

Selected major blackouts

U.S. Northeast Blackout (Nov 1965)

Loss of over 20,000 MW of load and affected 30 million people. Virtually all of New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, small segments of northern Pennsylvania and northeastern New Jersey, and substantial areas of Ontario, Canada, were affected. Outages lasted for up to 13 hours

New York City Blackout (Jul 1977)

Loss of 6,000 MW of load and affected 9 million people in New York City. Outages lasted for up to 26 hours

U.S. West Coast Blackout (Dec 1982)

Loss of 12,350 MW of load and affected over 5 million people in the West

U.S. West Coast Blackout (Jul 1996)

Loss of 11,850 MW of load and affected 2 million people in the West. Customers were affected in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming in the United States; Alberta and British Columbia in Canada; and Baja California Norte in Mexico. Outages lasted from a few minutes to several hours.

U.S. West Coast Blackout (Aug 1996)

Loss of over 28,000 MW of load and affected 7.5 million people in the West. Customers were affected in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming in the United States; Alberta and British Columbia in Canada; and Baja California Norte in Mexico. Outages lasted from a few minutes to as long as nine hours.

U.S. Upper Midwest Blackout (Jun 1998)

Loss of 950 MW of load and affected 152,000 people in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin in the United States; and Ontario, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan in Canada. Outages lasted up to 19 hours

Southern Brazil (Mar 1999)

Outage hit 97 million people across southern states of Brazil including cities of Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo.

India Blackout (Jan 2001)

Outage hits 230 million people

U.S. Northeast Blackout (Aug 2003)

The outage affected an area with an estimated 50 million people and 61,800 megawatts (MW) of electric load in the states of Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey and the Canadian province of Ontario.

India Blackouts (Jul 2012)

Outages hit 620 million people across northern India on July 30-31.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy (Final Report on the August 2003 Blackout), New York Times, and @JKempEnergy