

Entergy system being strained across 4 states

The Associated Press
May 10, 2011

Power provider [Entergy Corp.](#) said Tuesday that storm damage in Arkansas, combined with high-water threats from the [Mississippi River](#) and hot weather are putting a strain on its four-state electricity system.



Susan Poag, The Times-Picayune archive Entergy lineworkers in 2009. Entergy announced Tuesday that damage from flooding in Arkansas and an early heat wave have strained their system.

So far, Entergy's 2.7 million customers in Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas are not in danger of power curtailments or blackouts because of a system overload, said **Philip Allison, a spokesman for the company's Entergy New Orleans division.**

Entergy has started cutting back power to some industrial customers covered by contracts that allow the company to curtail their usage during period of heavy demand, the company said. In the meantime, Entergy is arranging to buy extra power from wholesale providers, Allison said.

Hot weather also has settled across Entergy's service territory earlier than usual during a time when some generation plants are shut down for maintenance in anticipation of peak summer loads, Allison said. Entergy also is continuing to repair recent storm damage to its Arkansas transmission facilities, which is putting an additional load on the system.

"It's a combination of factors that happened all at once. It's catching up from that storm damage, flood conditions, routine maintenance that happens from time to time at some facilities and, obviously, it's been warmer lately, which puts a higher demand on the system," Allison said.

In addition, the threat of flooding along the Mississippi River and its tributaries could force reduced generation or shutdowns of generators for safety reasons, Entergy said.

For now, Allison said Entergy is asking customers to conserve power. "The situations are being monitored, we're asking customers to conserve, but there's no danger right now" of curtailments or blackouts, he said.

Allison said utility regulators in the four affected states are being kept up to date.