



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, January 03, 2012

Electricity

Update: U.S. Federal Appeals Court Delays EPA Air-Pollution Rule Affecting Power Plant Emissions

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in Washington on Friday ruled to delay the introduction of new limits on sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in July and scheduled to go into effect beginning January 1, pending further court review. The EPA's Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) was met with industry complaints that asserted the start-date for the rule didn't allow enough time to install pollution-controlling equipment and would cause plant closures that could threaten grid reliability. Texas and 14 other states filed legal challenges to the rules.

<http://www.businessgreen.com/bg/news/2134852/power-plant-emissions-standards-delayed>

Update: Luminant to Continue Operating Two 593 MW Monticello Coal-Fired Units in Texas after U.S. Federal Court Delays EPA Air-Pollution Rule

Upon announcement of the U.S. appeals court ruling on Friday, Dallas-based utility Luminant said it would continue to operate two 593 MW coal-fired units that it planned to suspend at its Monticello plant on January 1 to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) new air-pollution rules.

Reuters, 20:15 December 30, 2011

<http://www.luminant.com/news/spotlight/detail.aspx?FtID=30>

Dominion Shuts 925 MW North Anna Nuclear Unit 1 in Virginia January 2 to Repair Instrument Line, Restarts and Ramps Unit Up to 8 Percent by January 3

Dominion Resources Inc. said Unit 1 at the North Anna nuclear plant returned to service this morning after shutting for repairs on an instrument line on Monday. Operators manually shut the unit after discovering a leak on the instrument line, which is used to hold open the main steam trip valve during normal operations, according to reports. On the morning of January 2 the unit was operating at full power.

Reuters, 09:57 January 3, 2012

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Update: Entergy Restarts 653 MW Pilgrim Nuclear Unit 1 in Massachusetts December 30 after Safety Valve Repairs, Restores Full Power by January 2

Entergy Corp. has restored full power to its Pilgrim nuclear unit after a small leak of radioactive steam in a safety relief valve forced officials to shut it down December 27. The leak was minor and contained within the plant's piping as designed, without posing a threat to workers or the public. The company did not immediately say what caused the leak, according to reports over the weekend.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Entergy-nuke-plant-goes-apf-2899806082.html?x=0>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Calpine's 751 MW Pastoria Gas-Fired Unit in California Reduced by January 2

The unit entered an unplanned curtailment of 261 MW.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201201021515.html>

Update: AES's 225 MW Huntington Beach Gas-Fired Unit 3 and 227 MW Gas-Fired Unit 4 in California Return to Service by January 1

The units returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201201011515.html>

PG&E's 154 MW Kerkhoff Hydro Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by January 2

The unit entered an unplanned outage by January 1.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201201021515.html>

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201201011515.html>

Update: Dynegy's 510 MW Moss Landing Gas-Fired Unit 2 in California Returns to Service by December 30

The unit returned from an unplanned curtailment of 320 MW.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201112301515.html>

Petroleum

Mexico Shuts Two of Three Main Oil Export Ports January 2 Due to Bad Weather off the Gulf of Mexico

Mexico's transport ministry said in a statement that two of Mexico's three main oil exporting ports were shut Monday due to bad weather. The Dos Bocas and Coatzacoalcas terminals were closed, but the largest port of Cayo Arcas remained open, according to a ministry statement. Mexico ships almost all of its crude oil exports to U.S. Gulf Coast refineries from the three ports.

Reuters, 12:39 January 2, 2012

Update: Iraq Delays Exports from New 900,000 b/d Offshore Oil Export Terminal until February

Officials are delaying exports from the first of three new offshore export terminals, which had been scheduled to begin January 1, to complete tests of new export pipelines. Each new single-point mooring will have a capacity of 900,000 b/d. The three terminals are part of an export expansion project in the Persian Gulf that also includes the construction of two undersea pipelines and one onshore pipeline. The other two new moorings are scheduled for installation by the end of the year, an Oil Ministry spokesman said.

Reuters, 08:02 January 3, 2012

Update: Waha Oil Co. Restarts 450,000 b/d Es-Sider Oil Port in Libya, Plans First Shipment on January 2 or 3 – Port Operating Official

Reuters, 17:08 January 1, 2012

Natural Gas

Columbia Gulf Transmission Line 200 Explodes, Erupts into Flames January 2 in Kentucky

A gas transmission line exploded and erupted into flames Monday night in Estill County, Kentucky. A Columbia Gulf Transmission and Storage spokeswoman told reporters Tuesday morning that the exploded Line 200 carries natural gas from Rayne, Louisiana to Leach in Boyd County, Kentucky, where the gas enters a Columbia Gas transmission line for distribution to Eastern and Mid-Atlantic states. Line 200 was built around 1966 and is one of three Columbia Gulf lines running through the immediate area in Estill County, the spokeswoman said. Flames continued to burn Tuesday morning as crews allowed residual gas in the line to burn off, according to local reports. Columbia Gulf launched a preliminary investigation into what might have caused the explosion, but the company said it was too early to speculate on the cause. Officials said Monday night that gas had been shut off about 10:30 PM local time, and Columbia Gulf rerouted gas flow into other company transmission lines to avoid disrupting deliveries, the spokeswoman said. Officials reported no injuries, and families evacuated from homes near the blast site were allowed to return by Tuesday afternoon.

