



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, January 06, 2014

Electricity

Cold Outbreak, Winter Storms Knock Out Power to 164,000 Customers Across Central and Eastern U.S.

A bitterly cold, arctic air mass brought dangerously-low temperatures and wind chill values across the Central and Eastern U.S. on Sunday and Monday, with several locations approaching or exceeding record lows. Frigid temperatures, high winds, and snow have caused approximately 164,000 customers to lose power from Texas to Indiana, and also in Maine. As of 4 p.m. EST Monday, electric utilities report approximately 83,000 customers remain without power in their affected service territories. In Indiana, a winter storm left heavy snow on trees and power lines, affecting 95,000 customers. Indiana Power & Light (IPL), which reported a total of 65,000 customers affected by the storm, reported significant damage in its service territory and expects the vast majority of customers to be restored by Thursday morning. In Illinois, Ameren reported that field personnel and support staff are continuing to battle frigid temperatures and hazardous working conditions while working to restore power to approximately 12,000 customers in the Ameren Illinois service territory. Snow packed roads and strong winds are slowing restoration efforts and making it difficult to reach equipment. Commonwealth Edison reported that a substation explosion knocked out power to approximately 22,000 customers in Aurora, Illinois, a Chicago suburb. It is unclear if the explosion was related to the winter weather affecting the area. In Maine, utilities reported outages caused by freezing rain and strong winds.

Cold Weather and Winter Storm Power Outages January 5-6, 2014			
Electric Utility	State	Affected	Latest Reported
Entergy Arkansas	AR	9,000	4,028
Ameren Illinois	IL	12,365	11,368
Commonwealth Edison	IL	22,846	22,846
Duke Indiana	IN	20,000	3,583
Indiana Michigan Power	IN	3,378	1,844
Indianapolis Power and Light	IN	65,000	24,245
South Central Indiana REMC	IN	6,664	6,068
Central Maine Power	ME	8,500	2,796
Emera Maine*	ME	3,571	807
Ameren Missouri	MO	4,066	1,507
Oncor	TX	9,000	4,279
TOTAL **		164,390	83,371

* Effective Jan. 1, 2014, Bangor Hydro and Maine Public Service became one company: Emera Maine

**Total represents only utilities listed in this table.

<http://www.weather.gov/>

<http://www.bhe.com/about-us/outages-and-restorations/current-outage-reports.aspx>

http://apps.bhe.com/about/outages/outage_map.cfm

<http://www.boston.com/news/weather/2014/01/06/rain-high-winds-cause-power-outages-maine/f0vXNkEI6Ru0R9BksudAGL/story.html>

<https://twitter.com/EntergyArk>

<http://www.etrviewoutage.com/external/ar.aspx>

http://www.iplpower.com/Storm_and_Outage_Info/Outage_Information/

<http://apps.iplpower.com/outages/outagemap.aspx>

<http://www.illinoisoutage.com/go/doc/1787/2062542/>

<http://www.kmov.com/news/local/Thousands-without-power-Ameren-Missouri-opens-emergency-center-238846641.html>

<http://www.ameren.com/sites/ae/outagecenter/Pages/OutageMap.aspx>
<http://www.duke-energy.com/indiana/outages/current.asp>
<https://www.indianamichiganpower.com/outages/>
<http://www.seattlepi.com/news/article/Indiana-blanketed-by-snow-bitter-cold-to-follow-5116126.php>
<https://www.comed.com/layouts/comedsp/OutageMap.aspx>
<http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local&id=9383390>
<http://www.nbcdfw.com/weather/stories/Cold-Temperatures-Lead-to-Power-Warning-238851961.html>
<http://stormcenter.oncor.com/default.html>

Power Restored to Nearly All Newfoundland Power Customers January 6 After Rolling Blackouts; 190,000 Customers Were Without Power at Height of Outage January 4

Utility crews in Newfoundland and Labrador restored power to all but 1,000 customers as of 3:00 p.m. EST following rolling blackouts. At the height of the outage Saturday morning, power was out for 190,000 customers, mostly in eastern parts of Newfoundland. The blackouts were triggered by a combination of events including frigid temperatures, a fire at a terminal station, and a power plant that went offline. Rolling blackouts had been in effect since last week in an attempt to manage the increased demand on the power grid due to frigid temperatures and a blizzard on Friday and a fire at a hydro station on Saturday caused further problems. Another setback occurred Sunday night when a generating station outside St. John's refinery unexpectedly shut down.

