



Operations  
2839 New Beaver Avenue  
Pittsburgh PA 15233

RECEIVED

APR 16 2010

PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
SECRETARY'S BUREAU

April 13, 2010

Mr. James McNulty, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Harrisburg PA 17105

Dear Secretary McNulty:

Attached is Duquesne's major event exclusion report for the storm that occurred on Friday, February 5, 2010. Should you require additional information, please feel free to contact me at (412) 393-8401.

Sincerely,

Patrick J. Conti  
Operations Center Manager

cc: John Clista  
Darren Gill  
Dennis Hosler  
Blaine Loper  
Dan Searfoorce

REQUEST FOR EXCLUSION OF MAJOR OUTAGE FOR  
RELIABILITY REPORTING PURPOSES TO  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
P O BOX 3265  
HARRISBURG, PA 17105-3265

**Reports require an original and one copy to be filed with the Secretary's Bureau.**

Information Required:

1. Reporting Utility: Duquesne Light Company  
Address: 2839 New Beaver Avenue  
Pittsburgh PA 15233

2. Name and title of person making report:

Patrick Conti  
Operations Center Manager

3. Telephone Number:

(412) 393-8401

4. Interruption or Outage:

(a) Number of customers affected:

130,184 customers were affected throughout the course of this snow storm from a total of approximately 580,000 customers in our service territory.

1,562,210 KVA affected (22% of System Load)  
System Connected Load of 7,050,027 KVA

At the peak of this storm, 57,000 customers experienced service interruptions.

(b) Number of troubled locations in each geographic area affected listed by county and local political subdivision:

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ALLEGHENY COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES						
Aspinwall	Carnegie	Edgeworth	Hill District	Moon	Regent Square	Swissvale
Aleppo	Carrick	Elliott	Homestead	Morningside	Reserve	Thornburg
Arlington Hgts	Castle Shannon	Emsworth	Homewood	Mount Lebanon	Richland	Trafford
Avalon	Chalfant	Esplen	Indiana	Mt Oliver	Robinson Twp	Troy Hill
Baldwin	Churchill	Esplen	Ingram	Mt Washington	Ross	Turtle Creek
Baldwin Boro	Clairton	Etna	Jefferson	Munhall	Roslyn Farms	Uptown
Banksville	Collier	Forest Hills	Kennedy	North Braddock	Scott	Verona
Beechview	Coraopolis	Fox Chapel	Kilbuck	North Side	Sewickley	Wall
Bell Acres	Crafton	Franklin Park	Knoxville	North Versailles	Sewickley Hgts	West Deer
Bellevue	Crescent	Garfield	Lawrenceville	O'Hara	Sewickley Hills	West Elizabeth
Beltzhoover	Dormont	Glassport	Leet	Oakland	Shadyside	West End
Ben Avon	Downtown	Greenfield	Leetsdale	Oakmont	Shaler	West Homestead
Ben Avon Hgts	Dravosburg	Greentree	Liberty	Ohio	Sharpsburg	West Mifflin

ALLEGHENY COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES (cont.)						
Bethel Park	Duquesne	Hampton	Lincoln Place	Overbrook	Sheraden	West View
Blawnox	East Carnegie	Hays	Manchester	Penn Hills	South Side	Westwood
Bloomfield	East Liberty	Haysville	McCandless	Pleasant Hills	Spring Hill	White Oak
Braddock	East McKeesport	Hazelwood	McKees Rocks	Plum	Squirrel Hill	Whitehall
Braddock Hills	East Pittsburgh	Heidelberg	McKeesport	Point Breeze	Stanton Heights	Wilkins
Brentwood	Edgebrook	Herron Hill	Millvale	Portvue	Stowe Twp	Wilkinsburg
Brookline	Edgewood	Highland Park	Monroeville	Rankin	Swisshelm Park	Wilmerding

BEAVER COUNTY MUNICIPALITIES						
Ambridge	Center	Findlay	Independence	Osborne	Vanport	
Aliquippa	Conway	Freedom	Industry	Patterson	West Mayfield	
Baden	Daugherty	Georgetown	Monaca	Patterson Hgts		
Beaver	East Rochester	Greene	New Brighton	Potter		
Beaver Falls	Eastvale	Hanover	New Sewickley	Pulaski		
Bridgewater	Economy	Harmony	Ohioville	Raccoon		
Brighton Twp	Fallston	Hopewell	Osborne	South Heights		

(c) Reason for interruption or outage, including weather data where applicable:

On Friday, February 5, 2010, heavy snow started falling in our service area in Allegheny and Beaver counties. This heavy, wet snow continued to fall, causing limbs and trees to break and fall into our power lines, resulting in service disruptions to our customers. The heavy snowfall and impassable roads made it difficult for our responders to initially assess damage and for our crews to reach some areas. The PA Department of Transportation closed major roadways.

We called our weather forecast service on Friday, February 5, 2010 and they reported the snow would begin around noon and continue overnight, with the heaviest snowfall of 1 to 2 inches per hour ending with an accumulation of 8 to 12 inches of snow on Saturday, February 6, 2010 by 1000 hours. The forecast called for a high of 34° on Friday and a low of 25°, with Saturday's high of 26° and a low of 12°, and Sunday's high of 22° with a low of 5°. We proactively scheduled additional crews for Friday evening and Saturday in anticipation of the snow. Our Storm Team was activated on Friday evening, February 5, 2010.

The National Weather Service in Pittsburgh issued winter storm warnings for Allegheny and Beaver counties until 1800 hours on Saturday, February 6, 2010. A record daily maximum snowfall of **11.4** inches was recorded for Friday, February 5, 2010. The previous record was 4.7 inches set in 1899. A record daily maximum snowfall of **9.7** inches was recorded for Saturday, February 6, 2010, breaking the previous record of 4.3 inches set in 1911.

