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Russia Restores Crimea Power Supplies

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A general view shows the facilities of a mobile gas turbine generator, which was turned on due to recent power outages after pylons carrying electricity were blown up, in the settlement of Stroganovka, Simferopol district of Crimea.

Russia restored power supplies to Crimea via undersea cable on Wednesday, ending an 11-day blackout, the RIA Novosti news agency reported Thursday.

The new power line was inaugurated by Russian President Vladimir Putin in Simferopol.

Current power supply capacity to the peninsula does not exceed 200 megawatts. A further 200 megawatts will be supplied by Dec. 20.

This will cover up to 90 percent of the peninsula's power needs, Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said Wednesday, RIA Novosti reported.

However, the current state of emergency in Crimea will not be cancelled until stable power supplies to the peninsula are established, Crimea's Prime Minister Sergei Aksyonov said.

Crimea had previously received power supplies from Ukraine, but on Nov. 22, the power lines

were blown up by Ukrainian activists. Last week Ukraine started repairing the lines but the activists demanded that the work be suspended.

One of the power lines was restored on Nov. 26, after Novak accused Ukraine of delaying repair work "for political reasons," the RT news website reported at the time. Novak added that Moscow would consider halting coal supplies to Ukraine in response, the report added.

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