



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, January 03, 2013

Electricity

Update: Duke Places 2,365 MW of New Generation into Service at Three Power Plants in North Carolina in December 2012

Duke Energy Corp. today reported three new power plants began commercial operations in North Carolina at the end of 2012, including:

- The 825 MW Cliffside coal-fired Unit 6, which began commercial operations December 30. Duke retired four 1940s-era coal-fired units at Cliffside, totaling 198 MW, in October 2011 and committed to retiring another 1,469 MW of older coal-fired generation in North Carolina associated with Cliffside Unit 6. Duke Energy also added a scrubber to the existing Unit 5 in 2011.
- The 920 MW H.F. Lee natural gas-fired, combined-cycle plant, which began commercial operations December 31. This new facility, along with the five combustion turbines at the existing Wayne County Energy Complex, will be called the H.F. Lee Energy Complex, with a total generation capacity of 1,800 MW. Progress Energy Carolinas retired three older coal-fired units (totaling 382 MW) and four combustion turbines at the H.F. Lee Plant earlier this fall.
- The 620 MW Dan River natural gas-fired, combined-cycle plant, which began commercial operations December 10. Duke retired 276 MW of coal-fired capacity at Dan River in spring 2012.

<http://www.duke-energy.com/news/releases/2013010301.asp>

Duke to Build New 625 MW Sutton Natural Gas-Fired Power Plant in North Carolina

Duke Energy Corp. today reported that construction of the new 625 MW Sutton natural gas-fired, combined-cycle plant was under way near Wilmington, North Carolina, where 575 MW of older coal-fired generation will be retired in 2013. The new natural gas-fired plant is scheduled to begin commercial operations by the end of 2013.

<http://www.duke-energy.com/news/releases/2013010301.asp>

CL&P Proposes New 115-kV Underground Transmission Line in Connecticut

Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) has proposed to construct and operate a new 115-kV underground transmission line in Stamford, Connecticut. The Stamford Reliability Cable Project would extend approximately 1.5 miles between two existing CL&P substations, the Glenbrook Substation on Lincoln Avenue, and the South End Substation on Manhattan Street. CL&P plans to apply to the Connecticut Siting Council in the first quarter of 2013 for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need to construct and operate the new transmission line. The application to the Siting Council will also include the construction and operation of associated facilities at the Glenbrook and South End Substations.

<http://www.transmission-nu.com/residential/projects/stamford/>

Update: DTE's 1,089 MW Fermi Nuclear Unit 2 in Michigan Ramped Up to 68 Percent by January 3

Fermi Unit 2 is returning from an outage that began November 7, when operators manually tripped the reactor's main turbine generator in response to hydrogen gas in-leakage into the stator water cooling system from the main turbine generator. Prior to the shutdown, the reactor had been operating at reduced power since July 29, after major vibrations on June 25 damaged one of two pumps that feed cooling water to the nuclear core. DTE has not reported the cause of the vibrations. Operators restarted the unit on December 29.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

Update: TVA's 1,125 MW Watts Bar Nuclear Unit 1 in Tennessee at Full Power by January 2

Watts Bar Unit 1 returned to full power after a curtailment to 20 percent power that began December 31, when operators reduced the reactor to perform maintenance on a feedwater valve in the non-nuclear portion of the plant. <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-01-02/midwest-reactor-ramp-boosts-u-s-nuclear-power-to-16-week-high.html>

Update: Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuclear Unit 1 in Mississippi Ramped Up to 91 Percent by January 3

Grand Gulf Unit 1 is returning from an outage that began December 29, when the reactor automatically scrambled due to what appeared to be a generator/turbine trip. <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2012/20121231en.html>

NRG Reports Emissions at Its 956 MW Limestone Coal-Fired Unit 2 in Texas January 2

NRG Texas LLC reported the ambient reheat fan on Limestone Unit 2 tripped off on high vibrations Wednesday morning, causing emissions, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. <http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=177610>

Luminant Reports Emissions at Its 593 MW Big Brown Coal-Fired Unit 2 in Texas December 31

Luminant reported emissions at its Big Brown Unit 2 Monday afternoon were caused by electrostatic precipitator and transformer rectifier malfunctions, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. <http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=177554>

Constellation's 118 MW Ace Coal-Fired Unit in California Shut by January 2

The unit entered an unplanned outage. <http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201301021515.html>

Petroleum

Update: Expanded 400,000 b/d Seaway Crude Oil Pipeline from Cushing to Gulf Coast Expected to Reach Full Rates by the End of Next Week

Seaway Crude Oil Pipeline Company LLC, a 50/50 joint venture of Enterprise Products Partners LP and Enbridge Inc., announced today that final work is being performed in preparation for the increase in capacity on its Seaway crude oil pipeline from approximately 150,000 b/d to approximately 400,000 b/d. To complete the remaining pump station connections, transportation service has been suspended on the 500-mile, 30-inch pipeline and is expected to resume operations at full rates by the end of next week. In addition to the pipeline that transports crude oil from Cushing to the Gulf Coast, the Seaway system is comprised of a terminal and distribution network originating in Texas City, Texas, which serves refineries locally and in the Houston area. The Seaway system also includes dock facilities at Freeport and Texas City. <http://seawaypipeline.com/news/20130102PressRelease.pdf>

