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# Power Outage Snarls Northeast Rail Service

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Thursday May 25, 2006 10:03am



NEWARK, N.J. (AP) - A major power outage stranded thousands of rush-hour commuters Thursday between New York and Washington, stopping five trains inside tunnels and forcing many passengers to get out and walk to the nearest station. Three NJ Transit trains and one Amtrak train were stuck in a tunnel under the Hudson River heading into New York. A fifth train was stuck in a rail tunnel in Baltimore.

Amtrak said it planned to use diesel locomotives to remove them, and was working to restore power along the route.

The outage happened about 8 a.m. along Amtrak's Northeast Corridor line, affecting trains from Washington all the way to New York's Queens borough.

Mike Kenny of West Windsor has been commuting to Manhattan for 30 years and said the outage was "shaping up as one of the worst ever."

"It's getting pretty hot in here, and the bathroom is getting backed up," he said.

Train crews offered passengers the option of getting off and walking about a quarter-mile to the nearest station in North Elizabeth.

"I've got a bum foot, and I'm wearing a boot on it, but I'll do it," Kenny said. "I'm ready to call it quits and go home."

Krista Barry spent the morning of her 23rd birthday sitting on the floor of a sweltering NJ Transit car, reading a book for more than 90 minutes.

"Everyone is calling me on my cell and saying, 'Uh, happy birthday; too bad you're stuck,'" said Barry, who boarded the train in Trenton bound for her job as an office temp in Manhattan. "At least I get to relax and not go to work."

In New York, John McAlonan planned to catch an 8 a.m. Amtrak train from Penn Station to Philadelphia. He sat on the train for an hour but then gave up when it failed to leave the station.

"The lights went out three times and then they just stayed off," McAlonan said.

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Associated Press Writer Karen Matthews in New York contributed to this report.

Written By WAYNE PARRY

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