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**(Neb.) - Power restored in Alliance after major blackout**

By: John Thayer Posted at: 04/24/2012 01:29 PM

ALLIANCE, Neb. (AP) - Officials believe an equipment malfunction may have caused a major power outage in Alliance in the Nebraska Panhandle.

The outage happened Monday night and lasted for more than four hours. The blackout also affected Hemingford, which lost power for about an hour.

Alliance officials believe there was an equipment problem with the city's electric supplier, the Western Area Power Agency.

City Manager J.D. Cox the utility is still sorting out the problems and will update the city as more information becomes available.

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