According to the National Weather Service in Moon Township, the **21.1** inches of snow that fell from Friday, Feb 5, 2010 into Saturday, February 6, 2010, was the fourth-largest snowfall in Pennsylvania history. Additionally, this snow was very heavy and moisture laden in the two county area served by Duquesne.

On Saturday, February 6, 2010, Governor Edward G. Rendell declared a statewide disaster. The National Weather Service in Moon Township reported another milestone reached in western Pennsylvania meteorological history. The additional **7.9 inch** snowfall that fell on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 and Wednesday, February 10, 2010, will go down as the snowiest February in history. The total snowfall for the month as of February 10, 2010 is **29.9** inches.

Restoration efforts continued around the clock as we restored customers and found new cases of trouble. A Company representative was on-site at the Allegheny County Emergency Operations Center.



Repair work included replacing 440 primary wires & equipment, 1,030 secondary wires & equipment, 90 broken poles and 40 transformers. We experienced 124 circuit and device lockouts at the peak of this storm.

Duquesne Light processed over 75,000 reports of trouble from our customers which included: 3,400 wires down, 3,900 emergencies, 1,200 trees on lines, 200 damaged poles and 66,300 no-lights.

This storm response effort included 180 overhead workers, 50 troubleshooters, 25 underground workers, 25 substation workers, 109 contractor vegetation workers, along with 163 workers from neighboring utilities and electrical contractors helping with the repairs through mutual assistance agreements including: 25 from Henkels & McCoy, 23 from Penn Power (FE), 10 from Ohio-Edison (FE), 20 from Main Lite, 19 MJ Electric, 11 Bruce & Merrilees, 7 Casteel, 40 Thompson Electric and 8 contractors from Sargent.

This workforce was supplemented utilizing our Emergency Response Team in Operations, Transmission & Distribution Construction/Maintenance, Customer Services, Media Relations, Materials and Transportation.

(d) The number of utility workers and others assigned specifically to the repair work:

Overall, an estimated 860 personnel contributed to this restoration effort.

(e) The date and time of the first notification of a service interruption:

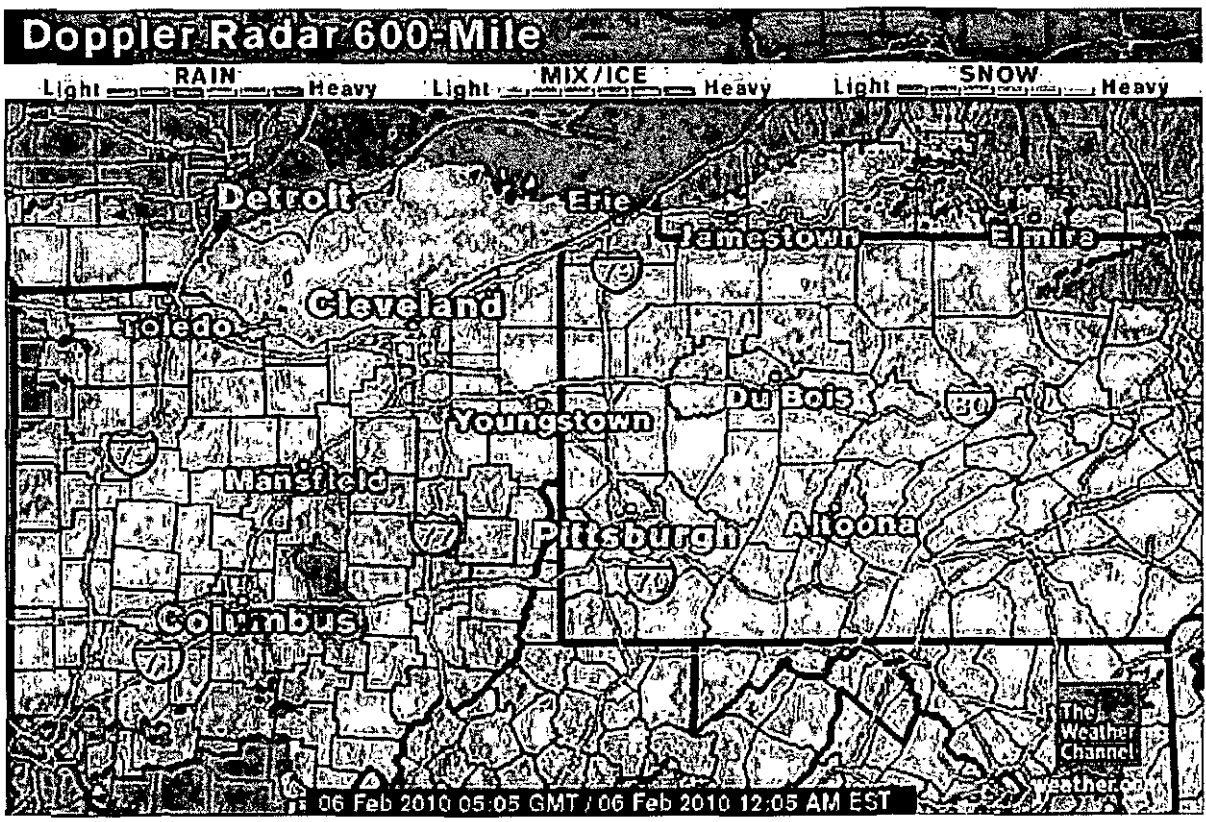
Friday, February 5, 2010 at approximately 1800 hours.

