



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, January 22, 2013

Electricity

High Winds Cut Power to More Than 197,000 DTE Energy and Consumers Energy Customers in Southeast Michigan January 19–20

High winds that blew across southeast Michigan Saturday night into Sunday morning knocked out power to more than 120,000 DTE Energy customers and more than 77,000 Consumers Energy customers. Both utilities had restored power to the vast majority of affected customers by Tuesday morning.

<http://www.dteenergy.com/map/outage.html>

www.consumersenergy.com/outagemap

<http://www.consumersenergy.com/News.aspx?id=5989&year=2013>

<http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/DTE-3-000-southeast-Michigan>

Entergy's 1,075 MW Waterford Nuclear Unit 3 in Louisiana Shut Due to Low Steam Generator Level January 21

Entergy Nuclear reported that Monday afternoon, Waterford 3 experienced an uncomplicated automatic reactor trip from 84.5 percent reactor power due to Steam Generator No. 1 Low Level, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Safety systems responded as expected, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The cause of the low level condition and associated reactor trip were under investigation. The event occurred as Unit 3 was returning from a refueling and maintenance outage; the unit had ramped up to 92 percent power by the morning of January 21.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130122en.html>

Update: Entergy's 653 MW Pilgrim Nuclear Unit 1 in Massachusetts Shut by January 22 Due to Safety Valve Malfunction

Entergy Nuclear reported that on Sunday night, with the Pilgrim nuclear reactor at 100 percent power, operators initiated a controlled shutdown due to suspected leakage across the first stage pilot of a safety relief valve (SRV), according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Operators subsequently declared the SRV inoperable due to criteria specified in Pilgrim plant procedure. The unit had on January 20 just returned to full power after an outage that began January 10 when the unit's recirculation pumps tripped offline.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130122en.html>

Duke Energy Reports Fire in Switchyard Circuit Breaker at Its 1,100 MW McGuire Nuclear Unit 2 in North Carolina January 17

Duke Energy reported a failure of the McGuire Unit 2 switchyard power circuit breaker (PCB) No. 55 on January 17 resulted in a fire and damage to the PCB, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The fire was confined to the PCB only and extinguished by offsite municipal fire department in 33 minutes. This breaker affects the offsite transmission supply to Rock Springs and South Mountain, but the McGuire Unit 2 plant breakers connecting offsite to onsite power were not affected and remained in service. Unit 2 continued to operate at 100 percent power throughout the incident. An estimated 50 gallons of oil that spilled from the damaged equipment was contained to the immediate area, and cleanup efforts were underway.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130118en.html>

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

FirstEnergy's 1,235 MW Perry Nuclear Unit 1 in Ohio Shut by January 22

On the morning of January 21 the unit was operating at full power.

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

NRC Continues to Monitor FirstEnergy's Perry Nuclear Power Plant in Ohio for Occupational Radiation Safety

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Friday said it will continue to monitor FirstEnergy's Perry Nuclear Power Plant in Column 3 of the agency's action matrix, despite a security finding and issues discovered with Perry's occupational radiation safety program. The NRC has chosen not to move Perry into Column 4 at this time because recent inspections found that the unresolved issues exist in the single area of occupational radiation safety and are not widespread. Perry entered Column 3 in 2011 as a result of a "white" finding and a "white" performance indicator in the occupational radiation protection area, which evaluates the plant's ability to make sure radiation exposure to workers is effectively managed. The NRC's inspection in response to these issues concluded that FirstEnergy did not resolve all the challenges with occupational radiation protection and the issues remain open. The plant is operating safely and there were no overexposures to workers as a result of these issues. The NRC will conduct a follow-up inspection, after which a final determination on Perry's position in the action matrix will be determined.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2013/13-002.iii.pdf>

Update: Arizona Public Service's 1,247 MW Palo Verde Nuclear Unit 3 in Arizona at Full Power by January 20

On the morning of January 19 the unit was operating at 89 percent.

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

Electrical Inverter Malfunction Shuts Luminant's 794 MW Martin Lake Coal-Fired Unit 2 in Texas January 19

Luminant reported its Martin Lake Unit 2 tripped unexpectedly while at load Saturday night due to an electrical inverter that became overloaded, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The overloaded inverter caused the stock feeders to fail, which cut the fuel to the boiler and caused the unit to trip offline. Emissions associated with this incident continued until Sunday morning, the filing said.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=178250>

Dynegy's 756 MW Moss Landing Natural Gas-Fired Unit 7 in California Returns to Service by January 19

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began by January 5.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201301191515.html>