<http://www.kentucky.com/2012/01/03/2014195/gas-line-still-burns-in-estill.html>

<http://www.ngtsnavigates.com/ReportServer/Pages/ReportViewer.aspx?%2fInfoPost%2fNoticesSubreport&rs:Command=Render&pNoticeId=12661013&AssetNbr=14&rc:Parameters=collapsed&rc:Toolbar=true&rc:zoom=page%20width>

Engine Problems Reduce Available Capacity on TransCanada's 1.2 Bcf/d ANR Pipeline Southeast Area Pipeline Segment in Louisiana January 3

According to a critical notice filed on ANR Pipeline Company's website, unplanned engine repairs at Eunice compressor station on the Southeast Area Pipeline Segment in Louisiana will restrict the Patterson to Eunice delivery capacity by 296 MMcf/d from January 3 through January 17. The segment's remaining capacity, 930 MMcf/d, will be available. Based on current nominations for this segment, ANR does not anticipate the reduction to impact service.

<http://anrebb.transcanada.com/Notices/NoticeView.asp?sPipelineCode=ANR&sSubCategory=Critical&sNoticeId=6096>

Unplanned Service Outage Reported at 390 MMcf/d Cameron Interstate Pipeline-Florida Gas Transmission Interconnection in Louisiana January 4

According to a critical notice posted online, Cameron Interstate Pipeline (CIP) will not be accepting nominations to Florida Gas Transmission (FGT) beginning January 4 due to necessary repairs to the FGT meter station. CIP will resume allowing nominations pending completion of repairs.

http://www.gasnom.com/ip/cameron/notice_details_new.cfm?id=64&type=1

<http://www.gasnom.com/ip/cameron/oauc.cfm?type=1>

Copano Reports Flaring from Its 700 MMcf/d Houston Central Gas Plant in Texas December 31

Copano Processing reported problems moving rich oil out of an absorber due to a hydrate in one or more of the lean/rich amine exchangers on Saturday, causing flaring and smoking. Operators made adjustments to warm the lean oil and break up the hydrate, restoring normal flow. Once the pressure came down and rates were back to normal operations, the flaring and smoking ceased.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163231>

Low Compressor Speed Shuts AGI Compressor at Regency's 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas January 2

Regency Energy Partners reported low speed on the compressor motor caused the acid gas injector (AGI) compressor to go down. Operators troubleshot the low motor speed and reset and restarted the compressor.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163243>

Suction Valve Failure Shuts Turbine, Leads to Flaring at DCP Midstream's 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas January 2

DCP Midstream reported its A-Turbine went down due to a fourth-stage suction valve failing to close, which resulted in flaring, according to a filing with state regulators. Operators restarted A-Turbine, which stopped the flaring.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163260>

Solar Turbine Failure Shuts AGI Units at Enbridge's Tilden Gas Plant in Texas January 2

Enbridge reported its acid gas injector (AGI) Units 1 and 2 went down due to a solar turbine going down Monday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators immediately responded to correct the situation, routing vented gas to flare to mitigate emissions.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163254>

Valve Problems Lead to Flaring at XTO's Russell Compressor Station in Texas January 1

XTO Energy reported valve problems that led to flaring on Sunday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Excess gas was sent to flare to minimize emissions until operators could resolve the valve maintenance.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163233>

Oxy Reports Flaring at Its West Seminole San Andres Unit Central Tank Battery in Texas January 1

Oxy USA WTP reported flaring Sunday due to Targa's compressor shutdown, according to a filing with state regulators.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163234>

Equipment Failure Shuts Engine at Atlas Pipeline's Boyd Compressor Station in Texas December 31

Engine C-15 went down on underspeed alarm, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators found the No. 4 right bank spark plug had a broken insulator. They fixed the plug and restarted the unit as soon as possible.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163232>

Sid Richardson Energy Services Reports Leaks on Pipelines in Winkler County, Texas December 30–31

Sid Richardson reported as leak on its 10-inch pipeline in a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Friday and said that additional information would follow with the final report. In a separate TCEQ filing on Saturday, the company reported a leak on a 6-inch pipeline due to internal corrosion and again said that it would include additional information in a final report.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163230>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163228>

Other News

Nothing to report

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices January 3, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	102.41	99.85	92.14
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.98	2.93	4.22

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

High Winds Cut Power to 20,000 DTE Energy Co. Customers in Detroit, Michigan Metropolitan Area January 1

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/e86cd6b80d21434c9f487019aa5668fa/MI--Winter-Storm-Michigan-Damage/>

Broken Transmission Line Insulators Cut Power to over 16,000 Central Maine Power Customers in Maine December 31

<http://knox.villagesoup.com/news/story/more-than-11-000-in-waldo-county-without-power/476791>

<http://bangordailynews.com/2011/12/31/news/midcoast/more-than-8000-without-power-in-waldo-county/>

Nevada Public Utility Commission Approves Power Purchase Agreement that Moves U.S. Geothermal Inc.'s 19.9 MW San Emidio Project Closer to Operation in Nevada

<http://www.usgeothermal.com/NewsReleases/NR%2001-03-2012.pdf>

Update: LyondellBasell to Begin Idling 105,000b/d Berre l'Etang Refinery in France January 4

Reuters, 11:01 January 3, 2012

Links

This Week in Petroleum from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://www.eia.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

Weekly Petroleum Status Report from EIA

http://www.eia.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://www.eia.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Energy Assurance Daily provides a summary of public information concerning current energy issues. Published Monday through Friday to inform stakeholders of developments affecting energy systems, flows, and markets, it provides highlights of energy issues rather than a comprehensive coverage. *Energy Assurance Daily* is updated online Monday through Friday after 5:00 PM EST. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at:

<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

Please direct comments and questions to: ead@oe.netl.doe.gov