

# Plant explosion cuts gas to mining companies

Posted Tuesday, 3 June 2008

**Gas supply to Western Australia's Goldfields region is expected to be disrupted for days after an explosion ripped through an off shore plant which supplies about 30 per cent of the state's gas needs.**



The Apache Energy plant delivers gas to the Goldfields region. (ABC News)

The plant's operator, Apache Energy, has confirmed an explosion occurred at its plant on Varanus Island, about 100 kilometres west of Karratha.

The company says following the explosion this afternoon a fire started and more than 160 workers were airlifted to safety at nearby Barrow Island.

A fire caused by the explosion is still burning and has damaged pipelines that deliver gas from the Island to the Goldfields pipeline.

Customers that are supplied by Apache include many big mining and mineral companies.

Some of the companies may be without gas for a couple of days.

Apache Energy adds that gas supplies to homes are not expected to be affected.