



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, January 06, 2012

Electricity

DOE Launches Initiative to Better Protect the Nation's Electric Grid from Cyber Threats

As part of efforts to enhance the security and reliability of the nation's electrical grid, U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu yesterday announced an initiative to further protect the electrical grid from cyber attacks. The "Electric Sector Cybersecurity Risk Management Maturity" project, a White House initiative led by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in partnership with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), will leverage the insight of private industry and public sector experts to build on existing cybersecurity measures and strategies to create a more comprehensive and consistent approach to protecting the nation's energy delivery system. The initiative will develop a maturity model that allows utility companies and grid operators to measure their current capabilities and analyze gaps in their cyber defenses.

<http://energy.gov/articles/department-energy-launches-initiative-industry-better-protect-nation-s-electric-grid-cyber>

NRC Issues Preliminary Findings Indicating Security Shortcomings at PSEG's 2,332 MW Salem and 1,161 MW Hope Creek Nuclear Plants in New Jersey

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is investigating undisclosed security failings at PSEG Nuclear's Salem and Hope Creek nuclear facilities in New Jersey, according to an NRC letter dated December 19 that was recently made public. The letter announces a preliminary finding greater than "green"—i.e., a finding of greater than very low safety significance—which may result in the need for additional NRC action. PSEG promptly compensated for the undisclosed deficiency, according to the letter, and was back in compliance with NRC rules before the inspection ended. The NRC will continue its evaluation and issue a final determination of safety significance within 90 days of the date of the letter.

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20120104/NEWS08/201040345/Nuclear-plants-investigated?odyssey=tab/topnews/text/Home>
<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1134/ML11342A013.pdf>

FPL Completes 17 Percent Up-rate at Point Beach Nuclear Plant in Wisconsin, Ramps Plant up to Full Power by December 29

FPL restored full power to its Point Beach nuclear plant near Manitowoc, Wisconsin on December 29 after refueling and completing an expansion project that began in October 2011, according to local news reports this week. The plant's power output was increased by 17 percent, to about 1,200 MW, via upgrades to both reactors and the replacement of equipment including generators, pipes, valves, and pumps, according to the report.

<http://www.jsonline.com/business/point-beach-plants-electricity-is-flowing-across-nations-midsection-d53lqp0-136631143.html>

Entergy Shuts 730 MW Palisades Nuclear Unit in Michigan January 5 to Repair Control Rod Mechanism Seal

Entergy shut down the plant Thursday evening to repair a control rod mechanism seal after identifying signs of wear, according to local reports Thursday. The plant will return to service after repairs, but a spokesman could not give an expected timeframe for the shutdown, saying only that it won't be that long.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>
http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2012/01/palisades_nuclear_plant_to_shu.html

San Diego Gas & Electric's 566 MW Palomar Energy Center Gas-Fired Unit in California Reduced by January 5

The unit entered an unplanned curtailment of 327 MW.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201201051515.html>

Exelon Wind Places 90 MW Michigan Wind 2 Project into Commercial Operation January 5

Exelon Wind has completed construction of its 50 turbine, 90 MW Michigan Wind 2 Project in Minden City, Michigan and has entered into commercial operation. In early 2012, Exelon Wind will begin construction on Harvest II Wind, a 59.4 MW project in nearby Pigeon, Michigan.

http://www.exeloncorp.com/Newsroom/20120105_power_MichiganWind2.aspx

Petroleum

Power Failure Shuts Several Units at Citgo's 429,500 b/d Lake Charles, Louisiana Refinery January 5

Citgo Petroleum Corp.'s reported a power outage due to an unknown cause at its Lake Charles refinery Thursday evening, according to a notice filed with the U.S. National Response Center. The outage shut several units, including the uncracker, coker 2 unit, acid plant, sulfur recovery unit, and xylene unit, and led to flaring, according to the filing. Emergency crews were onsite and an investigation was underway at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=999699

Update: ExxonMobil Says Production Unaffected at Its 238,600 b/d Joliet, Illinois Refinery after January 4 Coker Upset

An ExxonMobil Corp. spokeswoman said in a statement Friday that the refinery was unaffected by Wednesday's coker upset. The refinery reported a compressor shutdown due to an unspecified equipment failure, which led to flaring from the coker main fractionator, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

Reuters, 11:19 January 6, 2012

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=999593

Repsol to Shut FCCU at 220,000 b/d Petronor Refinery in Spain Citing Poor Margins and Low Demand

Operators at Repsol's Petronor refinery in northern Spain issued a statement announcing plans to shut the fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU), which will remain out of service for the entire month of January, due to the "drastic decline" in European refining margins in the last three months and the fall in product demand throughout 2011.