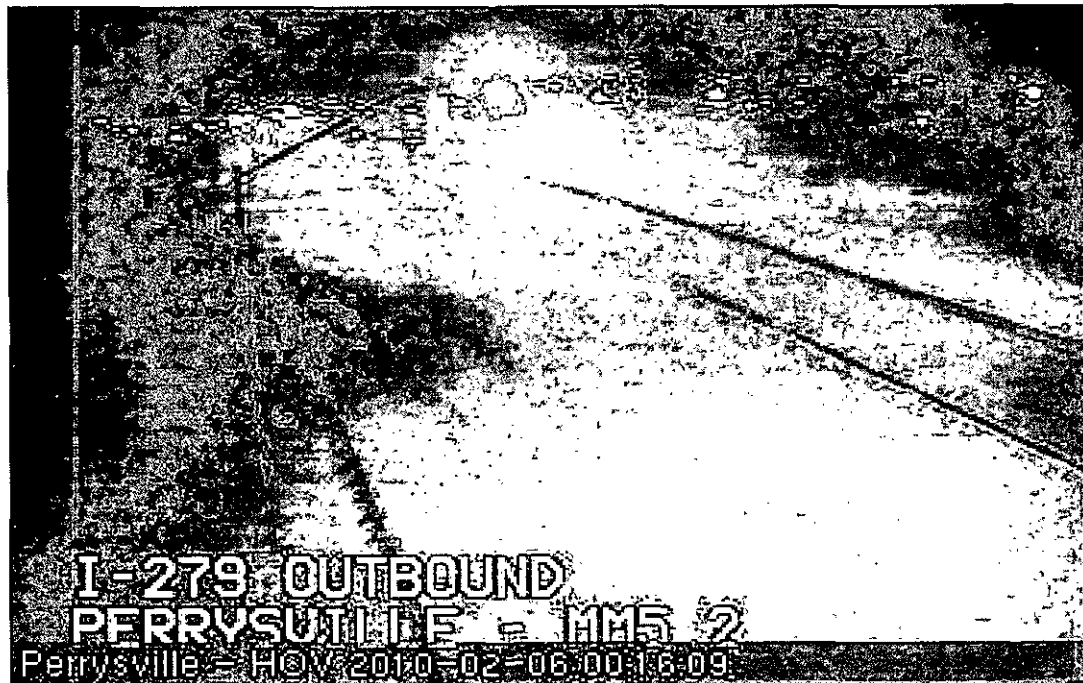
(f) The actual time that service was restored to the last affected customer:

Restoration for the last customer affected by this storm was at 1800 hours on Friday, February 12, 2010.

Remarks:

- Weather information is attached. Photos are attached. News articles are attached.
- Outage information was communicated to our customers and the media at regular intervals on the home page of our Duquesne Light web site ( [www.duquesnelight.com](http://www.duquesnelight.com) ) Our website was activated on February 6, 2010 and was updated several times a day through Friday, February 12, 2010. Simultaneous updates were sent to Twitter.





NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PITTSBURGH PA  
201 AM EST SAT FEB 06 2010

...RECORD DAILY MAXIMUM SNOWFALL SET AT PITTSBURGH PA...

A RECORD SNOWFALL OF 11.4 INCHES WAS SET AT PITTSBURGH PA YESTERDAY.  
THIS BREAKS THE OLD RECORD OF 4.7 INCHES SET IN 1899.

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PITTSBURGH PA  
1257 PM EST SAT FEB 6 2009

...RECORD DAILY MAXIMUM SNOWFALL SET AT PITTSBURGH PA...

A RECORD SNOWFALL OF 9.7 INCHES WAS SET AT PITTSBURGH PA TODAY.  
THIS BREAKS THE OLD RECORD OF 4.3 SET IN 1911.

ALLEGHENY-  
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...PITTSBURGH METRO AREA  
950 PM EST FRI FEB 5 2010

...WINTER STORM WARNING IN EFFECT UNTIL 6 PM EST SATURDAY...

.REST OF TONIGHT...SNOW. SNOW MAY BE HEAVY AT TIMES. SNOW  
ACCUMULATION 4 TO 8 INCHES. LOWS IN THE MID 20S. NORTHEAST WINDS  
AROUND 15 MPH WITH GUSTS UP TO 25 MPH. CHANCE OF SNOW NEAR  
100 PERCENT.

.SATURDAY...SNOW. HIGHS IN THE UPPER 20S. TOTAL SNOW ACCUMULATION  
12 TO 16 INCHES. NORTHEAST WINDS 10 TO 15 MPH WITH GUSTS UP TO  
25 MPH. CHANCE OF SNOW NEAR 100 PERCENT.

.SATURDAY NIGHT...MOSTLY CLOUDY. LOWS AROUND 8 ABOVE. COLDER.  
NORTH WINDS 5 TO 10 MPH.

.SUNDAY...MOSTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS IN THE LOWER 20S. NORTHWEST WINDS  
5 TO 10 MPH.

.SUNDAY NIGHT...MOSTLY CLOUDY. COLD WITH LOWS AROUND 11.  
NORTHWEST WINDS AROUND 5 MPH.

.MONDAY AND MONDAY NIGHT...MOSTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS IN THE MID 20S.  
LOWS 15 TO 20.

.TUESDAY...MOSTLY CLOUDY WITH A 40 PERCENT CHANCE OF SNOW. HIGHS  
AROUND 30.

.TUESDAY NIGHT...CLOUDY WITH A 50 PERCENT CHANCE OF SNOW. NEAR  
STEADY TEMPERATURE IN THE LOWER 20S.

.WEDNESDAY...CLOUDY WITH A 40 PERCENT CHANCE OF SNOW SHOWERS.  
HIGHS IN THE MID 20S.

.WEDNESDAY NIGHT...MOSTLY CLOUDY WITH A 30 PERCENT CHANCE OF SNOW  
SHOWERS. LOWS 15 TO 20.

.THURSDAY THROUGH FRIDAY...MOSTLY CLOUDY. HIGHS IN THE UPPER 20S.  
LOWS 15 TO 20.

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National Weather Service

FOURTH GREATEST STORM TOTAL SNOWFALL OF ALL-TIME FOR  
PITTSBURGH....