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/tens-of-thousands-without-power-in-newfoundland>

<http://www.vocm.com/newsarticle.asp?mn=2&ID=42158>

<https://twitter.com/NFPower>

<https://www.facebook.com/newfoundlandpower>

Power Restored after Equipment Malfunction at Dominion Substation Cuts Power to 32,000 Customers in Virginia January 4

Electricity has been restored to most of the customers affected by an equipment malfunction at a Dominion Virginia Power substation Saturday. A Dominion spokesman said the malfunction caused a small fire around 7:00 a.m. EST Saturday at the company's substation in Dooms in Augusta County. The outage affected about 19,000 Dominion Virginia Power customers and about 13,000 customers of several electric cooperatives, including 7,500 Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) members. As of 8:00 p.m. Saturday, Dominion confirmed restoration of electricity to all but 4 customers. SVEC reported no outages as of Monday afternoon. The cause of the equipment malfunction had not been determined.

<http://www.whsv.com/news/headlines/Equipment-Failure-Leaves-Thousands-without-Power-238710931.html>

<http://www.whsv.com/news/headlines/Power-Restored-to-Thousands-After-Substation--238734351.html>

<http://www.outageentry.com/dvOSM/dvOutages.php?Client=svec>

Power Restored after Fire at TECO Substation Briefly Cuts Power to 1,800 Customers in Florida January 2

A fire broke out at a Tampa Electric Co. (TECO) substation in Brandon, Florida at about 8:30 p.m. EST Thursday night, causing about 1,800 customers to lose power, local officials and reporters said. TECO crews shut operations for several hours while the fire burned itself out. Mineral oil used to cool transformers at the station was fueling the fire and was allowed to burn off. Power outages were reported throughout the area, but were restored Thursday night.

<http://www.tampabay.com/substation-explosion-leaves-1800-customers-in-brandon-without-power>

http://www.baynews9.com/teco_fire_power.html?cid=rss

MISO Declares Conservative Operations for Central and North Regions as Cold Weather Continues January 5-7

The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) on Sunday afternoon declared conservative operations would be effective from 11:00 p.m. EST Sunday to 11:00 p.m. EST Tuesday for much of its central and northern U.S. operating regions. The declaration suspends all transmission and generation maintenance in the affected areas for the duration of the conservative operations period, unless such maintenance will result in improved bulk electric system monitoring, control, and security. MISO began issuing cold weather alerts last Thursday, notifying operators that they could expect to be contacted about fuel restrictions, and to remind operators to notify MISO of any expected generator fuel issues, transmission system issues, or any other pertinent information that could impact capacity or reliability.

<https://www.misoenergy.org/Notifications/ConservativeOperationsInitiate20140105121302.aspx>

<https://www.misoenergy.org/MarketsOperations/Notifications/Pages/ColdWeatherAlert20140105121102.aspx>

<https://www.misoenergy.org/MarketsOperations/Notifications/Pages/Real-TimeEmergencies.aspx>

ERCOT Cancels Brief Emergency Alert But Urges Conservation After Cold Weather Causes High Demand for Power January 6

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) on Monday morning reported that although conditions on the grid it operates in Texas had returned to normal, conservation was still needed as cold weather continues to cause a high demand for power. Demand for electricity reached 55,486 MW in the hour leading up to 8:00 a.m. CST Monday, causing operating reserves to fall below 1,750 MW and prompting the grid operator to declare a Level 2 Energy Emergency in the state. (Level 2 emergencies indicate that conservation is critical.) ERCOT implemented demand response programs through some entities that contract with it to reduce their electric use when needed. About an hour later, ERCOT said the threat had passed and downgraded the Energy Emergency from Level 2 to Level 1, which maintains that conservation is needed. Although the operator did not anticipate rotating outages would be necessary Monday, it said it would continue to monitor conditions closely. Unexpected major losses of generation could force operators to proceed with additional emergency procedures to avoid an uncontrolled statewide blackout.

