This Energy Risk Profile examines the relative magnitude of the risks that the Rocky Mountain Region’s energy infrastructure routinely encounters in comparison with the probable impacts. The Rocky Mountain Region consists of the States of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah and Wyoming. Natural and man-made hazards with the potential to cause disruption of the energy infrastructure are identified.

The Risk Profile highlights risk considerations relating to the electric, petroleum and natural gas infrastructures to become more aware of risks to these energy systems and assets.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION FACTS

Region Overview
- Population: 11.4 million (4% total U.S.)
- Housing Units: 4.7 million (4% total U.S.)
- Business Establishments: 0.3 million (4% total U.S.)

Annual Energy Consumption
- Electric Power: 130 TWh (4% total U.S.)
- Coal: 70,950 MSTN (8% total U.S.)
- Natural Gas: 1,500 Bcf (7% total U.S.)
- Motor Gasoline: 117,700 Mbarrels (4% total U.S.)
- Distillate Fuel: 69,400 Mbarrels (4% total U.S.)

Annual Energy Production
- Electric Power Generation: 185 TWh (5% total U.S.)
- Coal: 122.8 TWh, 66% [19.3 GW total capacity]
- Petroleum: 0.6 TWh, <1% [10.6 GW total capacity]
- Natural Gas: 20.0 TWh, 11% [0.2 GW total capacity]
- Nuclear: 0 TWh, 0% [0 GW total capacity]
- Hydro: 25.1 TWh, 14% [6.9 GW total capacity]
- Other Renewable: 16.4 TWh, 9% [5.8 GW total capacity]
- Coal: 483,700 MSTN (48% total U.S.)
- Natural Gas: 4,290 Bcf (18% total U.S.)
- Crude Oil: 163,800 Mbarrels (9% total U.S.)
- Ethanol: 4,300 Mbarrels (1% total U.S.)

NATURAL HAZARDS OVERVIEW

Annual Frequency of Occurrence of Natural Hazards (1996–2014)

- According to NOAA, the most common natural hazard in the Rocky Mountain Region is Flood, which occurs once every 3.8 days on the average during the months of March to October.
- The second-most common natural hazard in the region is Other, which occurs once every 8.3 days on the average.

Annualized Property Loss due to Natural Hazards (1996–2014)

- As reported by NOAA, the natural hazard in the Rocky Mountain Region that caused the greatest overall property loss during 1996 to 2014 is Thunderstorm & Lightning at $119.7 million per year.
- The natural hazard with the second-highest property loss in the region is Flood at $113.7 million per year.
Electric Power Plants: 429 (8% total U.S.)
- Coal-fired: 46 (8% total U.S.)
- Petroleum-fired: 26 (2% total U.S.)
- Natural Gas-fired: 73 (4% total U.S.)
- Nuclear: 0 (0% total U.S.)
- Hydro-electric: 180 (12% total U.S.)
- Other Renewable: 104 (7% total U.S.)

Transmission Lines:
- High-Voltage (>230 kV): 14,370 Miles
- Low-Voltage (<230 kV): 15,080 Miles
Electric Transmission

According to NERC, the leading cause of electric transmission outages in the Rocky Mountain Region is Faulty Equipment/Human Error.

The region experienced 144 electric transmission outages from 1992 to 2009, affecting a total of 3 million electric customers. Transmission Line Faults and Overloads affected the largest number of electric customers as a result of electric transmission outages.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Number of Customers Disrupted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faulty Equipment / Human Error</td>
<td>277,733</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmission Line Faults and Overloads</td>
<td>1,719,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Severe Weather - Lightning</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection System Misoperation</td>
<td>38,263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unknown Cause</td>
<td>259,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Causes</td>
<td>746,667</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of NERC-Reported Electric Transmission Outages by Cause (1992–2009)

- Faulty Equipment / Human Error: 51 incidents
- Transmission Line Faults and Overloads: 29 incidents
- Severe Weather - Lightning: 11 incidents
- Protection System Misoperation: 14 incidents
- Unknown Cause: 15 incidents
- All Other Causes: 24 incidents

Data Source: NERC

Electric Distribution

Between 2008 and 2013, the greatest number of electric outages in the Rocky Mountain Region has occurred during the month of October.

The leading cause of electric during 2008 to 2013 was Faulty Equipment/Human Error.

On average, the number of people affected annually by electric outages during 2008 to 2013 was 570,871.