THIS HAS CERTAINLY BEEN A MEMORABLE AND RECORD BREAKING SNOWFALL  
FOR MUCH OF THE REGION. THE LATEST STORM TOTAL SNOWFALL FROM WFO  
PITTSBURGH IS 21.1 INCHES...WHICH STANDS AS THE FOURTH GREATEST  
RECORDED SNOWFALL FOR PITTSBURGH OF ALL-TIME BEHIND THE SUPERSTORM  
OF 1993 WHICH WAS AT 25.3 INCHES. THE RECORD CALENDAR DAY SNOWFALL  
WAS BROKEN FOR FEBRUARY YESTERDAY WITH 11.4 INCHES AND TODAY'S  
AMOUNT THUS FAR OF 9.7 HAS ALREADY BROKEN THE RECORD FOR DAILY  
SNOWFALL ON FEBRUARY 6TH.

According to the National Weather Service in Moon Township, we've hit another milestone in western Pennsylvania meteorological history. Thanks to Tuesday and Wednesday's 7.9-inch snowfall, this will go down as the snowiest February in history. Total snowfall for the month so far is 29.9 inches.

The snowiest month ever, according to NWS meteorologist Brad Rehak, was January 1978, when 40.2 inches of snow fell for the month. The 21.1 inches of snow that fell from Friday, Feb 5, 2010 into Saturday, according to the weather service, was the fourth-largest snowfall in Pennsylvania history.

Issued by The National Weather Service  
Pittsburgh, PA  
3:24 pm EST, Tue., Feb. 9, 2010

**A WINTER STORM WARNING REMAINS IN EFFECT UNTIL 7 PM EST WEDNESDAY.**

**A DEEPENING LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM WILL MOVE ACROSS THE OHIO VALLEY TONIGHT. MOISTURE WILL BE PULLED INTO THE REGION AHEAD OF THIS LOW. THIS SYSTEM WILL RESULT IN SNOW... WHICH MAY BE HEAVY AT TIMES... THROUGH WEDNESDAY. SNOW ACCUMULATIONS OF 6 TO 10 INCHES CAN BE EXPECTED THROUGH WEDNESDAY EVENING.**

# Heavy snows freeze up traffic, knock out power around region

By Dan Majors and Moriah Balingit, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Feb 5, 2010

As a severe winter storm pounded the region tonight, portions of major highways were shut down and bus service was halted as multiplying minor accidents complicated snow removal and thousands of residents safe at home saw their power go out.

Port Authority has instructed bus drivers to complete their current trips tonight but then halt service for the rest of the evening.

All outbound buses will attempt to complete their route, the authority said. All inbound buses will attempt to complete the inbound trip and then provide one last outbound trip.

The authority will continue operating service on the East and West Busways through midnight.

The T continues to operate with the exception of a section of the 47L Library T line. The 47L service is disrupted in the area between Washington Junction and Lytle Station due to the loss of power caused by a downed tree and overhead lines. All outbound T service on the 47L line will stop at Washington Junction.

Allegheny Power said about 51,000 customers were without power tonight in southwestern Pennsylvania due to the storm. And Duquesne Light reported about 17,000 customers were without power -- most of the outages were scattered throughout Allegheny, Beaver and Westmoreland counties.

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## The PG Chat Snow Report

Participants tonight had a wide range of snowfalls to report, best summarized as "deep." Here are some of the numbers:

Dan, 6-7 inches, Franklin Park

Jen, 8.5, Castle Shannon

Bob, 10, Plum

DG, 8+, Sewickley

Scott, 10, Cranberry

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In a live PG Chat tonight, participants were reporting their estimates of snow falls easily ahead of the grand totals predicted for the breadth of the storm over tonight and tomorrow.

"My dad just arrived in Franklin Park from Downtown. No plowing on the Parkway North, lots of cars and trucks stuck on the side of the highway on the bend past the McKnight road exit," posted one participant, "Dan."

Another participant, "New Guy", said he saw no plows in evidence in a drive through the Strip District shortly 9:30 p.m.

The state Department of Transportation tonight ordered several closures on major highways due to snow storm conditions:

-- The Parkway West is closed in the eastbound direction just past the Carnegie on-ramp due to a crash involving several cars.

-- In the westbound direction, some lanes are closed between the Fort Pitt Tunnel and the Parkway Center off-ramp.

-- The right lane of the Parkway North is closed near the McKnight Road exit due to an accident.

-- Route 19 is closed in both directions between McKnight Road and Babcock Boulevard because of several crashes.

The speed limit was also temporarily reduced to 45 miles per hour on all interstate highways in Allegheny County.

Along the Parkway East and inbound motorist reported a bright flash of light, possibly lightning, so bright and green that it momentarily shut down lights along the highway near Wilkins Township. The lights, seemingly "tricked" into thinking it was daytime, eventually flickered back to life.

State police earlier reported several accidents and "cars sideways in the road" on the Parkway West outbound heading up Green Tree Hill, crawling traffic from Downtown to Business 22 on the Parkway East, and that cars were stuck on the ramp onto the Parkway West from Ardmore Boulevard.

In Ross Township, police closed the McKnight Road from Babcock Boulevard to the entrance to I-279 and Seibert Road due to excessive snow and traffic.

And that was just the beginning this evening. The National Weather Service issued a winter storm warning for the region that will remain in effect through 6 p.m. tomorrow.

Forecasters said the bulk of the snowfall is expected to come overnight, when a total accumulation of as much as 12 inches is possible in some areas.

Public works crews and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation trucks are out in full force tonight trying to keep the roads as clear as possible.

Pittsburgh police have asked people to limit traveling from home to trips that are absolutely necessary

Schools and businesses closed early today as people throughout Western Pennsylvania made their way home before the winter storm that rolled into the region hit its stride.

Snow started to fall on Pittsburgh shortly after noon and by early evening a full 4 inches was reported at Pittsburgh International Airport.

In Morgantown, W.Va., wet snow had been falling since about 11:15 a.m. West Virginia University officials announced classes would be dismissed at 1 p.m. today and said that Saturday classes are canceled.

School districts including Albert Gallatin in Fayette County and Carmichaels Area in Greene County, announced early dismissals.

See information about other closings and delays on [KDKA.com](http://KDKA.com), the Post-Gazette's news partner.