http://www.ercot.com/news/press_releases/show/26571

http://www.ercot.com/news/press_releases/show/26570

http://www.ercot.com/services/comm/mkt_notices/opsmessages/index

Luminant Cuts Output to Repair Heater Drain Pump at Its 1,150 MW Comanche Peak Nuclear Unit in Texas January 6

Output at Luminant's Comanche Peak nuclear unit in Texas was reduced early Monday to allow for repair of a heater drain pump, according to nuclear regulators. The reduction comes as power demand rises on a cold snap hitting much of the country.

Reuters, 12:00 January 6, 2014

Entergy's 510 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Unit in Vermont Reduced to 52 Percent by January 6

On the morning of January 5 the unit was operating at full power, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/>

Update: RRI Energy, Inc.'s 320 MW Etiwanda Gas-fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by January 3

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began by January 2.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201401031515.html>

Update: Cabrillo Power I, LLC's 106 MW Encina Gas-fired Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by January 4

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began by January 1.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201401041515.html>

Sterling Energy to Convert Idle Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power's 25 MW Coal-Fired Power Plant in Indiana into Natural Gas Combined-Cycle Plant

Sterling Energy Group, Inc. on December 30 purchased the Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power coal-fired power plant in Indiana and plans to refurbish the plant to accommodate combined-cycle, natural gas-fired generation and to bring the plant into compliance with current emissions regulations. The plant has been idle for six years and was scheduled to be decommissioned if it was not sold by the end of 2013. Sterling estimates the Crawfordsville *plant* has 75 MW of switchyard capacity with 138-kV transmission into the Midcontinent Independent System Operator grid system. A 24-inch high pressure natural gas line operated by Vectron is also available to feed gas turbines inside the plant. Sterling has not publicly said when it expects to resume operations at the plant.

<http://sterlingenergygroupinc.com/power-plants/crawfordsville/>

http://www.jconline.com/Crawfordsville-power-plant-sold-after-6-years-sitting-idle?nclick_check=1

Update: Citgo to Restart Fire-damaged Crude Unit at Its 174,500 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery on January 15

Citgo Petroleum plans to restart on January 15 the vacuum section of a crude unit that was shut at its refinery in Lemont, Illinois, after an October fire, according to a person familiar with the progress of repairs. The October 23 fire shut the atmospheric and vacuum portions of a crude unit at the plant, which processes mostly heavy Canadian crude. The plant started the atmospheric distillation section on November 11, according to a company statement. The company must demonstrate the safety of its repaired unit to state officials before restarting it, according to the Illinois attorney general's website.

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3293865/Latest-News/Citgo-to-restart-fire-damaged-Illinois-refinery-unit.html>

Flint Hills Reports Pinhole Leak on Flare Gas Piping at Its 289,097 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery January 4

Flint Hills Resources reported a pinhole leak on flare gas piping at the West Plant of its Corpus Christi, Texas, refinery on Saturday, according to a notice filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The leak was mitigated and stopped on Sunday, but the incident had caused uncombusted flare gas to release to the air, the filing said. The filing listed a naphtha hydrotreater as a source of emissions.

Reuters, 8:57 January 6, 2014

Tesoro Reports Gasoline Leak From Pipe at Its 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery January 3

Tesoro Corp. reported a gasoline leak from a pipe at its Golden Eagle refinery in Martinez, California, according to a filing with Contra Costa Health Services on Friday. There was no flaring at the refinery due to the incident, the filing said.

Reuters, 16:18 January 3, 2014

PBF Reports Flaring at Its 190,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery January 3

PBF Energy Inc. reported flaring and sulfur dioxide emissions at its refinery in Delaware City, Delaware on Friday, according to a filing with state pollution regulators.

