

SYSTEM

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POWER OUTAGES

Santo Domingo,
Dominican Republic,
02 September,
2009

blackout

Watch

Analysis of system power outages can help us learn and avoid similar events in the future. If you have information on any blackouts, please e-mail to:

<http://editor@pacw.org>

■ Dominican Republic:

A nationwide blackout swept the Dominican Republic at approximately 6:03 pm after a fault in the 138 KV cable between Boca Chica and Punta Caucedo. As a result, the protection systems opened the connection in the transmission substation, which left the plant at Andres isolated. A spokesman for AES Dominicana said the plant had around 1,560 megawatts on line during the blackout, while the demand was around 1,700.

■ **India:** A midnight power cut swept across Southern Kolkata and lasted about 15 minutes. Over 15,000 people were estimated to be in the affected areas when the shutdown occurred at the Kasba feeder station. A circuit-breaker suffered a technical trip due to a fault in load management distribution.

Khartoum,
Sudan,
09 October,
2009

Kampala,
Uganda,
09 October,
2009

Kolkata, India,
26 September,
2009

Sri Lanka,
09 October,
2009

Bandar Seri
Begawan, Brunei,
28 September,
2009

Jakarta,
Indonesia,
29 September,
2009

Melbourne
Australia,
08 October,
2009

■ **Brunei:** A disruption at the main electrical station sent many areas of Brunei into darkness at about 7:30 pm local time. The main turbine at Gadong Generator 2, which is linked with others in the area, went offline causing a loss of power across the tiny nation. Local hospitals were able to operate without incident using backup power until power was restored to most areas by approximately 10:30 pm.

■ **Indonesia:** An electricity substation that caught fire has been blamed for a blackout in the Indonesian capital. Several blasts were heard before the building burst into flames at 1:30 pm, causing power to fail in the eastern and southern areas of the city of 8.5 million. With traffic lights off at midday, many parts of the city experienced serious traffic jams with commuters stranded while workers tried to restore power.

■ **Sudan:** The capital city of Khartoum went dark for more than eight hours due to the simultaneous failure of each feeding unit at the new Merowe dam. The dam

currently accounts for nearly 65% of the electricity generated in the country at 250 MW, though it is expected to reach full capacity by producing 1250 MW this November.

■ **Australia:** Power was cut to about 103,000 homes in large sections of Melbourne after a fault at the Keilor terminal station caused it to completely shut down. The specific cause of the fault is still under investigation, but power had been restored to most customers within 30 minutes, while others had to wait an hour and a half.

■ **Sri Lanka:** A massive power blackout plunged the entire island of Sri Lanka into darkness for several hours due to a technical fault at an electricity distribution center. A cable break in a key 132 KV transmission line in the capital of Colombo is suspected of causing

three consecutive failures of the entire power grid, leading to the worst blackout in the history of the tiny Indian Ocean Island.

■ **Uganda:** Nearly 1,000 residents of Arua demonstrated outside the offices of the West Nile Rural Electrification Company after a three week power blackout. The cause of the outage was a breakdown at the local thermal plant, which is supposed to supply the area with power while construction of the 5 MW Nyagak hydropower dam is being constructed. However the dam is over two years behind schedule, and work has been halted since March. ■