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201301051515.html>

Update: BrightSource Indefinitely Suspends Its Proposed 500 MW Rio Mesa Solar Power Plant Project in California after PUC Denies Power Purchase Agreement

The California Energy Commission on January 16 said it would not object to a request from BrightSource Energy Inc. to stop processing its application for the proposed 500 MW Rio Mesa solar power plant project in southeastern California. BrightSource asked the commission to suspend its application for an indefinite period of time, up to 12 months. The company had applied to build two 250 MW solar plants in the Palo Verde Mesa, but in October 2012 the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) denied Southern California Edison's (SCE) power purchase agreement for the 250 MW Rio Mesa 1 project, citing cost concerns. SCE's parent company, Edison International, said this week that the company and BrightSource have "mutually terminated" a power purchase agreement for the Rio Mesa 2 project, as well. A BrightSource spokesman said the company is focusing on other projects.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-01-19/edison-brightsource-cancel-california-solar-power-contract>

http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/riomesa/documents/2013-01-16_Response_to_Applicants_Notice_of_Suspension_of_AFC_TN-69145.pdf

EDF EN Canada Commissions 150 MW Massif du Sud Wind Project and 150 MW Lac Alfred Phase 1 Wind Project in Quebec

EDF EN Canada Inc., a subsidiary of EDF Energies Nouvelles, on Monday announced the commercial operation of the 150 MW Massif du Sud Wind Project and the first phase of the 150 MW Lac Alfred Wind Project, both located in Quebec. Both projects are comprised of seventy-five 1.5-MW REpower wind turbines. Hydro-Quebec will buy the power from both projects under 20-year power purchase agreements. EDF EN Canada reported also that it commissioned the 80 MW Saint-Robert-Bellarmin wind project in October 2012, and it is currently constructing the 150 MW Lac Alfred Phase 2 wind project with an expected operational date of December 2013.

<http://www.edf-en.ca/press-display/post/49/EDF-EN-Canada-Commissions-300-Megawatts-of-Wind-Pr>

Update: Motiva to Operate New 325,000 b/d CDU at Its 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery at 75 Percent Capacity for 4 Weeks – Sources

Motiva Enterprises has resumed production on the new 325,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Port Arthur refinery and plans to operate the unit at about 75 percent capacity for the next four weeks before increasing it to full capacity, sources familiar with refinery operations said on Monday. Motiva on Friday began its fourth attempt since December to restart the unit after repairs to fix a leak. Prior to December the unit had been shut since June to repair extensive damage caused by a caustic leak.

Reuters, 16:16 January 21, 2013

ExxonMobil Shuts HCU after Compressor Malfunction at Its 572,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery January 21

ExxonMobil reported a compressor trip had resulted in emissions from hydrocracking unit (HCU) No. 1 at its Baytown refinery early Monday morning, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators immediately reduced pressure and removed feed from the unit, the filing said. A subsequent filing with the U.S. National Response Center (NRC) reported emissions due to an unspecified unit shutdown at the refinery at around the same time as the HCU malfunction. The NRC filing said operators shut the unit to secure the release.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=178267>

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1036181

Total Shuts Diesel Hydrotreater and SRU after Fire at Its 232,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery January 20

Total Petrochemical USA on Sunday shut a diesel hydrotreater and sulfur recovery unit (SRU) at its Port Arthur refinery after a fan tube failure shut a heat exchanger and ignited a fire, according to filings with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the U.S. National Response Center.

Reuters, 14:44 January 20, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1036164

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=178268>

Valero Reports Flaring at Its 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery January 22

Valero Energy Corp. on Tuesday reported unspecified operating conditions at its Corpus Christi refinery made flaring necessary, according to a filing with the Corpus Christi Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Reuters, 06:39 January 22, 2013

Equipment Upset Shuts Unspecified Unit at Chevron's 330,000 b/d Pascagoula, Mississippi Refinery January 21

Chevron Corp. reported an equipment upset had caused flaring at its Pascagoula refinery Monday morning, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were repairing the equipment to bring an unspecified unit back online, the filing said.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1036216

Equipment Malfunction Triggers Flaring at Northern Tier's 74,000 b/d Saint Paul, Minnesota Refinery January 18

Northern Tier Energy reported an equipment failure triggered flaring at its Saint Paul Park refinery on Friday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators had to repair the crude tail gas compressor suction drum liquid pump discharge plug filters, which had become clogged, the filing said.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1036014

BP Continues to Operate the 70,000 b/d CDU at Its 413,000 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery January 22 Despite Reports to the Contrary – Sources

BP Plc has continued to operate the smallest crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Whiting refinery without interruption, sources familiar with refinery operations said Tuesday after energy industry intelligence service Genscape said the 70,000 b/d unit had shut down. A BP spokesman declined to discuss operations at the refinery.

