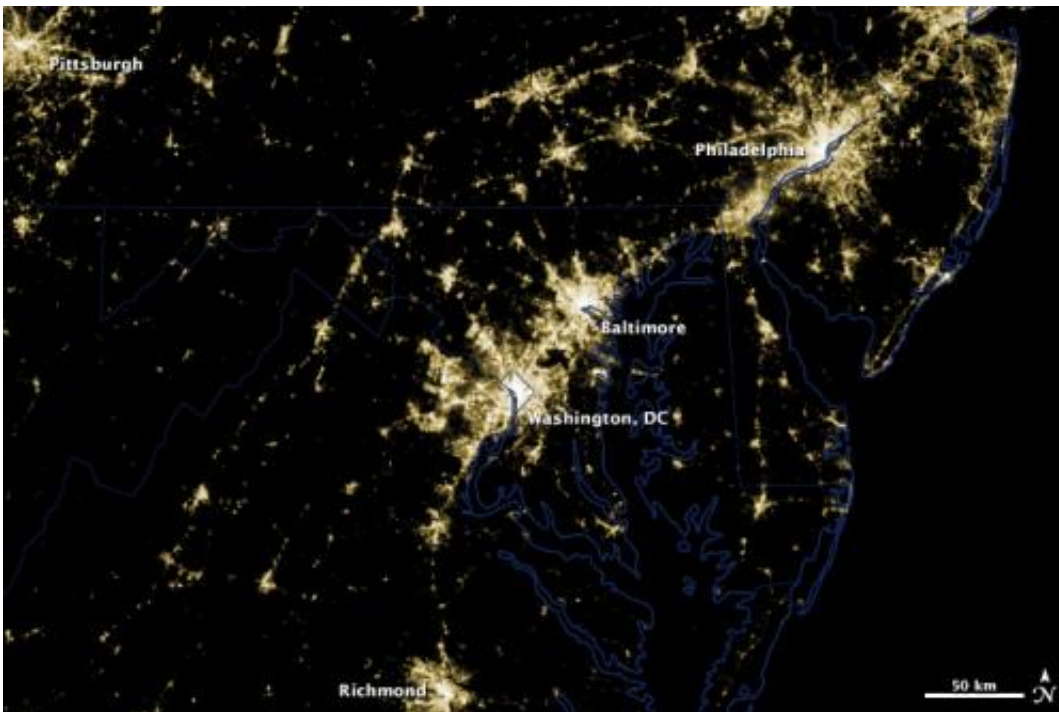


# Images: Power Outages Darken Baltimore-Washington Region

July 10 2012

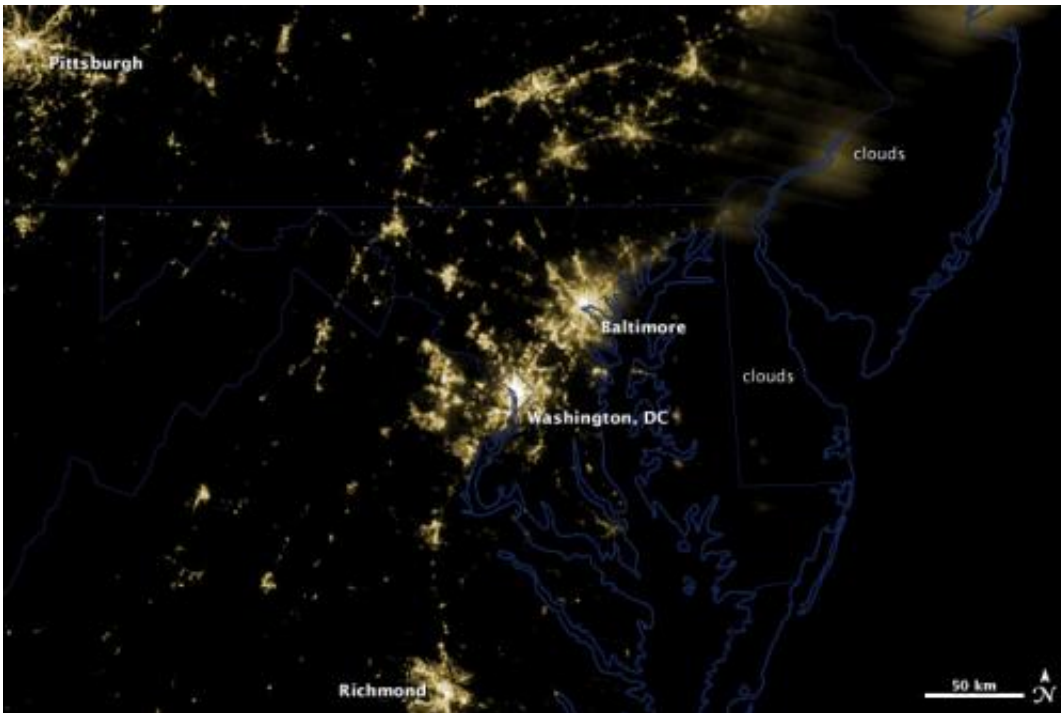
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These before and after images from NASA's Suomi National Polar-orbiting Partnership satellite show the power outages in the clear skies over Washington, DC and Baltimore that occurred as a result of a rare, fast-moving thunderstorm system on Friday, June 29th.

Extensive [power outages](#) in Washington, DC and Baltimore are visible in

these images. Clouds obscure the lights of Philadelphia and other areas north and east of Baltimore. Of particular interest is the loss of light to the north and west of Washington, DC along the 270 and 66 interstate highways and Maryland route 267.



Known as a “derecho,” the storm combined intense lightning and rain with hurricane-force winds that were upwards of 60 miles per hour (~96.5 kilometers per hour). It killed 22 people and caused some 4.3 million households to lose power for days.

Derecho is the Spanish word for straight and the storm raced from west of Chicago across Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, and Washington, D.C.

According to the National Weather Service, the gigantic windstorms of a derecho are as powerful as tornados, but the winds don't twist, instead driving in a straight line. To be classified as a derecho, the swath of wind damage must extend more than 240 miles and the storms are powered by hot, humid weather.

These [images](#) were taken with the day/night band of S-NPP's Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS). Suomi NPP was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base on October 28th, 2011 and is the result of a partnership between [NASA](#), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Department of Defense.

**More information:** NASA Earth Observatory image by Jesse Allen and Robert Simmon using data from the NASA/NOAA satellite S-NPP. Caption by Aries Keck.

Provided by NASA

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