

# **ARCTIC STORM EVENT—FEBRUARY 2011**

## **TIMELINE**

### **February 2, 2011**

Gas outages began in Alamogordo area due to a shortage of supply on the Alamogordo mainline.

### **February 3, 2011**

NMGC declares system emergency due to falling line pressure.

Service curtailed to customers in Alamogordo.

El Paso Electric Company also experiences rolling blackouts.

PRC notified and Staff dispatched to Homeland Security Dep't Emergency Operations Center

Gas outages begin in Northern Rio Grande Valley due to a shortage of supply on the Taos mainline. Communities affected include the City of Espanola, Taos, Red River, and Questa.

As a result of the gas shortage and in an effort to stabilize the New Mexico Gas System valves are shut off on the Taos mainline and in the communities of Bernalillo and Placitas as well as some small neighborhoods in Albuquerque which were easily accessible and which could be shut off quickly.

### **February 2-9**

The process of relighting begins immediately for all areas of the system where an outage occurred. This process included getting personnel in place to shut off every customer's meter, purge the gas mainlines of air, and then turn the meters on so the gas lines could be pressurized so that gas pilots could be relit.

## **RESPONSE TO THE EVENT**

- 2/7 House Energy & Natural Resources Committee Hearing
- 2/8 Staff commences internal review process
- 2/11 Conservation Committee hearing on Senate Floor
- 2/16 House Energy & Natural Resources Committee Hearing –update
- 2/16 Commission Issues NOI in Case No. 11-00039-UT
  - A. The causes of NMGC's gas curtailments;
  - B. Whether the curtailments could reasonably have been avoided or mitigated;
  - C. How NMGC determined and identified which customers that should be curtailed, and whether those decisions complied with NMGC's tariff on file with the Commission;
  - D. The steps that can and should be taken to avoid similar curtailments from recurring in the future; and
  - E. Whether the procedures used to re-commence service to its customers - such as the relighting of pilot lights - were adequate or could be improved for the future

Additionally the NMPRC investigated whether or not the Electric IOU's (PNM, El Paso Electric, SPS) had a role in causing the natural gas outage.

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- 2/17 Senate signs SM 30 directing PRC to convene task force to study the causes of the outage and recommend solutions
- 2/21 House signs HM 22; identical to SM 30
- 2/21 US Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Bingaman and Udall, hearing in ABQ, representatives of ERCOT, FERC & NERC also to investigate
- 2/23 Staff sends out letter convening Working Group
- 2/28 After Action Review by Homeland Security
- 3/3 Staff Working Group meets and develops reporting schedule
- 3/7 Intervenors submitted their requests to be a party in the case. Those involved included: NM Gas Company, The Attorney General, El Paso Natural Gas Company, Town of Taos, County of Taos, City of Espanola, Town of Questa, Town of Red River, City of Alamogordo, NM Industrial Energy Consumers, and National Nuclear Security Administration.
- 3/16 Governor signs HB 452 creating Task Force headed by DFA
- 3/17 Direct Testimony of NMGC filed in Case No. 11-00039-UT
- 4/4 Working Group Reports Received
- 4/21 Working Group Teleconference
- 5/3 Hearing commences
- 5/5 Hearing concludes
- 5/25 Case Intervenors invited to Working Group
- 6/15 Report submitted by independent evaluator Michael L. Johnson
- 7/26 Final Briefs to be filed
- 7/28 Working Group Teleconference
- 8/31 Staff Working Group Report deadline