The average duration of electric outages in the region during 2008 to 2013 was 14,765 minutes or 246 hours a year.

Data Source: Eaton

NOTE: # of Incidents – The number within each pie slice is the number of event incidents attributable to each cause.
PETROLEUM

Petroleum Infrastructure Overview
- Refineries: 17 (12% total U.S.)
- Terminals: 87 (4% total U.S.)
- Crude Pipelines: 5,980 Miles (12% total U.S.)
- Product Pipelines: 57,120 Miles (9% total U.S.)
- Bio-Refineries (Ethanol): 8 (4% total U.S.)
Petroleum Transport

Top Events Affecting Petroleum Transport by Truck and Rail (1986–2014)

The leading event type affecting the transport of petroleum product by rail and truck during 1986 to 2014 was Incorrect Operation for rail transport and Incorrect Operation for truck transport, with an average 5.8 and 16.8 incidents per year, respectively.

Petroleum Refinery

The leading cause of petroleum refinery disruptions in the Rocky Mountain Region from 2003 to 2014 was Other Causes. The region’s petroleum refineries experienced 148 major incidents from 2003 to 2014. The weighted average production impact from all disruptions at the refineries within the region from 2003 to 2014 is 56.2 thousand barrels per day.

Natural Gas Infrastructure Overview

- Gas Wells: 68,210 (14% total U.S.)
- Processing Plants: 101 (20% total U.S.)
- Storage Fields: 26 (6% total U.S.)
- Interstate Pipelines: 55,440 Miles (11% total U.S.)
- Local Distribution Companies: 62 (4% total U.S.)
Natural Gas Transport

The leading event type affecting natural gas transmission and distribution pipelines in the Rocky Mountain Region during 1986 to 2014 was Material/Weld Failures for Transmission Pipelines and Outside Force for Distribution Pipelines, with an average 1.03 and 2.42 incidents per year, respectively.

Top Events Affecting Natural Gas Transmission and Distribution (1986–2014)

Natural Gas Processing

According to data derived from DOE’s Energy Assurance Daily, the leading cause of natural gas processing plant disruptions in the Rocky Mountain Region from 2005 to 2014 is Fire and/or Explosion. The region’s natural gas processing plants experienced 10 disruptions from 2005 to 2014. The weighted average production impact from all disruptions at the natural gas processing plants within the region from 2005 to 2014 is 579 million cubic feet per day (MMcfd).


Average Production Impact by Disruption Type (MMcfd) at Natural Gas Processing Plants (2005–2014)
Overview Information

- Census Bureau (2012) State and County QuickFacts [http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/download_data.html]

Production Numbers


Consumption Numbers


Electricity

- Platts (2014 Q2) Transmission Lines (Miles by Voltage Level)
- Platts (2014 Q2) Power Plants (Production and Capacity by Type)

Petroleum

- Argonne National Laboratory (2012) Petroleum Terminal Database
- Argonne National Laboratory (2014) Ethanol Plants
- NPMS (2011) Petroleum Product Pipeline (Miles of Interstate Pipeline)
- NPMS (2011) Crude Pipeline (Miles of Interstate Pipeline)

Natural Gas

- EIA (2013) Number of Producing Gas Wells [http://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_prod_wells_s1_a.htm]
- NPMS (2011) Natural Gas Pipeline (Miles of Interstate Pipeline)
- Platts (2014 Q2) Local Distribution Companies (LDCs)

Event Related

- *The NERC disturbance reports are not published after 2009.

Notes

- Natural Hazard, Other, includes extreme weather events such as astronomical low tide, dense smoke, frost/freeze, and rip currents.
- Each incident type is an assembly of similar causes reported in the data source. Explanations for the indescribable incident types are below.
  - Outside Force refers to pipeline failures due to vehicular accident, sabotage, or vandalism.
  - Natural Forces refers to damage that occurs as a result of naturally occurring events (e.g., earth movements, flooding, high winds, etc.)
  - Miscellaneous/Unknown includes releases or failures resulting from any other cause not listed or of an unknowable nature.
  - Overdemand refers to outages that occur when the demand for electricity is greater than the supply, causing forced curtailment.
  - Number (#) of Incidents – The number within each pie chart piece is the number of outages attributable to each cause.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
U.S. Department of Energy
Phone: 202-586-2264
Email: energyresponsecenter@hq.doe.gov