

Canadian Niagara Power Inc. (CNPI) – Major Event Day Report
(December 11, 2021)

Introduction

On December 11, 2021, CNPI's service territory experienced a wind event causing wind relating outages affecting 22,106, or 83% of its, customers. On this day southern Ontario experienced high winds, with gusts up to 130 km/h.

Prior to the Major Event

Did the distributor have any prior warning that the Major Event would occur?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Additional Comments:

On Friday, December 10, 2021, Environment Canada issued wind warnings for much of Southern Ontario, indicating that damaging winds were expected on Saturday, December 11, 2021. CNPI's Operations Supervisor emailed the CNPI Operations Department regarding the potential wind speeds prior to the storm. Appendix A, depicts the weather conditions for December 11, 2021.

If the distributor did have prior warning, did the distributor arrange to have extra employees on duty or on standby prior to the Major Event beginning?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Brief description of arrangements, or explain why extra employees were not arranged:

CNPI had a normal complement on-call during the daytime on December 11th, 2021, with the ability to call in additional crews if required. Additional crews were made available for outage response on December 11, 2021, with many crews working into the following days to complete restoration.

If the distributor did have prior warning, did the distributor issue any media announcements to the public warning of possible outages resulting from the pending Major Event?

☒ Yes ☐ No

CNPI provided an announcement via Twitter and Facebook on December 10, 2021 at 2:02 p.m. that a special weather statement was in effect for the weekend and to continue to monitor through Twitter.

Did the distributor train its staff on the response plans for this type of a Major Event?

☒ Yes ☐ No

CNPI has a Business Continuity Plan that is periodically updated and reviewed at the management level. The plan is designed to assist in the response to natural disasters, accidents, major outages, environmental disasters, municipal emergencies and cyber-attacks. This plan is available to all staff both via CNPI's corporate intranet, and hard copy. For major outages, this plan covers responsibilities and procedures for all outage restoration and communication efforts, consolidates contact information for internal staff and key external agencies.

The scope of the outage described in this report did not invoke CNPI's Business Continuity Plan.

During the Major Event

Please identify the main contributing Cause of the Major Event as per the table in section 2.1.4.2.5 of the Electricity Reporting and Record Keeping Requirements.

- ☐ Loss of Supply
- ☐ Lightning
- ☒ Adverse Weather-Wind
- ☐ Adverse Weather-Snow
- ☐ Adverse Weather-Freezing rain/Ice storm
- ☐ Adverse Environment-Fire
- ☐ Adverse Environment-Flooding
- ☐ Other

Please provide a brief description of the event (i.e. what happened?).

On December 11, a windstorm hit the CNPI service territory. Wind gusts of up to 130 km/hr caused trees to fall onto and damage CNPI line infrastructure, which resulted in outages.

If selected "Other", please explain:

Was the IEEE Standard 1366 used to derive the threshold of the Major Event?

- ☒ Yes, used IEEE Standard 1366*
- ☐ No, used IEEE Standard 1366 2-day rolling average
- ☐ No, used fixed percentage (i.e., 10% of customers affected)

*The OEB preferred option

When did the Major Event begin (date and time)?

December 11, 2022 – The outages started to happen at approximately 15:00 EST.

Did the distributor issue any information about this Major Event, such as estimated times of restoration, to the public during the Major Event?

- ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide a brief description of the information. If no, please explain:

CNP posted 20 general updates (without ETR's) on the progress of its restoration efforts and the special weather statement issues by Environment Canada, through the company Twitter feed, over the course of the Major Event Day and the following two days, as the effects of the storm lingered. A link to the Twitter account is located at the bottom of the main page of CNPI's website. CNPI also posted about the event via its Facebook page.

There were no Media Releases requested or generated.

How many customers were interrupted during the Major Event?

22,109 Customers

What percentage of the distributor's total customer base did the interrupted customers represent?

$22,109 / 26,514 = 83 \%$

How many hours did it take to restore 90% of the customers who were interrupted?

20 Hours

Additional Comments:

Were there any outages associated with Loss of Supply during the Major Event?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please report on the duration and frequency of the Loss of Supply outages:

In responding to the Major Event, did the distributor utilize assistance through a third party mutual assistance agreement with other utilities?

☒ Yes

☐ No

☐ Do not have third party mutual assistance agreements with other utilities

If yes, please provide the name of the utilities who provided assistance: CNPI did utilize assistance through a third party mutual assistance agreement (Welland Hydro), and also used a number of private utility-based contractor (Gams, Peters Excavating & Pineridge Tree Service).

Did the distributor run out of any needed equipment or materials during the Major Event?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please describe the shortages: _____

After the Major Event

What actions, if any, will be taken to be prepared for, or mitigate, such Major Events in the future?

☐ No further action is required at this time

☐ Additional staff training

☐ Process improvements

☐ System upgrades

☒ Other

Additional comments: Throughout the course of the event, and shortly after completing restorations, key CNP personnel were in regular communication to discuss challenges CNP and successes in managing all facets of the restoration efforts. This helps understand what worked and what requires improvement or a different approach.

APPENDIX A: December 11, 2021 Weather Conditions at Port Colborne

(via Weather Network)

