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### Statewide gas outage updates

Latest on the crisis from around New Mexico

Updated: Friday, 04 Feb 2011, 3:38 PM MST  
Published : Thursday, 03 Feb 2011, 11:02 AM MST

- Energy currently anticipates having enough resources to meet demand based on the generating and gas supply situation at noon Thursday. However, if natural gas supplies to regional power plants are interrupted further, or if the company loses any generating capacity because of extremely cold weather, the company may be unable to meet customer demand. Customers can help prevent power emergencies by: Turning off unneeded lights, computers and appliances, setting the thermostat to 68 degrees or lower at home. "We take our responsibility to supply energy to our customers very seriously," said Riley Hill, president of Southwestern Public Service Company, an Xcel Energy company. "Our customers have helped us through similar situations in the past, and we look to them today to help us maintain the integrity of their electricity system. Turning off all lights and appliances that are not essential to health and safety will help us meet everyone's energy needs without service interruptions." If you experience an outage, please call us at 1-800-895-1999.
- Increase in frozen pipes reported across the city** - Due to severe temperatures, the Water Division is receiving reports of frozen pipes across the city. Residents whose water pipes are frozen are asked to call the main number at the Sangre de Cristo Water Division at (505) 955-4333. The Water Division will send a crew to determine if the frozen pipes are on city property or on the resident's property. If the freeze is on the city side, crews will either change out the water meter or use specialized equipment to thaw the pipes. If the freeze is on the residents' side, the resident will be advised to use a blow dryer to thaw out the pipes and never use a torch or open flame of any kind to thaw the pipes. An open flame will melt plastic pipes and create a fire danger. Frigid temperatures are expected to last through Friday. Residents are reminded to dress in layers and to bring pets and plants inside. Also, in order to prevent frozen pipes, leave a slow drip from the cold-water faucet that is furthest away from the water meter.
- American Red Cross in New Mexico assisting with cold weather disaster** - ARCNM is supporting a city-run shelter in Alamogordo, NM with cots, blankets and basic food items. ARCNM is on standby to support a city-run shelter in Tularosa, NM. That shelter currently has a population of zero. ARCNM and its Disaster Action Team volunteers are on standby to open a warming shelter in Rio Rancho, NM. The Emergency Manager in Taos County has requested an ARCNM presence at the county Emergency Operations Center in response to mass gas outages in the area. Shelter locations are currently being identified, and Red Cross volunteers have been notified. ARCNM has been put on standby for possible shelter operations throughout Albuquerque. A Red Cross liaison has been sent to the city's Emergency Operations Center.
- State emergency operations center activates to level three due to power and gas outages across New Mexico** - Cabinet Secretary Designate Michael S. Duvall has ordered the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to activate to Level 3 operations status due to the effects of the extreme cold in communities across New Mexico. Various utility companies are unable to keep up with the high demand for increased power and fuel due to sub-zero temperatures. Activation to this level means additional Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management staff will operate the EOC and coordinate any local requests for assistance. The EOC will also stay in communication with emergency managers in the state in order to anticipate additional problems that may be created by the extremely cold temperatures.

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corinne.lebrun says:  
February 04, 2011, 8:52AM

New Mexico has the nations largest field of natural gas reserves, and provides 10% of the ENTIRE nations natural gas. . . um so . . why are we getting as from Texas and not New Mexico?? Can anyone explain this?



JustTex says:  
February 03, 2011, 10:16PM

Psssst. Hey, New Mexico. Windmills won't turn without wind. And solar panels won't create any electricity, whenever the sun doesn't shine.

#### Latest News



#### Evening News Webcast: Feb. 4, 2011

In this Webcast: Mark Ronchetti's forecast frigid forecast. Three-alarm fire wrecks apartment building. Communities still waiting for restored gas service.

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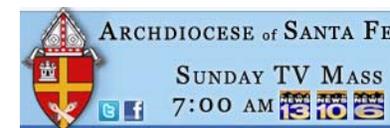
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lobo59 says:

February 03, 2011, 8:35PM

To be clear. The PRC does not "run" NMG. NMG is a corporation that is run by its management and board of directors. NMG believes it has, and it does have, a fiduciary responsibility to make a profit. That is their job. They are not evil. The capitalist sy

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demonot says:

February 03, 2011, 7:27PM

I am not sure what state lobo59 is from but here in New Mexico the Gas Co. is run by the Public Regulation Commision. they ok where to get the gas how much to pay for it and how much can be charged for it and how to deliver it. Not to mention the evil pro

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rraabfaber says:

February 03, 2011, 6:44PM

I've always believed that KRQE news was reactionary and uninformed. After reading comments like those from candylynn and oropan, I understand why -- they're just giving their audience what they want to hear. I'm surprised you all pried your eyes away from

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**New Mexico Headlines**

APD: Semen found in store yogurt sample  
'Super Bowl flu' going around MDC  
Evening News Webcast: Feb. 4, 2011   
Communities still suffer without gas  
"It looked like Niagra Falls"

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