



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, January 20, 2012

Major Developments

Nearly 275,000 Utility Customers Remain without Power after Ice and Snow Pummel Pacific Northwest January 17–20

Over 272,000 utility customers around Seattle, Tacoma, and Olympia were without power Friday afternoon after a Pacific Northwest snow storm Tuesday/Wednesday was followed by freezing rain Thursday. An additional 2,555 were reported without power in Oregon. Puget Sound Energy (PSE) reported as of 11:00 AM local time that its crews were working around the clock to assess damage and restore power to approximately 254,000 of its customers who remained without power. The utility said it had restored service to 87,000 customers, but some customers may be without power beyond the weekend. PSE has called for 140 additional crews from California, Utah, and Canada to help the nearly 100 crews already working in the region. Authorities are worried about flooding in the coming days as temperatures warm up.

U.S. Pacific Northwest Customer Power Outages January 17–20, 2011			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Puget Sound Energy	WA	254,000	254,000
Tacoma Public Utilities	WA	5,200	1,100
Snohomish County Public Utility District	WA	16,000	16,000
Mason Public Utility District	WA	1,000	1,000
Pacific Power	OR	2,555	2,555
TOTAL*		278,755	274,655

*Total outages only represent electric utilities listed in this table. Peak outages by utility may not be concurrent.

Sources:

<http://pse.com/accountsandservices/ServiceAlert/Pages/Real-time-Updates.aspx>

<http://twitter.com/#!/PSETalk>

<http://twitter.com/#!/mytpu>

<http://www.snopud.com/newsroom/StormUpdates.ashx?p=1180>

<http://www.masonpud3.org/newsdisplay.aspx?newsid=970>

<http://www.pacificpower.net/ed/po/ooi.html>

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/01/20/about-270000-washington-customers-without-power/>

Electricity

Wild Fire Brings Down Power Lines, Shuts 13.2 MW Steamboat Geothermal Power Plant in Nevada January 19; 2,000 Customers Reported without Power

Firefighters are still working to contain a 3,800-acre Washoe County, Nevada fire Friday that has brought down power lines and prompted officials to partially shut the Steamboat Geothermal Complex near Reno. A spokesman from Ormat Technologies, operator of the plant, reported Thursday night that the company had completed an emergency action plan to shut down and evacuate the plant. The spokesman said he couldn't speak to the stability of area's power grid once portions of the plant were shut down, but local officials were reporting approximately 2,000 NV Energy customers without power last evening.

http://www.kolotv.com/news/headlines/Washoe_Fire_Shuts_Down_Power_Plant_137722648.html?ref=648

<http://www.recordcourier.com/article/20120120/NEWS/120129990/1062&ParentProfile=1049>

<http://www.nvenergy.com/renewablesenvironment/renewables/geothermal.cfm>

Update: U.S. District Court Rules Entergy Can Continue Operating Its 563 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant

A U.S. district court ruled Thursday that Entergy Corp. can continue operating the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, despite state laws that aimed to close the plant. The court found that federal law governing nuclear power plants, particularly with regard to safety, preempt state laws. Vermont lawmaker concerns were driven largely by concerns about radiation and safety, the court said in its filing, over which the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has sole jurisdiction. The NRC issued the plant a 20-year license renewal on March 21, 2011, but the state legislature objected to the extension. The plant's original license expires in March, 2012.

http://www.entergy.com/news_room/newsrelease.aspx?NR_ID=2355

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2012/01/20/court-rules-entergy-can-keep-operating-vermont-yankee-nuclear-plant/>

Update: Entergy's 951 MW Indian Point Nuclear Unit 2 in New York Ramped Up to 99 Percent by January 20

On the morning of January 19 the unit was operating at 35 percent.

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

Dominion's 871 MW Millstone Nuclear Unit 2 in Connecticut Reduced to 85 Percent by January 20

On the morning of January 19 the unit was operating at full power.

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

Update: Exelon's 1,111 MW La Salle Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois at Full Power by January 20

On the morning of January 19 the unit was operating at 65 percent.

