readable instructions received from a computer program. The functional units of FIG. **13** may be incorporated into any communication network node performing the functions of a blackout management node. It will be understood that the units illustrated in FIG. **13** are functional units, and may be realised in any appropriate combination of hardware and/or software.

[0120] Referring to FIG. **13**, the blackout management node **100** comprises a notification unit **110**, a device identifying unit **140**, an entity discovery unit **120** and a communication unit **150**. The blackout management node may also comprise an impact unit **130** and an supplier unit **160**. The notification unit **110** is configured to receive a notification of a scheduled outage of mains power, the notification comprising a location to be affected by the scheduled outage and a time period during which the scheduled outage is scheduled. The device identifying unit **140** is configured to identify mains powered devices registered on the communication network and situated in the notified location. The entity discovery unit **120** is configured to discover an entity affected by an outage of at least one of the identified devices. The communication unit **150** is configured to inform the discovered entity that the identified devices are scheduled to be without power during the notified time period. The impact unit **130**, if present, is configured to calculate an impact upon network resources of the scheduled power outage. The supplier unit **160**, if present, is configured to remove from the identified devices any devices supplied with mains power by a supplier other than the supplier scheduling the notified scheduled outage.

[0121] FIG. **14** illustrates another example of blackout management node **200** which may be configured to conduct the method discussed above. The blackout management node **200** comprises a processor **270** and a memory **280**. The memory **280** contains instructions executable by the processor **270** such that the blackout management node **200** is operative to conduct the steps of the method described above.

[0122] FIG. **15** illustrates functional units in a PCC node **300** which may execute the steps discussed above with reference to the PCC use case, for example according to computer readable instructions received from a computer program. It will be understood that the units illustrated in FIG. **15** are functional units, and may be realised in any appropriate combination of hardware and/or software.

[0123] Referring to FIG. **15**, the PCC node **300** comprises a receiving unit **392** and a policy unit **394**. The receiving unit **392** is configured to receive a message identifying mains powered devices registered on the communication network and affected by the scheduled outage. The policy unit is configured to apply at least one of a Quality of Service or Bandwidth policy according to the received message. The PCC node **300** may also comprise a calculation unit **396** configured to calculate an effect upon network resources of the identified devices going offline and coming back online at the same time.

[0124] FIG. **16** illustrates another example of PCC node **400** which may be configured to conduct the steps discussed above with reference to the PCC as a stakeholder. The PCC node **400** comprises a processor **470** and a memory **480**. The memory **480** contains instructions executable by the processor **470** such that the PCC node **400** is operative to conduct the steps of the described above with reference to the PCC as a stakeholder.

[0125] Embodiments of the present invention thus enable stakeholders in systems incorporating stationary connected devices to manage the effects of a scheduled mains power outage. Effects managed may include effects observed by users of the stationary connected devices, or of the appliances or equipment with which they are associated. Effects managed may also include effects observed by providers and users of the network providing communication connectivity to the devices or by users of applications running on the stationary connected devices.

[0126] Embodiments of the present invention facilitate communication between a communication network such as a 3GPP network and an energy provider domain, comprising utility providers and other energy service providers. In facilitating such communication, embodiments of the present invention enable proactive management of the effects of forthcoming scheduled power outages.

[0127] Through calculation of the Impact Magnitude of a scheduled power outage, embodiments of the blackout management node of the present invention can provide useful information to stakeholders in stationary connected device systems, allowing those stakeholders to take appropriate action to mitigate unwanted effects of a scheduled power outage. The information provided to the stakeholders may be location based, allowing stakeholders to take action on the basic of geographic locations encompassing multiple connected devices, as opposed to acting uniquely on a device by device basis. The mitigating actions of stakeholders may include dynamic resource management, energy consumption scheduling, information provision, recommendation and a range of other actions, as discussed above.

[0128] The methods of the present invention may be implemented in hardware, or as software modules running on one or more processors. The methods may also be carried out according to the instructions of a computer program, and the present invention also provides a computer readable medium having stored thereon a program for carrying out any of the methods described herein. A computer program embodying the invention may be stored on a computer-readable medium, or it could, for example, be in the form of a signal such as a downloadable data signal provided from an Internet website, or it could be in any other form.

[0129] It should be noted that the above-mentioned examples illustrate rather than limit the invention, and that those skilled in the art will be able to design many alternative embodiments without departing from the scope of the appended claims. The word "comprising" does not exclude the presence of elements or steps other than those listed in a claim, "a" or "an" does not exclude a plurality, and a single processor or other unit may fulfil the functions of several units recited in the claims. Any reference signs in the claims shall not be construed so as to limit their scope.

1-33. (canceled)

34. A method, in a node of a communication network, for managing effects of a scheduled outage of mains power, the method comprising:

receiving a notification of a scheduled outage of mains power, the notification comprising a location to be affected by the scheduled outage and a time period during which the scheduled outage is scheduled;

identifying mains powered devices registered on the communication network and situated in the notified location;