Nearly the entire region -- from eastern Ohio into the southern half of Pennsylvania, most of West Virginia and Maryland -- is under the winter storm warning.

Check out the PG's weather page for the latest conditions and forecast -- and the Countdown till Spring clock. Commuters also can access the updated traffic conditions.

# Gov. Rendell declares Pennsylvania disaster emergency

Saturday, February 06, 2010

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA--Gov. Ed Rendell declared a disaster emergency in Pennsylvania on Saturday as a winter storm brought heavy snow and gusty winds that cut off power to tens of thousands and forced road closures.

The governor's declaration allows officials to bypass bid and contract procedures to deal with the emergency. Pennsylvania National Guard forces had been deployed to help state police, Rendell said.

"This is a pretty fierce storm!" Philadelphia International Airport spokeswoman Victoria Lupica said, adding that crews had been battling blizzard and whiteout conditions to try to clear runways and other areas. Most airlines were not planning to operate before 2 p.m. Saturday, and three-quarters or more of the day's flights could be canceled, she said.

About 17.8 inches of snow have fallen in Philadelphia, according to the National Weather Service, and totals are even higher to the west, with 28 inches in Upper Strasburg in Franklin County, 27 inches in Glen Rock in York County, 26 inches in parts of Blair and Somerset counties and 25 inches in Cambria County.

In western Pennsylvania, Allegheny Power reported nearly 120,000 customers without power and Duquesne Light had another 51,000 without power.

Allegheny County in western Pennsylvania also declared a state of emergency and urged all nonessential vehicles to stay off the roads to clear the way for emergency workers. Pittsburgh International Airport closed about 6 a.m. but expected to reopen at noon.

Several interstates were shut down overnight as stuck tractor-trailers or downed power lines blocked roads, and I-376 leading out of Pittsburgh toward Ohio remained closed Saturday, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation spokesman Jim Struzzi said. Emergency workers said secondary roads were mostly impassable.

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission said the commonwealth's system of toll roads remained open but had several trouble spots, namely between Donegal and Somerset counties in western Pennsylvania. Officials urged anyone planning on traveling to reconsider.

Larry Struble, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Pittsburgh, said the storm was on track to be the city's fourth-highest snowfall on record.

Philadelphia also declared a snow emergency, banning cars from being parked on certain streets to ensure access to emergency vehicles.

"We stocked up on milk; we're just waiting for pastries," said Betty Ortiz, owner of Spruce Street Espresso, which had three customers who braved the drift-laden streets for an early cup of coffee.

Ortiz, a New Jersey resident who stayed in the city overnight so she could open the store Saturday, had just gotten back Wednesday from a trip to coffee farms in Nicaragua and El Salvador and was struggling to adjust to the cold.

"It's a shock for me after 80-degree weather," she said.

On Dec. 19, a storm two days before the official start of winter dumped 23.2 inches of snow on Philadelphia, the second-highest snowfall since city records began in 1884 and higher than the city's seasonal average of 19.3 inches.

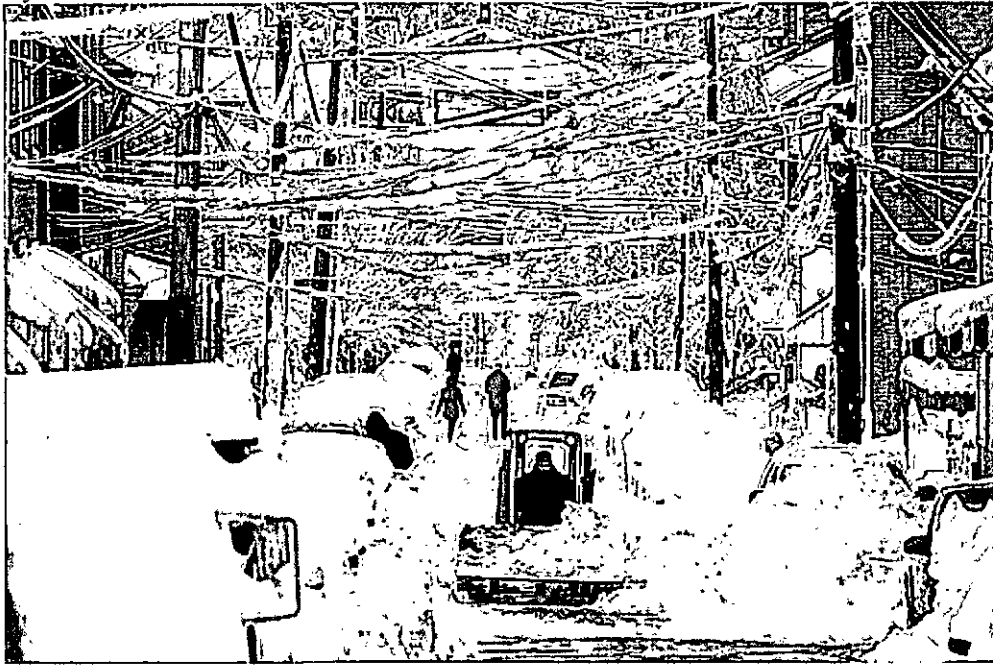
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# Hazards remain in aftermath of massive storm

Storm dumped about 2 feet of snow here and across the mid-Atlantic states

Sunday, February 07, 2010

By Michael A. Fuoco and Bill Schackner, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Bill Wade/Post-Gazette

Phil Perri, who has a construction business, uses his front loader to help his neighbors dig out Saturday on 41st Street in Lawrenceville. "Thank God for Phil; he's the greatest," said neighbor Mary Ann Paddle, who explained that Mr. Perri also helped the neighborhood dig out after 1993's snowstorms.

The weekend's relentless, paralyzing snowstorm ended about noon Saturday and entered the record books as the fourth worst in the region's history, but its effects will linger for some time.

With an official accumulation of 21.1 inches at Pittsburgh International Airport, but higher in some areas, the storm that pummeled the mid-Atlantic states for nearly 24 hours continued to bedevil the region overnight and into today as state, county and municipal emergency declarations remained in effect.

