I want to give you a brief **overview** about how these microgrids came to be. Power generation and distribution used to be governed and controlled by one or two entities when commercial electricity distribution first was implemented. The power grid was very big, it covered large areas of the United States. That was obviously problematic because a single contingency on the grid could cause big problems for the entire grid or at least big parts of it.

As an **Example** of that, in 1996 “ a damaged power line in Oregon left 12 million customers in eight states without power” (web)

**Another example** is the 2003 blackout. It is known as the 2003 blackout, this is how big it was. That blackout “affected an estimated 10 million people in Ontario and 45 million people in eight U.S. states” (Wikipedia). It cost the region about $6.4 Billion in monetary losses.

The idea of the **Microgrid** became appealing after incidents like that.

Refrences:

[**http://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/energy/microgrid.htm**](http://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/energy/microgrid.htm)

**http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northeast\_blackout\_of\_2003**