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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

NEW MEXICO (KRQE) - Gas and electric companies across New Mexico are encountering issues this week due to the extreme cold and increased demand for heat.

Below are news releases, statements and updates related to the energy emergency:

- **Three communities declare state of emergency** - Taos County, Santa Clara Indian Pueblo, and Taos Pueblo have all officially declared a State of Emergency due to the disruption in natural gas service in Northern New Mexico that occurred on February 3, 2011, causing significant impairment to community members, private property and other public infrastructure challenges in these communities. New Mexico Gas Company's latest report is that there are approximately 24,500 customers without natural gas. For the most current information on the relight schedule please visit the [New Mexico Gas Company's emergency webpage](#).

National Weather Service reports that the worst of the cold weather has passed. A day to day warming trend will continue through the weekend. There are no significant weather concerns tonight. Isolated snow showers are expected over the northern mountains after midnight. Lows will trend up another 10-20 degrees. The next significant weather disturbance will bring a chance of snow to the northern mountains and northeast on Saturday, with chances of snow increasing and expanding across the east and north Saturday evening into Sunday morning. Snow accumulations generally in the 1 to 3 inch range are predicted at the lower elevations, with up to 6 inches across the higher terrain. more significant storm system is possible during the Tuesday-Wednesday period next week, and the National Weather Service will continue to provide updates in the coming days.

- **Mayor Swisstack urges Rio Rancho residents to conserve natural gas** - Mayor Swisstack is asking the citizens of Rio Rancho to conserve natural gas by lowering thermostats, limiting hot water usage, and keeping animals inside. "We are asking the citizens of Rio Rancho to do our part to conserve natural gas to help everyone throughout the state," said the Mayor. Early Thursday morning the New Mexico Gas Company announced that, due to rolling blackouts in West Texas and other problems, the delivery of natural gas into New Mexico has been impeded. Thousands of New Mexicans across the State are without gas service. City services and facilities remain open on a regular schedule. The City Hall building is not heated by natural gas. For more information on the service disruptions, [visit the New Mexico Gas Company website](#); click on Emergency Updates.
- **Santa Clara Pueblo Senior Center providing meals** - Officials at Santa Clara Pueblo announced that beginning today at noon they are providing meals until this event is over. They are also reopening their shelter located at Santa Clara Pueblo Senior Center, #2 Kee Street, Santa Clara Pueblo. For more information call the Tribal hotline at: (505) 753-7326.

- **Taos gas outage update** - Taos, Questa and Red River: As these areas depend on the progress of purging the main pipeline from Espanola to Red River, crews currently anticipate beginning relights Saturday and working through Sunday.

### Latest News



#### APD: Semen found in store yogurt sample

An Albuquerque police source tells News 13 a Greek yogurt sample a Sunflower Market employee handed a customer last week was tainted with semen. [More »](#)

### Cold Weather Resources

Call New Mexico Gas Company's hotline at (505) 697-3335 to report an outage.  
Call PNM's hotline at 1-888-342-5766 to report an outage.

#### • NM Gas Co. Emergency Updates and Resources

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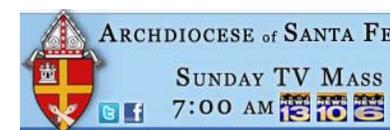


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• **Red River gas outage** - Based on what we know, the NM Gas Company has dispatched additional crews from Albuquerque and is making good progress on the gas shut-off process. Once all gas meters in Red River, Questa, and Taos are shut off they will start re-pressurizing the main gas line, and once that line is re-pressurized they will start re-lighting homes and businesses. There is potential for them to start re-lighting tonight or tomorrow. The NM Gas Company is critically committed to getting us all re-lit. They have enlisted the help of volunteer firefighters to assist them in getting the meters turned off and on in the quickest manor possible. Do not be alarmed if someone not in uniform is accompanying personnel from the NMGC. We will keep you updated on any information we receive about when they may be restoring our gas service. It is important to realize that someone will need to be at your home or business when the gas company comes to re-light your pilots and restore your service. It is a good idea to start planning who will be there to meet them (it could be day or night). It is still crucial to conserve as much electricity as possible. The Town of Red River will not turn on the street lights until gas service is restored. PLEASE turn off any Christmas lights you have on your building (home and business). We did have a power outage last night, but thanks to Kit Carson Electric's proactive measures power was restored in 15-20 minutes. Also, we did have a structure fire this morning as a result of alternative/additional methods of heating to avoid frozen pipes. The Red River Fire Dept (along with Wheeler Peak, Moreno Valley, Questa, Taos, and Eagle Nest Fire Departments) responded to a three-alarm fire at the Golden Eagle Lodge this morning. All of the affected units were

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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.

Shouldn't somebody tell that to the --Green-- politicians and to all the well paid bureaucrats too?

Maybe they'll listen now...



[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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