Many roads remained slick and dangerous, and about 130,000 customers in southwestern Pennsylvania remained without electricity after heavy, moisture-laden snow felled trees and limbs, snapping electrical wires.

That situation was exacerbated by an overnight low expected to dip to 7 degrees. Nowhere in the foreseeable future is the temperature expected to rise above freezing, meaning the nearly 2 feet of snow won't be melting anytime soon.

And it's supposed to snow again Tuesday into Wednesday -- but only a few inches or so.

The only upside of such a weather downer is that things could have been much worse given the storm's power, punch and potential danger.

The snowfall averaged nearly an inch an hour, according to the National Weather Service. The most intense periods were from 7 p.m. to midnight Friday, when 7 inches fell, and from 3 to 6 a.m. Saturday, when another 5.3 inches bombed the area. It was worse in areas of higher elevation -- Somerset County saw 30 inches of snow.

Weather service meteorologist Brad Rehak said that, from a scientific standpoint, the storm was one of the most interesting he had seen in his 21 years in the business.

"When you get over an inch an hour, it's a very heavy snow," Mr. Rehak said. "It's very unusual for that extended period of time. Usually you'll get a burst for only an hour or two."

He said forecasts had underestimated the snowfall by 7 inches or more because the storm tracked farther north than had been anticipated.

PennDOT District 11 spokesman Jim Struzzi said Saturday night that he expected roadways to be open and clear today, with the exception of those with downed power lines.

"Hopefully things will be quiet [Sunday]," he said.

In addition to clearing roads, county and municipal government officials responded by opening "warming centers" to shelter those without electricity and prioritizing emergency calls so that the most urgent were answered first.

"Generally we're pleased on how far we've progressed, but we've got a long way to go," said Bob Full, Allegheny County's emergency services chief. "We're very fortunate we have not had any attributable deaths or major injuries so far.

"This was forecast to be much less snow than we actually got, but we're satisfied with how the emergency management personnel at the local level have operated over the past 24 hours."

Still, it was a heck of a storm, bested by only three in the region's history since the National Weather Service began keeping records in 1884. The only accumulation in recent history that compares was the 25.3 inches that doused the area between March 12-14, 1993, known hereabouts as the St. Patrick's Day Parade Storm.

The most recent storm was unlike that event because the snow was full of moisture and heavy, which is why it caused more damage to trees and power lines. The 1993 storm was characterized by drier snow and heavy winds, which caused large drifts.

This storm shattered century-old records for Feb. 5 and 6. The previous record for Feb. 5 was 4.7 inches in 1899; Friday's snowfall was 11.4 inches. The previous Feb. 6 record was 4.3 inches in 1911, which was more than doubled by the 9.7 inches dumped by this storm.

Unlike the 1993 storm, the weekend snowfall shut down virtually everything Saturday. The Pittsburgh airport ceased flight operations until around 8 p.m. The Port Authority shut down most transit service and said it would assess the situation early this morning.

Among many cancellations and postponements was the Pittsburgh Fraternal Order of Police vote on a new contract with the City of Pittsburgh, which was rescheduled for Saturday. Roman Catholics in the Pittsburgh and Greensburg dioceses received dispensation from their obligation to attend Mass today. Businesses either didn't open or did little business.

But remarkably, some events went on as scheduled, such as the University of Pittsburgh's men's basketball game with Seton Hall at the Petersen Events Center in Oakland.

Authorities said widespread power outages persisted last night. Driving conditions continued to be dangerous, and many secondary roads remained impassable.

Power outages were compounded by road conditions, which slowed electric company crews from reaching some areas to restore service. Electrical companies could not estimate when all customers would have service restored.

Across the state, tens of thousands Allegheny Power customers remained without power Saturday night -- most of them in southwestern counties. By 10 p.m., Duquesne Light estimated that 26,000 customers in Allegheny and Beaver counties remained without service-- down from a high of 57,000 customers in the morning.

Duquesne Light spokesman Joseph H. Vallarian said there had been 1,100 cases of downed wires, 250 cases of downed trees or tree limbs on wires and 51 damaged poles.

In Fayette County, warming centers opened to help the 18,000 people who were without power. By 3 p.m. Saturday, the county 911 center had received more than 1,400 calls in less than 24 hours, most of them for fallen power lines and power outages that resulted.

But residents apparently listened when advised by officials to stay safe by staying put.

"We really don't have any accidents because people are taking heed to the fact that they can't get out," said Susan Griffith, spokeswoman for the county's Emergency Management Agency. "And nothing's open anyway."

Road crews in Westmoreland County struggled to dig out of snow that on average was 18 inches in the western part of the county and nearly 3 feet atop Laurel Ridge to the east, said Daniel Stevens, a county spokesman. Jackknifed tractor-trailer trucks also shut down traffic on the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Snow cleared from roads had to be piled high against utility poles, he said. With evening approaching, those piles were complicating efforts by utility crews to get close enough to those poles to make repairs.

"There was a period of time [Saturday] morning when we had fire trucks, snow plow trucks, ambulances and everything else stuck," Mr. Stevens said of the road conditions. "It was bad."

At Pittsburgh International Airport, stranded travelers ended up in the terminal or at the airport Hyatt hotel. The airport fire department made rounds inside the terminal to see if travelers had medical or other needs, said JoAnn Jenny, spokeswoman for the county airport authority.

Earlier, officials hoped to have the ramps and runways operational by noon, but it became clear as the morning progressed that such a timetable was unrealistic given the rate of snow accumulation, she said.

Snow depth at the airport had already reached 19 inches by then, she said.

In Washington County, warming shelters were serving some of the 51,000 Allegheny Power customers without service as of mid-afternoon, said Jared Jenkins, shift supervisor with the county's 911 center.

"I'm trying to think of a nice way to say this," he said. "There are outages all over the place. It hasn't gotten any better. It's only gotten worse."