Reuters, 16:01 January 3, 2014

Natural Gas

Xcel Energy Asks 600 Business Customers in Minnesota and North Dakota to Reduce Natural Gas Usage to Conserve Energy During Cold Weather Starting January 5

Xcel Energy on Friday said that due to expected high demand for natural gas in its Upper Midwest service territory due to extremely cold temperatures and wind chills, it is asking the nearly 600 business customers in Minnesota and North Dakota that participate in Interruptible Gas Rates programs to reduce natural gas usage beginning at 9:00 a.m. local time Sunday. Customers in these programs have agreed to cut back on usage at the company's request in exchange for reduced rates year-round. A decision on whether the 250 program participants in Wisconsin and Michigan also will be asked to reduce usage was pending as of Friday.

http://www.xcelenergy.com/News_Releases/Xcel_Energy_is_ready_for_dangerously_cold_weather

Update: Enterprise Products Partners Begins Service on 85,000 b/d NGL Expansion of Rocky Mountain Segment of MAPL System January 2

Enterprise Products Partners L.P. on Friday announced that transportation services for shippers that executed long-term agreements supporting the partnership's Mid-America Pipeline Rocky Mountain expansion project officially began January 2, 2014. The project, which was designed to accommodate natural gas and natural gas liquids (NGL) production from major basins in Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming, involved looping the existing Mid-America Pipeline (MAPL) system with 290 miles of 16-inch pipeline, as well as pump station modifications, to transport an additional 85,000 b/d of natural gas liquids. The existing Rocky Mountain portion of the MAPL system extends more than 3,000 miles and transports NGLs from the Overthrust and San Juan basin areas to Enterprise's Hobbs fractionator in Gaines County, Texas.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=80547&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1887759>

Regency Reports Its 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas Shut Due to Partial Power Loss January 4

Regency reported its Waha plant lost partial power causing a complete plant shutdown. The plant then lost complete power. The third-party power provider is working on restoring power. Once complete power is restored and inlet gas flow is adequate, the acid gas injector (AGI) compressor will be restarted. The AGI flare and AGI volume meter are in service during the downtime.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=192513>

Atlas Pipeline Reports Process Failure at Its 195 MMcf/d Midkiff Gas Plant in Texas January 4

Atlas Pipelines reports process failure-dehydrator bed screens failed causing mole sieve to get into the process stream and an emergency shutdown of the plant. The C-1 cryogen will operate at 100 percent maximum and diverting gas to Atlas' other two gas plants to minimize emissions from flaring.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=192520>

Enbridge Reports AGI Shut at Its Tilden Gas Plant in Texas January 3, 4

Enbridge reported that's while maintaining the pressure on the inlet separator, a control valve was inadvertently closed causing acid gas injector (AGI) no. 2 to shut down on low first stage suction pressure. The valve was reopened and AGI compressor no. 2 was restarted. On January 3, AGI no. 3 went down on low first stage suction pressure. When bringing AGI no. 3 back up the fifth stage relief valve opened and would not reseal. AGI no. 2 went down on local emergency shutdown and AGI no. 3 went down due to the fifth stage relief valve leaking by again. A relief valve that would not reseal was repaired on AGI no. 3 and a loose fuse for the remote shutdown in the AGI no. 2 panel was also repaired. White kitchen and Big Foot gas flows were curtailed to minimize the flaring.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=192515>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=192512>

Other News

Ethanol Leaking From Tanker Railcar in Arizona Rail Yard January 3

A 30,000-gallon tanker car at a Phoenix, Arizona rail yard was releasing flammable ethanol alcohol at about 100 gallons an hour when a leak was discovered January 3. Officials indicated that while the ethanol alcohol is extremely flammable, there was no immediate threat to the public and HAZMAT crews were standing by with water and foam in case the ethanol ignites.

<http://www.kvoa.com/news/ethanol-leaking-from-tanker-in-phoenix-rail-yard/>

International News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
January 6, 2014			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	93.23	99.60	92.54
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.40	4.34	3.19

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 & 1:00 PM ET every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

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

Updated after 2:00 PM ET every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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

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