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/2957611/Latest-News/Repsol-shuts-FCC-unit-at-Petronor-refinery-in-Spain-amid-poor-margins.html>

Shell Restarts Unspecified Processing Unit at 100,000 b/d Scotford Upgrader in Alberta

Royal Dutch Shell Plc is restarting an unspecified processing unit at its Scotford oil sands upgrader near Edmonton, Alberta, according to reports Thursday. Shell expected elevated noise and flaring during the restart, but no impact to production.

Reuters, 12:42 January 5, 2012

Natural Gas

Pennsylvania Compressor Station Outage January 3 Reduces Downstream Capacity by 250 MMcf/d on Texas Eastern Transmission Pipeline

Texas Eastern (TE) reported an unplanned outage at its Armagh, Pennsylvania compressor station on January 3 in a critical notice posted online. As a consequence of the Armagh outage, TE estimates that it is experiencing a capacity reduction of approximately 250 MMcf/d through and downstream of Armagh. TE today reported repair efforts to restore this compressor station to service are progressing, and the company estimates the Armagh compressor unit will return to service late next week.

<https://infopost.spectraenergy.com/infopost/NoticeDetail.asp?strKey1=30562&type=CRI&pipe=TE>

<http://infopost.spectraenergy.com/infopost/NoticeDetail.asp?strKey1=30534&type=CRI&pipe=te>

ANR Announces 90 MMcf/d Capacity Reduction on NGPL-Joliet Interconnect January 3–12 Due to Unplanned Engine Repairs at Joliet Compressor Station in Illinois

In a notice filed online today, ANR Pipeline announced continued unplanned engine repairs at its Joliet compressor station in Illinois in the Northern Fuel Segment (ML-7). As a result, ANR will reduce the total NGPL-Joliet Interconnect capacity to 90 MMcf/d available for the period of January 3–12.

<http://anrebb.transcanada.com/Notices/NoticeView.asp?sPipelineCode=ANR&sSubCategory=Critical&sNoticeId=6103>

<http://www.anrpl.com/documents/CMA/WhatsNew/outage%20map.pdf>

Power Loss Shuts Unit at Chevron's 65 MMcf/d Dollarhide Gas Plant in Texas January 4

Chevron reported a loss of electrical power shut Unit P-9 Wednesday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators shut-in wells in the field and diverted gas to the LPC to minimize flaring.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163388>

Two Units Briefly Shut Down at Exterran's 50 MMcf/d Reinecke Gas Plant January 4

Exterran reported Unit 71050 went down due to high liquid level in the scrubber and a blockage in the product stabilizer, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Operators unblocked the stabilizer. In a separate TCEQ filing, the company reported also that Unit 74156 went down on slow RPMs. Mechanics adjusted the unit to increase RPMs.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163397>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163396>

Energen Reports Flaring from WFMU Satellite No. 1 Oil and Gas Production Facility in Texas January 4 Due to Maintenance on nearby Gas Line

Energen Resources Corp. reported flaring due to a request from DCP Midstream asking sales points to flare gas while it conducts maintenance on a transportation gas line, according to a filing with state regulators. Operators also slightly increased field pressure on production vessels to impede gas flow from individual well bores.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163372>

Oxy Reports Emissions Due to Line Repairs at Its West Welch Unit Tract 48 in Texas January 5

Oxy USA reported venting due to line repairs Thursday, 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=163431>

Other News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
January 6, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	101.36	99.60	88.39
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.91	2.98	4.52

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Update: FirstEnergy Discusses Recent Davis-Besse Nuclear Plant Reactor Head Replacement Outage, Shield Building Assessment at Public Meeting in Ohio

https://www.firstenergycorp.com/newsroom/news_releases/davis-besse_nuclearpowerstaiondiscussesrecentreactorheadreplacem.html

United Steelworkers Union Wants Government Oversight of Pennsylvania Refinery Closures, Cite Concerns about Local Economy

Reuters, 17:29 January 5, 2012

European Union Considers Delay on Iran Oil Embargo to Protect Vulnerable Economy; Scheduled to Make a Decision by the End of January

Reuters, 05:56 January 6, 2012

BP, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil Discuss Plan to Export Alaska's North Slope Gas as LNG to Asian Pacific Markets, Not by Pipeline to U.S. Lower 48

Reuters, 21:21 January 5, 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

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

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