As in other counties, crews in Washington were dealing with both the impact of the snow's weight on power lines and the implications for those in the dark as nighttime temperatures were due to reach single digits by morning.

Mr. Jenkins asked that callers inquiring about power outages refrain from calling 911, so as not to overwhelm emergency dispatchers.

In North Strabane, The Meadows Racetrack & Casino closed at 5 p.m. Saturday due to storm and state of emergency. It planned to reopen at 9 a.m. today.

In Beaver County, the American Red Cross was dispatched to check on motorists stranded for hours on the eastbound Pennsylvania Turnpike after two tractor trailers crashed and spilled diesel fuel.

Emergency crews Saturday night were still at the scene of the 1:30 p.m. crash in North Sewickley, said Eric Brewer, crew chief with the Beaver County Emergency Services dispatch center.

One injury was reported, though the patient's condition was not available.

Roads in the county "are passable" but "we're telling people to stay off them and let road crews do their jobs."

Earlier Saturday, crews slogged over snow-caked roads to respond to two house fires -- one on Allola Drive in New Sewickley and another on Martin Road in Hanover. No injuries were reported.

**Michael A. Fuoco: [mfuoco@post-gazette.com](mailto:mfuoco@post-gazette.com) or 412-263-1968. Bill Schackner: [bschackner@post-gazette.com](mailto:bschackner@post-gazette.com) or 412-263-1977. Staff writers Moriah Balingit and Lillian Thomas contributed.**

**First published on February 7, 2010 at 12:17 am**

## **There's more snow on the way**

Monday, February 08, 2010

By Kaitlynn Riely, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Though Pittsburgh is still digging out from more than 20 inches of snow, with more snow expected this week, National Weather Service meteorologist Lee Hendricks has already started thinking about what's going to happen when all this snow melts.

"Compared to a normal winter, this is an incredible snow pack," he said.

"If we have a rapid warm up with rain on top of the snow, that could seriously cause some widespread problems on the ... rivers."

But temperatures will stay at or below freezing for the remainder of the week, and Mr. Hendricks said there will hopefully be a gradual warm up after that to decrease the threat of major flooding.

"Nothing good happens fast in hydrology," he said.

But melting snow is still a distant prospect. The more immediate concern is the snow expected to arrive Tuesday.

The National Weather Service issued a winter storm watch that said a storm system could bring snow accumulations of six inches or more Tuesday morning through Wednesday afternoon.

And memories are still fresh that the weekend's snowfall, which dropped 21.1 inches of snow on Pittsburgh, was worse than the National Weather Service's dire predictions.

On Thursday, the day before the snow started falling, the National Weather Service predicted Pittsburgh would get 6 to 12 inches. They later changed that prediction to upwards of 15 inches.

"We ended up still getting beaten by five inches on that," Mr. Hendricks said.

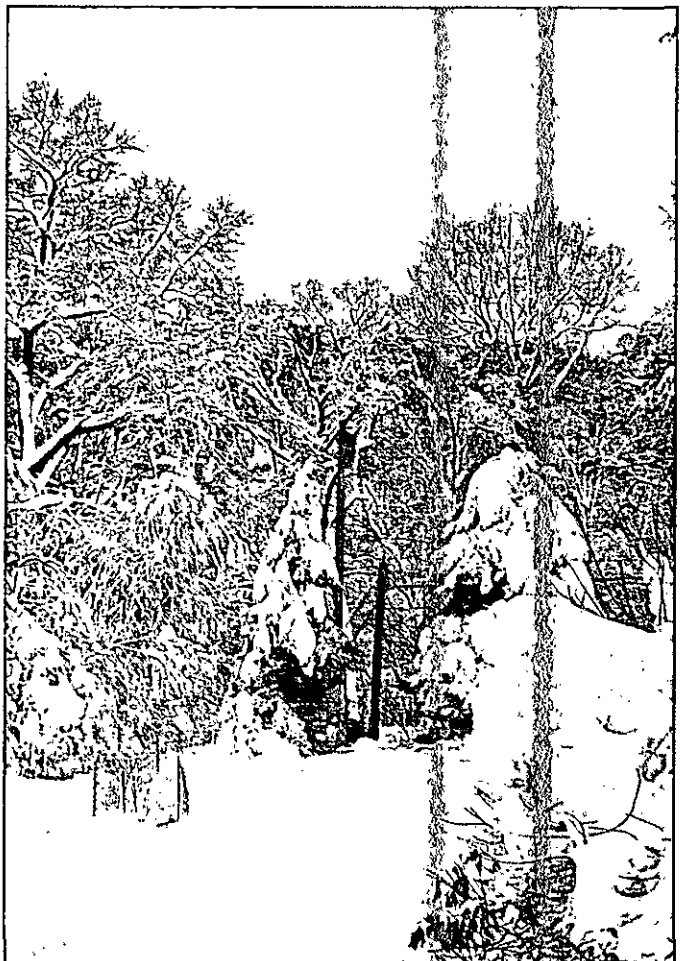
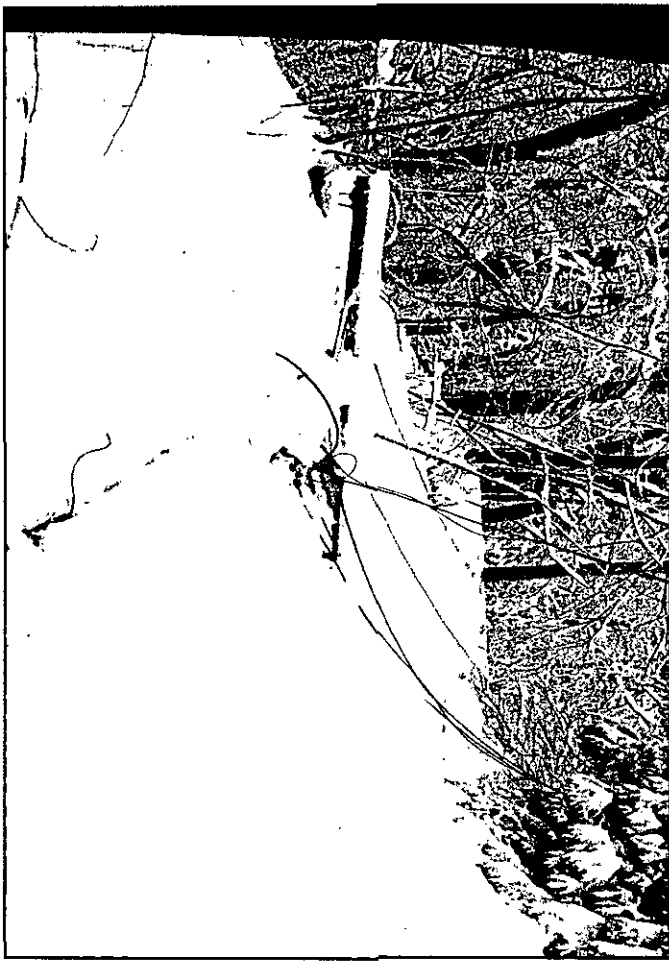
A heavy snowfall of 16 inches or more only happens in Pittsburgh about once every 15 years, he said.

