

New Jersey Natural Gas (NJNG) is shutting off the natural gas infrastructure that serves the hurricane-damaged barrier islands south of Johnson Street in Bay Head to Seaside Park, as well as Long Beach Island.

Approximately 28,000 customers will be impacted. ACE reports that electricity will be restored to LBI once the natural gas system is shut down.

NJNG said it will take a couple of hours to shut the valves off, and a few additional hours to vent the system. Customers may smell a gas odor, depending on the wind, during this process.

NJNG has more than 400 personnel on the ground, plus mutual aid crews from Washington Gas Light, Columbia, Unitel, New England Gas and Delmarva, that are addressing each of the leaks. Additional mutual aid crews from PSE&G, South Jersey Gas and UGI are on their way.

We have responded to over 1,300 leak reports over the past three days and have made each safe.

The last flare-up that was reported in the Curtis Point or Mantaloking section of Brick Township was made safe at 4:30 this morning.

“Our crews did everything we could to save the system,” said Chief Operating Officer Kathleen T. Ellis. “We were only able to gain access to some of the most damaged areas within the last 24 hours, and the devastation is nothing that could be seen from the air. It is beyond imagination. The only safe thing to do is shut down the system.”

The natural gas utility was also forced to retire their system in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

“It will take time to get life back to normal for our customers; but make no mistake, we will not rest until it is done,” said Ellis