

# SYSTEM

34

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# POWER OUTAGES

Hamburg,  
Germany,  
04 July, 2009

Republic of  
Malta  
16 June, 2009

Manchester,  
Jamaica,  
18 June,  
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](mailto:editor@pacw.org)

■ Most of Nagpur's 2.4 million residents lost power at around 9pm when the 220/132 KV interconnecting transformer developed a major snag at the 220KV Ambazari substation. The restoration of an earlier fault at the Kanhan line was blamed to be the cause of the systemwide shutdown.

■ Several towns near Nairobi were hit by a power blackout lasting over 4 hours. The area, which is home to roughly 400,000 inhabitants, was without power due to a fault in its main power supply line in the Githurai area of Nairobi. The 132 KV station, is thought to have lost power when a conductor snapped.

**Khartoum,  
Sudan  
1 July, 2009**

**Karachi,  
Pakistan,  
17 June,  
2009**

**Nagpur, India,  
21 May,  
2009**

**Nairobi,  
Kenya,  
15 June, 2009**

**Harare,  
Zimbabwe,  
15 June,  
2009**

**New South  
Wales,  
Australia,  
02 July, 2009**

■ Vast swathes of Zimbabwe were plunged into darkness at 8 pm local time after the ZESA lost power supplies from the Hwange and Kariba power stations. HCB which operates the Cahora Bassa dam on the Zambezi river later claimed that disturbances in the grid forced them to activate safety systems to protect the integrity and proper functioning of their equipment, and to prevent the defects from spreading any further.

■ Malta and neighboring Gozo were hit with a total blackout as power stations at Delimara and Marsa suddenly turned off at 10:30 am. Power was gradually being restored to some areas when a second outage happened at 4pm. Enemalta, which administers power to the island nation of approximately 400,000 residents, said the first outage was caused by a 'technical fault', with the second being blamed on a turbine at the Marsa power plant that tripped.

■ A major power outage left Pakistan's 'City of Lights' and its 15 million residents in the dark. A technical fault was to blame for the outage, which led to a sleepless night for many in the summer heat

with no fans or air conditioning. Essential services were suspended and several major industries were shut.

■ Nearly twenty communities in Manchester district suffered lengthy power outages, with many lasting over 24 hours. JPS, the island's main electricity provider, has attributed the outage to transformer damage in the Othersfield area. The company said a preliminary assessment pointed to illegal connections to its grid as playing a major role in the outage.

■ A fault at the Bayswater power station affected two other electricity generators in Queensland and Victoria. Approximately 100,000 residents in New South Wales and another 50,000 households in Queensland were without power, as roughly 1000 MW of power was shed from the grid.

■ Germany's largest port city suddenly went black after a nearby nuclear reactor shut down when a

transformer short-circuited. The Krummel nuclear plant was recently re-opened and the planned restart has been accompanied by several minor issues that culminated in a complete shutdown. Officials say the plant will stay offline until the cause is discovered. Under current laws, the plant is set to shut down permanently in 2018.

■ A continued loss of energy supply was deemed to be the cause of repeated blackouts that plunged Sudan into darkness leading the National Electricity Corporation to disconnect the Merowe dam supply grid from the national grid. The dam, which went into operation in March, is supposed to double the country's electricity output by November 2009. The Energy Minister later acknowledged that the power generated from the dam thus far has been unstable, with local residents complaining that repeated blackouts have also led to water outages.