West Coast Region
ENERGY SECTOR RISK PROFILE

This Energy Risk Profile examines the relative magnitude of the risks that the West Coast Region’s energy infrastructure routinely encounters in comparison with the probable impacts. The West Coast Region consists of the States of Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon and Washington State. 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.

WEST COAST REGION FACTS

Region Overview
Population: 60.8 million (19% total U.S.)
Housing Units: 23.3 million (18% total U.S.)
Business Establishments: 1.4 million (19% total U.S.)

Annual Energy Consumption
Electric Power: 524.9 TWh (14% total U.S.)
Coal: 31,146 MSTN (4% total U.S.)
Natural Gas: 4,065 Bcf (17% total U.S.)
Motor Gasoline: 535,200 Mbarrels (18% total U.S.)
Distillate Fuel: 180,000 Mbarrels (13% total U.S.)

Annual Energy Production
Electric Power Generation: 541 TWh (13% total U.S.)
Coal: 54.2 TWh, 10% [11.3 GW total capacity]
Petroleum: 8.9 TWh, 2% [75.1 GW total capacity]
Natural Gas: 196.3 TWh, 36% [3.7 GW total capacity]
Nuclear: 59.8 TWh, 11% [7.7 GW total capacity]
Hydro: 167.3 TWh, 31% [46.2 GW total capacity]
Other Renewable: 54.2 TWh, 10% [22.2 GW total capacity]

Coal: 9,500 MSTN (1% total U.S.)
Natural Gas: 600 Bcf (3% total U.S.)
Crude Oil: 390,000 Mbarrels (21% total U.S.)
Ethanol: 6,100 Mbarrels (2% total U.S.)

NATURAL HAZARDS OVERVIEW

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazard</th>
<th>Annual Frequency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drought</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earthquake (EQ)</td>
<td>263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme Heat</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landslide</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunderstorm &amp; Lightning</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tornado</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Storm &amp; Extreme Cold</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: NOAA

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hazard</th>
<th>Annualized Property Loss (Million per Year)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Drought</td>
<td>$2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earthquake (EQ)</td>
<td>$188.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extreme Heat</td>
<td>$29.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood</td>
<td>$190.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hurricane</td>
<td>$14.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landslide</td>
<td>$10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>$4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thunderstorm &amp; Lightning</td>
<td>$195.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tornado</td>
<td>$41.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Storm &amp; Extreme Cold</td>
<td>$275.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: NOAA

- According to NOAA, the most common natural hazard in the West Coast Region is Earthquakes, which occurs once every 1.4 days on the average.
- The second-most common natural hazard in the region is Flood, which occurs once every 2.4 days on the average during the months of October to March.
- As reported by NOAA, the natural hazard in the West Coast Region that caused the greatest overall property loss during 1996 to 2014 is Wildfire at $275.7 million per year.
- The natural hazard with the second-highest property loss in the region is Thunderstorm and Lightning at $195.5 million per year.
Electric Power Plants: 1,407 (24% total U.S.)
- Coal-fired: 24 (4% total U.S.)
- Petroleum-fired: 131 (12% total U.S.)
- Natural Gas-fired: 367 (21% total U.S.)
- Nuclear: 4 (6% total U.S.)
- Hydro-electric: 454 (31% total U.S.)
- Other Renewable: 427 (30% total U.S.)

Transmission Lines:
- High-Voltage (>230 kV): 17,800 Miles
- Low-Voltage (<230 kV): 22,455 Miles
Electric Transmission

- According to NERC, the leading cause of electric transmission outages in the West Coast Region is **Faulty Equipment/Human Error and Other Causes**.
- The region experienced **230 electric transmission outages** from 1992 to 2009, affecting a total of **24.8 million customers**.
- **Other Causes** affected the largest number of electric customers as a result of electric transmission outages.


![Graph showing electric transmission outages by cause](image)

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

- Faulty Equipment / Human Error: 79
- Transmission Line Faults and Overloads: 79
- Severe Weather - High Winds: 13
- Natural Disaster - Wildfire: 14
- Severe Weather - Lightning: 24
- All Other Causes: 21
- # of Incidents: 60

Data Source: NERC

Electric Distribution

**Electric Utility Reported Power Outages by Month (2008–2013)**

![Graph showing power outages by month](image)

**Between 2008 and 2013, the greatest number of electric outages in the West Coast Region has occurred during the month of December.**
- The leading cause of electric outages 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 **5.2 million**.
- The average duration of electric outages in the region during 2008 to 2013 was **54,270 minutes or 905 hours a year**.


- Animal: 980
- Faulty Equipment / Human Error: 215
- Overdemand: 395
- Planned: 813
- Theft / Vandalism: 39
- Unknown: 290
- Vehicle Accident: 39
- Weather / Falling Trees: 4
- # of Incidents: 1,403

**Utility Outage Data (2008–2013)**

![Graph showing outage data](image)

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

Petroleum Infrastructure Overview
- Refineries: 34 (24% total U.S.)
- Terminals: 299 (15% total U.S.)
- Crude Pipelines: 4,625 Miles (10% total U.S.)
- Product Pipelines: 97,020 Miles (16% total U.S.)
- Bio-Refineries (Ethanol): 10 (5% 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 Miscellaneous/Unknown for truck transport, with an average 13.8 and 41.2 incidents per year, respectively.

Petroleum Refinery

The leading cause of petroleum refinery disruptions in the West Coast Region from 2003 to 2014 was Maintenance/Turnaround. The region’s petroleum refineries experienced 1,588 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 104.8 thousand barrels per day.


Average Production Impact by Disruption Type (thousand barrels per day) at Petroleum Refineries (2003–2014)

Data Source: DOE OE
NATURAL GAS

Natural Gas Infrastructure Overview
- Gas Wells: 1,530 (<1% total U.S.)
- Processing Plants: 24 (5% total U.S.)
- Storage Fields: 19 (4% total U.S.)
- Interstate Pipelines: 68,340 Miles (14% total U.S.)
- Local Distribution Companies: 49 (3% total U.S.)

[Map of the West Coast Region showing natural gas infrastructure]
Natural Gas Transport

The leading event type affecting natural gas transmission and distribution pipelines in the West Coast Region during 1986 to 2014 was Outside Force for Transmission Pipelines and Outside Force for Distribution Pipelines, with an average 2.19 and 10.29 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 West Coast Region’s from 2005 to 2014 is Fuel Supply Problem and Fire and/or Explosion.

The region’s natural gas processing plants experienced 2 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 175 million cubic feet per day (MMcfd).


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

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


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:
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