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

Update: OG&E Completes 227.5 MW Crossroads Wind Farm Project in Northwestern Oklahoma

OG&E announced today that it has completed the Crossroads wind farm in northwestern Oklahoma. The project was a partnership between OG&E, Siemens, and Renewable Energy Systems Americas Inc. The project adds 227.5 megawatts of renewable generating capacity to the OG&E fleet, with 95 turbines rated at 2.3 MW each, plus three 3 MW, direct-drive turbines.

DJN, 10:12 January 20, 2012

Petroleum

Update: Tesoro Restarts SRU, Reports Other Units Operating at Reduced Rates at Its 93,500 b/d Kapolei, Hawaii Refinery after a Series of Brief Power Dips This Week

Tesoro Corp. on Friday said it has shut down some processing units for maintenance and was operating other units at reduced rates at the refinery, according to a spokeswoman. The refinery has been experiencing a series of brief power dips and reported emissions from the power fluctuations earlier this week. The spokeswoman reported the local power utility confirmed the grid is suffering from some instability due to bad weather. In a filing with the U.S. National Response Center on Friday, Tesoro reported the restart of a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) after a power dip caused it to briefly shut on Wednesday.

Reuters, 10:57 January 20, 2012

Reuters, 00:09 January 20, 2012

ExxonMobil Reports Mechanical Failure at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery January 19

ExxonMobil reported a mechanical failure that led to excess emissions at its refinery in Torrance late on Thursday, according to a filing with the California Emergency Management Agency. The filing said the sulfur dioxide emissions from the failure were later contained.

Reuters, 22:58 January 19, 2012

Citgo Reports Process Upset, Emissions at Its 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery January 20

Citgo Petroleum reported a process unit upset led to emissions of sulfur dioxide at its refinery in Lemont, according to a filing with state regulators.

Reuters, 06:01 January 20, 2012

Update: Enterprise Delays Service Startup on Reversed 400,000 b/d Seaway Crude Pipeline until June 1

Enterprise Products Partners said it expected the pipeline to begin service April 1, 2012, shipping both light and heavy crude until its full reversal could take place in 2013. An Enterprise spokesman said Friday, however, that engineering work has led to a tighter focus and a new target date of June 1. Enterprise and Enbridge Inc. in November announced plans to reverse the 400,000 b/d, 500-mile pipeline to ship crude from Cushing, Oklahoma to the U.S. Gulf Coast.

Reuters, 12:34 January 20, 2012

Update: South Sudan to Shut Oil Production within 2 Weeks – Government Spokesman

South Sudan's minister of petroleum and mining said on Friday the country was preparing to gradually shut down oil production within two weeks after the Sudanese government started seizing southern oil to compensate for what it said were unpaid transit fees, a government spokesman told Reuters.

Reuters, 09:02 January 20, 2012

Natural Gas

FERC Approves Golden Triangle Storage Expansion Project to Add 16.6 Bcf of Storage Capacity in Texas

The U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has granted permission to Golden Triangle Storage, Inc. to expand its existing natural gas storage facility in Jefferson County, Texas. The project will construct two new salt dome storage caverns Nos. 3 and 4 at its existing storage facility. Cavern 3 will have a total capacity of 13.8 Bcf (consisting of 9.2 Bcf of working gas and 4.6 Bcf of cushion gas) and Cavern 4 will have a total capacity of 11.1 Bcf (consisting of 7.4 Bcf of working gas and 3.7 Bcf of cushion gas). The additions will bring the facility's total capacity to 49.38 Bcf (consisting of 32.6 Bcf of working gas and 16.78 Bcf of cushion gas). The company plans to commence construction of Cavern 3 in the third quarter of 2012 and Cavern 4 in 2014. It anticipates that it will place Caverns 3 and 4 in service in 2015 and 2017, respectively.

<http://www.ferc.gov/whats-new/comm-meet/2012/011912/C-1.pdf>

Pump Failure Shuts Both AGI Units at Enbridge's Tilden Gas Plant in Texas January 19

Operators reported the woodgroup electric submersible pump failed and knocked down both acid gas injector (AGI) units. Upon inspection, operators determined the woodgroup pump B sensor had failed. Operators replaced the sensor and placed both pumps back into service, restarting the AGI units as conditions permitted.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163858>

Other News

Nothing to report

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices January 20, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	98.97	98.58	88.45
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.36	2.70	4.48

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Nothing to report

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 EDT every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

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

Updated after 2:00 PM EDT every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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

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