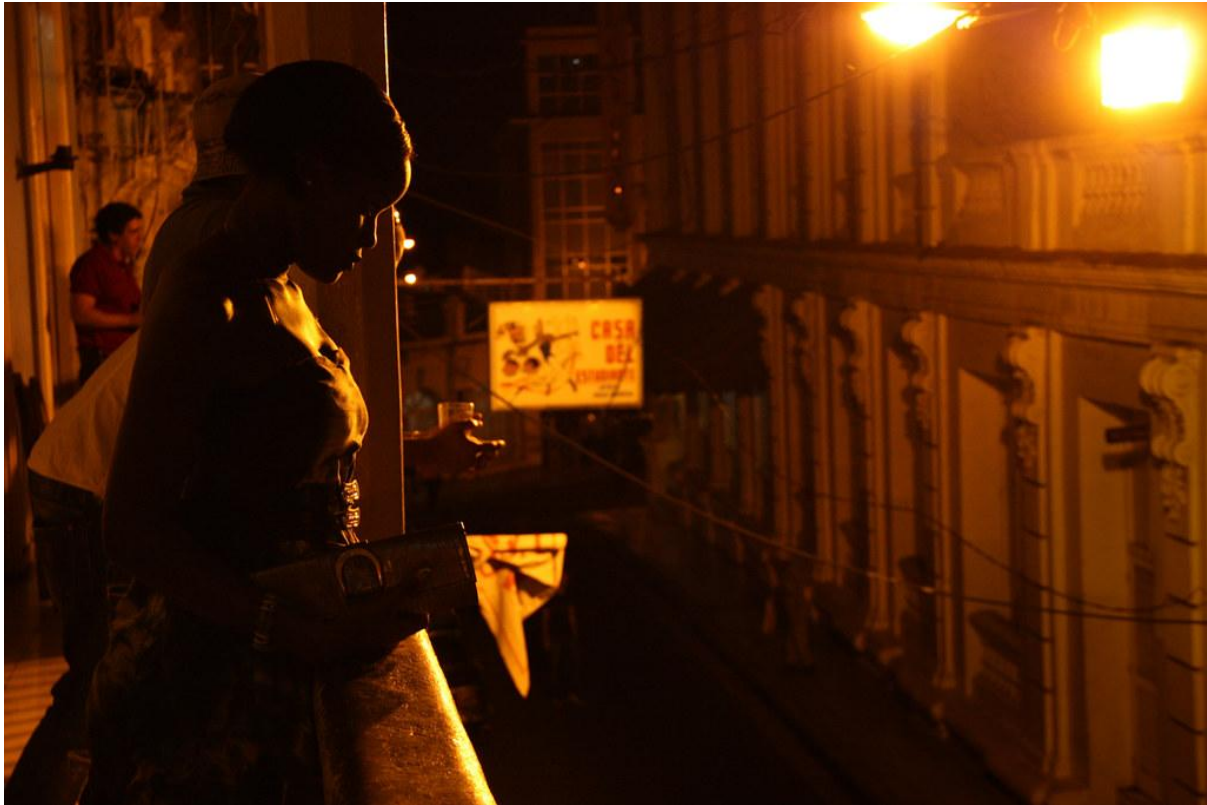


Power Grid Restored After Two Outages



The power outage was the sixth nationwide blackout this year (Source: [Gabriele/Flickr/CC-BY-SA 2.0](#))

On Tuesday morning, Cuba [restored](#) its power grid following two consecutive nationwide outages. The outages occurred in quick succession. This was already the sixth widespread blackout this year.

At 11:35 a.m. local time, the state-owned power utility Unión Eléctrica (UNE) announced the successful restoration of the grid, along with the restart of a unit at the “Máximo Gómez” power plant. Prior to that, the severely damaged Antonio Guiteras power plant had already been reconnected to the grid.

The first outage occurred on Sunday evening at 10:43 p.m. local time, just a few hours after a partial grid outage in the western part of the country. UNE immediately activated the designated emergency protocols. Technicians worked through the night and into Monday to gradually reconnect the system, starting with thermal power plants in Mariel and Santa Cruz del Norte.

Around 5:05 p.m. on Monday, thunderstorms and heavy rainfall in the western part of the island caused another total blackout. [According to](#) Félix Estrada Rodríguez, director of the national dispatch center, the weather events affected the transmission lines and took all units of the subgrid that had been established up to that point offline again.

Reconnecting the grid is a complex and time-consuming process that, based on experience, can take 24 hours or longer. However, as blackouts have become more frequent, restoration has also [become faster](#). Initially, easily started-up sources such as solar, hydroelectric, gas,

and diesel generators are used to establish small supply islands, which are then gradually connected to one another. The goal is to deliver sufficient power as quickly as possible to the thermal power plants, which form the backbone of Cuba's electricity generation.

By Tuesday morning, the grid had been reconnected from Pinar del Río to Holguín. The provinces of Santiago de Cuba, Guantánamo, and Granma were reconnected a few hours later. In Havana, 108 of 286 distribution circuits were back online at that time, supplying power to approximately 325,000 households as well as 40 hospitals and other vital facilities. Estrada Rodríguez pointed out that even after the grid was reconnected, a significant generation shortfall remains. ([Cubaheute](#))