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Clashes cut off electricity supply to Helmand and Kandahar

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According to reports the main electricity supply in southern Helmand and Kandahar provinces have been cut off due to clashes between the Afghan security forces and Taliban insurgents.

The officials in Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat – national power company, have said that the clashes have forced to halt 90 percent of power supply to the two provinces.

Both Kandahar and Helmand provinces rely on Kajaki plan in Helmand province where the anti-government armed militant groups are actively operating.

The Chief Commercial Officer of Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat, Mirwais Alami, has said that the lines have been damaged due to intense fighting.

Alami told Reuters that the national power company is facing issues to repair the damaged lines due to the clashes and it was difficult to say when power supplies would resume.

“I don’t think it is sabotage,” Alami said, adding that “Otherwise they would be cutting off electricity to their own villages. The lines could have been cut by government bullets.”

The insurgency activities by the anti-government armed militant groups have rampant since the coalition security forces withdrew from Helmand province last year.

Clashes between the Afghan forces and the militant groups have reportedly intensified after the Afghan national security forces launched an operation in Helmand in mid-February this year.