Colonial Works to Restore Normal Operations on Its Mid-Atlantic Line 3 Products Pipeline Following a Pump Failure January 1

Colonial Pipeline reported it was repairing a booster pump on its Line 3 mixed-products pipeline, which runs from North Carolina to New Jersey, after the pump failed Tuesday. The company said it would utilize Line 4 equipment to supply products on both Line 3 and Line 4 by alternating between the two lines. Operators expect to complete pump repairs on Saturday. Several other outgoing lines from North Carolina, Lines 22, 23, and 24, were temporarily shut as a precaution, but resumed service on Wednesday. Colonial Lines 1 and 2 both continued to operate normally throughout the incident.

Reuters, 15:09 January 2, 2013

Update: Imperial Says Production at Its 110,000 b/d Kearn Oil Sands Project in Alberta Could Begin in ‘Weeks’

Imperial Oil Ltd. said it could start production at the 110,000 b/d Kearn oil sands project in northern Alberta in the coming weeks after a previous target was delayed from the end of December because of early winter weather, according to a company spokesman. The facility has been undergoing commissioning operations over the past several weeks, and operators expect first oil in early 2013, depending on the company’s progress in the coming weeks. Production will be sold as blended bitumen and shipped via Enbridge Inc.’s Woodland pipeline.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/02/imperial-kearn-idUSL1E9C2A4E20130102?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43>

Imperial Issues Brief Fire Alert at Its 121,000 b/d Sarnia, Ontario Refinery January 3

Imperial Oil Ltd. issued a brief alert about a fire at its Sarnia refinery Thursday morning, followed within minutes by an “all clear” signal, according to a local emergency warning service. “The site emergency warning system was activated and Imperial Oil crews responded,” the NetAlert service said without providing details.

Reuters, 09:12 January 3, 2013

Valero Joint Venture Proposes New Crude Dock on the Sabine-Neches Ship Channel to Connect with Its 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery

PI Dock Facilities LLC, a joint venture company formed by Valero Terminaling and Distribution and TGS Development, has proposed building a new marine terminal for crude tankers on the east bank of the Sabine-Neches Ship Channel. The new dock, being built alongside Pleasure Island, will allow large tankers to offload crude at any time of day or night. The crude dock, which is scheduled for completion in the fourth quarter of 2013, will deliver crude oil through a new 36-inch pipeline to Valero’s 310,000 b/d Port Arthur refinery and will have the flexibility to connect to other local refineries.

<http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/article/New-oil-dock-brings-75-million-to-Port-Arthur-4162623.php>

Update: PHMSA Says ExxonMobil’s Silvertip Pipeline Spill into Yellowstone River in Montana Made Worse by Operators’ Delay

The U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) on Wednesday reported an ExxonMobil pipeline spill into the Yellowstone River in 2011 would have been far less severe if the company had not delayed closing valves. The company’s 40,000 b/d Silvertip crude oil pipeline in Montana broke on July 1 after flooding scoured the river bed and exposed the pipe, which spilled an estimated 1,500 barrels of oil into the river. Controllers closed some valves and pumps 10 minutes after the spill was first detected, but waited about 46 minutes before shutting other valves, the report said. It also said that had ExxonMobil’s shutdown procedures required remote-controlled valves to be closed immediately after detecting a leak, the spill would have been about two-thirds smaller.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/01/03/us-exxon-yellowstone-spill-idUKBRE90200620130103>

California Sues Phillips 66 and ConocoPhillips for Failing to Maintain Underground Gasoline Storage Tanks at More Than 560 Gasoline Stations

California Attorney General Kamala Harris and seven county district attorneys on Thursday filed a civil lawsuit in Alameda County Superior Court accusing ConocoPhillips and Phillips 66 of violating California environmental laws by failing to properly maintain underground gasoline storage tanks at more than 560 gasoline stations in the state. The companies were accused of tampering with leak detection devices, failing to test secondary containment systems and maintain alarm systems, and improperly handling and disposing of hazardous wastes associated with the tanks, among other violations. A ConocoPhillips spokesman said the assets and liabilities of the retail locations are no longer part of ConocoPhillips and are owned by Phillips 66. A Phillips 66 spokeswoman said she was not permitted to discuss legal matters.

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2013/01/03/phillips-66-and-conocophillips-sued-by-california-over-tanks/>
<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3136456/Latest-News/Phillips-66-Conoco-accused-of-violating-California-hazardous-waste-laws.html>

Natural Gas

Nothing to report

Other News

Nothing to report

International News

Nothing to report

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
January 3, 2013			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	93.10	90.71	102.41
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.30	3.35	2.98

Source: Reuters

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 and 1:00 PM Eastern Time every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

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

Updated after 2:00 PM Eastern Time every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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

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