today (May 2) to restore those individual outages that were previously in areas inaccessible due to fallen tree or debris.
- Entergy estimates that all of its customers in Arkansas that can accept power were restored Sunday May 1, with the exception of a few cases in the Vilonia area. In Arkansas, the storm damaged 727 poles and 1,296 spans of wire.