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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

- at local lodging establishments; Questa had zero individuals sheltered; Taos had one. However, it is anticipated that greater numbers will result tonight in Questa and Taos. No one knows the potential duration of this outage event, but emergency responders are planning on at least three more days -- through Monday, Feb. 7, 2011. The New Mexico Gas Co. will be out today with field crews in Questa and Taos, checking/reading/and turning off gas meters. This is part of the process required to eventually be able to re-pressurize/re-energize the system once natural gas is again available. Taos Volunteer Fire Department representatives are being trained this morning in order to assist NM Gas staff in this extensive process. Yesterday Taos Mayor Darren Cordova worked with Governor Susana Martinez to enable this expansion of field crews with local experts. It is estimated that there are approximately 10,800 customers affected in the Northern New Mexico area. Yesterday, field crews turned off meters in Red River, and began in Questa. Please do not impede these crews in their task -- the faster they are able to get this job done, the further along we will be toward having service restored. NOTE: Some of these field crews may not be in "uniform" so media - please help constituents know that they are assisting New Mexico Gas and no one should be alarmed at their presence. All is good with water, electricity, gasoline, food: In Taos, all resources are holding up and are being replenished/deliveries occurring. The two Chevron stations are currently waiting for a fuel delivery, but other stations are ready to serve you this morning. Propane resources are plentiful for those heating with propane - Kit Carson Propane is one source, 758-7757. Taos County/Town of Taos staff and law enforcement, plus State Police, and other emergency responders have been monitoring and assisting with making sure such essentials are in place. Later on today, details will be released about a food program specifically for children and seniors who are dependent on local food programs -- many of which are prepared at locations where natural gas is used. Flyers will also be walked around the Taos community to provide additional information for residents at the grassroots level. Remember: Check on neighbors, family, friends -- and consolidate heat resources -- try to gather at a single location and conserve all energy. We want to "go easy" on the electric grid at this point in time. Do NOT use improperly vented heating sources in your home. These can cause carbon monoxide poisoning. That includes small propane heaters, barbecues, etc. -- DO NOT BRING THESE INDOORS. Only vented, properly inspected wood burning fireplaces/woodstoves should be utilized for warmth outside of electric heaters. Also, candles can be dangerous - monitor these and electric heaters as they can be a potential fire danger.
- No major gas service interruptions reported in Albuquerque overnight** - Mayor Richard J. Berry and other local officials were briefed early this morning at the city's Emergency Operations Center on the latest developments relating to the natural gas situation in Albuquerque and throughout the state. The most recent information received from the New Mexico Gas Company indicates that the company's pressure is holding in the Albuquerque area, but some cities around the state were still without gas service. Mayor Berry once again thanked the community for pitching in to conserve natural gas at their homes and businesses. "We asked the community to pitch in by taking steps to conserve natural gas and they answered the call. We are extremely grateful for their efforts which we believe have helped significantly to keep the system in Albuquerque steady overnight. We ask that they continue to keep their thermostats dialed down and limit hot water use throughout the day and until the situation has been resolved," said Mayor Berry. There are areas of the state still without gas. The city is prepared to assist displaced New Mexicans at Highland High School, which remains the main location for sheltering through Sunday, on a stand by basis. Residents in affected areas who need shelter should contact 311 or 505-768-2000 to confirm sheltering information. The city Emergency Operations Center will stay activated on a limited basis. All city and county community centers will be open during normal business hours for regularly scheduled activities. Many city employees worked extended hours overnight. Yesterday Water Authority officials received more than 400 reports of water leaks or lack of water due to frozen pipes. People experiencing water emergencies should call the Water Authority at 842-9287 (press option 1). If they cannot get through, they can report the water problems to 311. Citizens are advised to call a plumber for water problems of a non-emergency nature. The Albuquerque Police Department COAST Team members were out on the streets of Albuquerque again last night

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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?

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'Super Bowl' going around MDC

Super Bowl Sunday is practically a national holiday that goes hand-in-hand with chips, dips, booze -- and calling in sick the following Monday. [More »](#)

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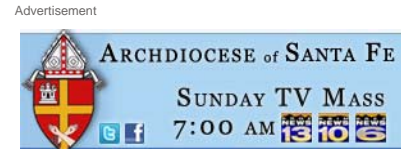
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JustTex says:

February 03, 2011, 10:16PM

Pssst. 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...

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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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