PJM Hurricane Sandy Update
October 29, 2012, 9:00 a.m.

Current Update
- The electric transmission system in the PJM region remains in good condition as Hurricane Sandy approaches. As of 9 a.m., Oct. 29, no serious issues were reported on the grid.

- Transmission line maintenance was deferred and all but two major lines were returned to service.

- PJM has scheduled additional generating units to be available to run along the east coast to replace generation that may be forced to shut down because of the storm. For example, nuclear power plants may be required to shut down when they experience extremely high winds or high water levels caused by hurricane surge.

- PJM member companies have staff prepared to respond to the expected damage from the storm. They have additional staff on standby and have called in additional crews from other areas. Their storm and emergency centers are in operation.

- PJM member companies have staffed many substations to monitor the equipment and respond without delay to problems. (Normally, substation equipment is monitored and controlled remotely.) Sandbags have been put into place at some substations at risk of flooding.

Background
- PJM is continuously monitoring the storm’s track and working closely with generation and transmission owners to take precautionary measures.

- Although high-voltage transmission lines often are not affected as much by hurricanes as local distribution networks, preparations are still needed to protect the integrity of the grid and keep supply and demand in balance throughout the storm and recovery.*

- PJM is working closely with transmission and generation owners to ensure that the grid is prepared and will coordinate any transmission system restoration efforts that may be necessary.

- Power reserves are expected to be adequate but could be affected by the hurricane, particularly if units are forced to shut down or reduce output.

- Generating plant operators in the PJM region are increasing staff to ensure continued availability.

* A hurricane’s greatest effects on the electric power system typically are on the distribution systems rather than the high-voltage transmission system. High winds may blow down trees and branches that pull down the wires serving neighborhood homes and businesses. Although a storm can affect the transmission system, usually, storm-related power outages result from distribution system damage.
PJM Interconnection, founded in 1927, ensures the reliability of the high-voltage electric power system serving 60 million people in all or parts of Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. PJM coordinates and directs the operation of the region’s transmission grid, which includes 59,750 miles of transmission lines; administers a competitive wholesale electricity market; and plans regional transmission expansion improvements to maintain grid reliability and relieve congestion. Visit PJM at www.pjm.com.