



Press Release

Bonn, 25 January 2010
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Reliability of power supply in Germany's electricity grids remains high

Kurth: "Interruption durations were reduced once again in 2008"

The reliability of power supply was very high in Germany yet again in 2008. The average outage duration in power supply was 16.89 minutes per end consumer in 2008. This is the outcome of reports submitted to the Federal Network Agency by German TSOs on the interruption duration in their power supply grids in 2008, pursuant to Section 52 of the Energy Industry Act. The reports must contain at the very least the time, duration, extent and cause of each individual interruption in power supply. All in all, 846 network operators reported approx. 208,100 interruptions for 871 electricity networks.

The Federal Network Agency subjected the data received to a plausibility check and analysis. The outcome was 813 companies with 834 networks whose data was used according to internationally recognised methods to calculate the value for the quality of power supply in Germany. This so-called SAIDI value (System Average Interruption Duration Index) yields the "average interruption duration in minutes per connected each end consumer".

"The reliability of power supply in German was enhanced once again in 2008. Whereas the SAIDI value was 19.25 minutes per end consumer in 2007, it was only 16.89 minutes per end consumer in 2008, representing an average reduction of more than two minutes in the SAIDI value", Matthias Kurth, President of the Federal Network Agency says.

The calculations were based solely on unplanned interruptions lasting more than three minutes due to atmospheric effects, retroactive impacts originating from other networks or those caused by third parties, and other impacts falling within the network operator's scope of responsibility. Interruptions due to force majeure are not taken into account. Contrary to 2007, when the hurricane Kyrill led to a significant increase in the number of interruptions reported owing to "force majeure" (16.42 minutes), the value for 2008 was just 1.2 minutes.

The value of 16.89 minutes is once again an improvement over the previous year and demonstrates the high reliability of power supply in Germany compared to its European neighbours (e. g. Austria 2008: 43.69 minutes).