

The Benefits of ODIN: Outage Data Initiative Nationwide

Key Findings

- The Outage Data Initiative Nationwide (ODIN) was developed by the U.S. Department of Energy and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, with contribution by NRECA, NISC and other vendors.
- With ODIN, data from utility outage management systems create a comprehensive, standardized digital map of power outages for actionable updates to benefit utilities, emergency managers, federal agencies, and the public.
- There is no cost to cooperatives to participate in ODIN, but they will need to give permission to their Outage Management System (OMS) vendors to provide their data to ODIN.
- Interested co-ops can find out more at <https://odin.ornl.gov/outages/> or by contacting Tony Thomas at Tony.Thomas@nreca.coop.

What has changed?

Who is ODIN? No, we are not talking about the old Norse god Odin - husband of goddess Frigg. We are talking about the **Outage Data Initiative Nationwide – ODIN**.

The Outage Data Initiative Nationwide (ODIN) seeks to establish a comprehensive, standardized digital map of power outages that offers actionable updates in near real time to the benefit of customers, providers, and emergency management officials. The ODIN map provides details by county, ZIP code, and latitude and longitude, including estimated times that power might be restored. NRECA, NISC and other vendors have contributed to this project by ensuring the MultiSpeak standard was included so that participation was easy for utility companies that depend on the MultiSpeak standard for system interoperability.

Developed by the U.S. Department of Energy in partnership with Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), ODIN's goals are to:

- Connect first responders with a near real-time electric outage map.
- Engage stakeholders including local, state, and federal officials.
- Leverage interoperability standards, including [MultiSpeak®](#).
- Support implementation of standardized outage data.

What is the impact on cooperatives?

The impact of ODIN is not primarily on utility operations but has broader value for cooperatives' consumer members and communities. The vision of the Outage Data Initiative is to create a nationwide power outage map that is detailed, timely, and actionable to be utilized by utilities, emergency managers, federal agencies like FEMA, and the public.

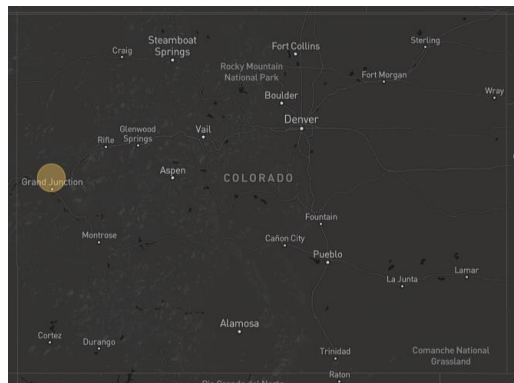
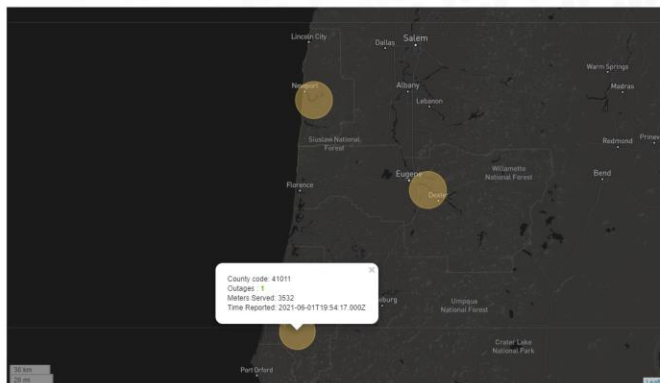
The ODIN system is designed to upload outage data directly from a utility's Outage Management Systems (OMS) every few minutes, so first responders and others can see utility outages on a nearly immediate basis. In this way, emergency teams have greater insights into the location and size of areas impacted by outages, so that they can better serve those at risk. In addition, security entities can monitor broader grid impacts on a national level. This effort is collaborative in nature, where participation by all utilities provides the most complete data and, therefore, the greatest benefit to national security.

ODIN creates a "universal translator" for customer outage data to:

- Drive improved decision support
- Help identify, quantify, and prioritize Emergency Response resources
- Enhance (not replace) existing utility outage management systems and practices

ODIN creates a common operating picture ("Single pane of glass") for stakeholders to eliminate the need to consult multiple outage maps during extreme events.

Examples of Outage Maps Created by ODIN



ODIN provides near real-time updates to:

- local, state, and federal emergency managers
- critical infrastructure partners
- neighboring utilities

ODIN provides accurate and timely outage data, leading to:

- Improved decision support
- Improved staging of utility crews and restoration equipment
- Improved utility response and restoration activities
- Improved dispatching of first responders for public safety

ODIN reduces unnecessary phone calls to utilities seeking status updates.

What do cooperatives need to know or do about it?

There is no cost to participate in the ODIN project. If a cooperative's OMS vendor is already tied to the ODIN system, all the utility needs to do is give its permission to the vendor and everything is taken care of nearly automatically. If a cooperative's OMS vendor is not yet part of the ODIN system, the cooperative can contact NRECA's Tony Thomas for information on how the vendor can join.

NRECA has contributed to the development of ODIN with ORNL, NISC and other vendors, and we encourage our members to participate. To do so, cooperatives would contact their OMS vendor and give permission to upload OMS data to ODIN.

Additional Resources

To learn more about ODIN, visit website: <https://odin.ornl.gov/outages/>

Contact for Questions

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