

**Algoma Power Inc (API) – Major Event Day Report**  
**(December 29-30, 2019)**

**Prior to the Major Event**

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

Yes                       No

Additional Comments: Environment Canada published several Alerts regarding severe weather and its potential impacts (see Appendix A). These alerts were the only warning of the potential for a Major Event.

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:

As the initial impact of the multi-day event unfolded (prior to the second MED day), the Supervisor On-Call recognized the increasing severity and started contacting staff that were on vacation and/or off for the weekend to mobilize all available resources – including a crew from the Wawa region of API's service territory.

In addition, two Forestry contractors working for API under ongoing contracts were contacted to leverage any resources they had available (as this was during the Christmas/New Years vacation season these contractors were on hiatus at the time). By the second day of the event, all of the crews that responded to the solicitation for assistance were deployed to the restoration efforts.

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

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

Yes                       No

## **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 29<sup>th</sup>, a winter storm hit the API service territory east of Sault Ste Marie; primarily on St. Joseph Island. With mild temperatures hovering right around the zero-degree mark, precipitation that occurred during this and the following days had a heavy impact on the region. Significant periods of freezing rain and heavy, wet snow – combined with some episodes of gusty winds up to 50+ km/h – contributed to the overall impact of the storm.

The freezing rain and snow caked on to trees; weighing them down to the point of bowing over to the ground or breaking off altogether. These trees impacted the power lines in the area, which resulted in many outages – multiple interruptions on the same feeders in some instances.

The heavy snow and ice load on vegetation, coupled in some cases with some gusty winds, caused trees to fall onto power lines and cause damage and interruptions.

If selected “Other”, please explain: As per Section 2.1.4.2.5 of the RRR filing requirements, the majority of the outages were coded as Tree Contacts (Code 3). This is not on the provided list of values above, so “Other” was selected. Some outages were coded as Adverse Weather (Freezing Rain/Ice – Code 6) so that option was also checked off.

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)?

The first interruption was reported @ 1:28pm on December 29, 2019.

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:

API posted 24 general updates (without ETR's) on the progress of its restoration efforts as well as safety messages, through the company Twitter feed, over the course of the Major Event Days and the following three days, as the effects of the storm lingered for several days. The Twitter feed is also presented on the main page of API's website.

As well, 3 general safety messages were posted on the company Facebook page during the same timeframe. Finally, there were several messages of similar content released to radio and online news sources.

How many customers were interrupted during the Major Event?

4547 Customers

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

38.71 %

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

71 Hours. Additional Comments: As crews triaged the areas of concern and focussed their efforts for maximum effectiveness, large groups of customers were restored several times over the first two days of crew response only to lose power again as further tree contacts and damage occurred.

Also, response times were hampered by the significant effort required simply to get to affected areas, as crews had to remove trees and debris from roads in order to pass through to the locations of some of the outages.

The 90% threshold was finally achieved approximately 71 hours after the event started.

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: N/A

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: N/A

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

Yes  No

If yes, please describe the shortages: N/A

## **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: As with previous Major Events, API will engage representatives from all departments through a meeting to de-brief on all aspects of the Major Event – including outage response, effective use of available resources and technological support.