PJH Hurricane Sandy Update

October 29, 2012, 5:00 p.m.

Current Update

• As the storm reaches the coast and moves inland, its high winds are expected to cause widespread loss of electric service in the Mid-Atlantic region served by PJM Interconnection.

• As of 5 p.m., Oct. 29, an estimated 500,000 were without electric service in the PJM region because of the storm.

• As of 5 p.m., there have been limited problems on the transmission system.*

• Some generating stations near the coast may need to reduce power production or shut down because of flooding or high winds. However, there is enough generation available in the region to cover the loss of those generating plants. 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.

• 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. PJM will coordinate any transmission system restoration efforts that may be necessary.

• 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.

• Generating plant operators in the PJM region have increased staff to ensure continued availability.

• Transmission line maintenance was deferred.

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* 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.