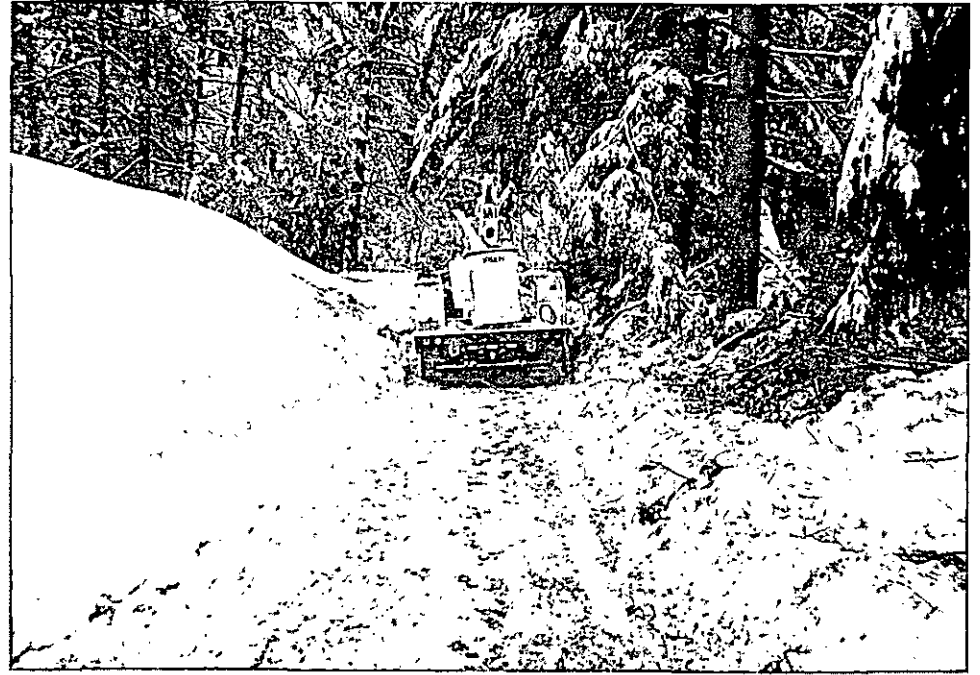
"It's a fairly rare event, and it's almost invariably an East Coast storm, like this was," he said.

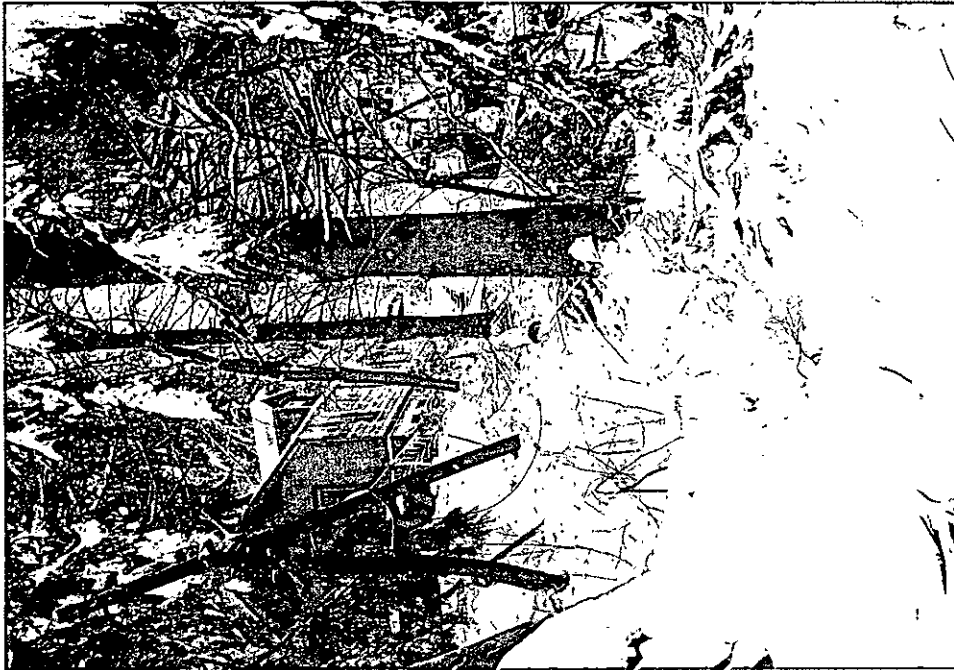
Even with 21.1 inches recorded, last weekend's storm was still No. 4 in Pittsburgh's history, at least since 1876, when record-keeping started.

Two massive back-to-back snowfalls would be extremely unusual, Mr. Hendricks said, and the weather system expected to arrive Tuesday is not looking nearly as severe as the weekend's.

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