



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

2011 Spring Storm Report # 12

May 3, 2011 (04:00pm 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 (110,416 outages, 4% out), Tennessee (12,525 outages, <1% out), and TOTAL (122,941 outages).

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 3:00 pm EDT, May 3, 2011, the impacted States report a total of 122,941 customers without power. This is a decrease from the 149,210 customers reported in this morning's Situation Report #11. Restoration efforts by electric utilities are reported below.

ESF 12 Actions:

- ESF-12 is staffing the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) in Washington, DC, the Region IV Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) in Atlanta, GA and the Alabama State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Clanton, AL.

Restoration Activities:

- Alabama Power estimates that all customers who can receive service will be restored by Wednesday (May 4). The storm damaged 5,200 poles and 400 transmission structures and destroyed six substations in the Alabama Power service area. The company has a total of 10,000 personnel, including crews from eighteen States, working to restore electricity to its customers.
Huntsville Utilities reports that 70 percent of power in its service area has been restored as of 10:00 am today (May 3). There are 450 Huntsville employees and crews from Florida, Tennessee, and South Alabama in the field working to restore power.



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- The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) estimated today (May 3) that it will be able to restore service to the remaining direct and distributor companies in the next two days. The company reported today (May 3) that 121 connections have been restored between TVA and its direct and distributor customers. The storm had affected a total of 128 of these connections. The company has 4,000 employees and contractors working on power restoration including repairing the over 300 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. Yesterday (May 2) an additional 161 kV transmission line connected to the plant has been re-energized and TVA is powering the plant using onsite diesel generators and two 161 kV transmission lines. TVA stated that the plant will be restarted when the transmission system is sufficiently repaired to accept power from the plant.
- The State of Alabama estimates that a total of 13,600 personnel are working to restore power in Alabama.
- EPB Chattanooga reports that in its service area the storm damaged 471 poles and 280 transformers and workers have replaced over 30 miles of electrical wire. The company still estimates that it might not be able to restore power to all of its customers until Thursday (May 5).