Reuters, 12:14 January 22, 2013

Electrical Power Dip Shuts Unspecified Units at Husky's 146,200 b/d Lima, Ohio Refinery January 19

Husky Energy Inc. reported an electrical power dip on Saturday shut production units at its Lima refinery and resulted in a release of hydrogen sulfide to the atmosphere, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were attempting to restart the equipment, the filing said.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1036125

Valero Reports Sulfur Dioxide Release at Its 180,000 b/d Memphis, Tennessee Refinery January 18

Valero Energy Corp. reported an unspecified release of sulfur dioxide at its Memphis refinery on Friday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators had secured the release, the filing said.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1036070

Philadelphia Energy Reports Unit Shutdowns at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery January 12 and January 15

Philadelphia Energy Solutions reported the shutdown of cumene unit No. 1733 at the Girard Point section of its Philadelphia refinery on January 12, and of hydrodesulfurization unit No. 859 at the Point Breeze section of the refinery on January 15, according to filings with pollution regulators.

Reuters 16:46 January 18, 2013

Update: Valero Restarts FCCU and Alkylation Unit at Its 135,000 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery by January 18 after Leak Repairs

Valero Energy Corp. restarted a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) and alkylation unit at its Wilmington refinery and was increasing the units to planned rates, a spokesman said Friday. Operators shut both units December 21 to repair a leak at the plant's alkylation unit.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-01-18/california-gasoline-premiums-narrow-on-refinery-unit-startups.html>

BP Reports Flare Gas Recovery Unit Trip and Tail Gas Unit Trip at Its 225,000 b/d Cherry Point, Washington Refinery January 11

BP Plc on January 11 reported that a flare gas recovery unit and a tail gas unit tripped at its Cherry Point refinery, according to a filing the Northwest Clean Air Agency made public on Friday.

Reuters, 18:18 January 18, 2013

Phillips 66 Reports Boiler Startup at Its 100,000 b/d Ferndale, Washington Refinery January 16

Phillips 66 on January 16 reported it had restarted the No. 4 boiler at its Ferndale refinery, according to a filing the Northwest Clean Air Agency made public on Friday.

Reuters, 18:16 January 18, 2013

Update: Cold Weather Delays Startup of Imperial Oil's 110,000 b/d Kearl Oil Sands Project in Alberta; Production Still Expected to Begin in Early 2013

Imperial Oil Ltd. on Tuesday said that the startup of its new 110,000 b/d Kearl oil sands mine has again been delayed by cold temperatures in northern Alberta, but it still expects production to begin in early 2013, according to a spokesman. Earlier this month the company said it hoped to start production in the coming weeks after a previous target was delayed from the end of December because of early winter weather.

Reuters, 11:26 January 22, 2013

Natural Gas

Oil Leak Shuts Unit at Exterran's 65 MMcf/d Dollarhide Gas Plant in Texas January 20

Exterran reported a Cat-3 unit at its Dollarhide plant shut down on underspeed Sunday morning, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators found oil leaking from a turbo unit, the filing said. Repairs were underway at the time of the filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=178258>

Update: NTSB Releases Preliminary Report on Columbia Gas Transmission Pipeline Rupture in West Virginia

The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) on January 16 released a preliminary report on the December 11 rupture of Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation's 20-inch natural gas transmission pipeline (Line SM-80) in Sissonville, West Virginia. The report indicates that Columbia Gas controllers received 16 "pressure-drop alerts" between the time the pipeline ruptured and a phone call from another company reporting the incident to them. NTSB investigators plan to look into what exactly caused those alerts and how well the controllers responded to them, a board spokesman said. Additional reports, analysis, and a finding of probable cause will come later in the investigation.

<http://www.nts.gov/news/2013/130116b.html>

http://www.nts.gov/investigations/2012/sissonville_wva/Sissonville_Preliminary.pdf

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=38286

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Update: Algerian Military Ends Deadly 4-Day Siege at Ain Amenas Natural Gas Facility January 19

Algerian officials on Monday reported at least 81 people were killed, including 29 militants and 3 Americans, during a four-day siege at the Ain Amenas natural gas facility in southern Algeria. The facility, which is jointly operated by BP Plc, Statoil, and the Algerian state oil and gas company Sonatrach, was attacked early last Wednesday (January 16) by militants demanding an end to France's armed intervention in Mali and the release of certain prisoners in Algeria. The Algerian military on Saturday stormed the plant to end the siege, and bomb squads on Monday were searching the grounds of the facility for mines and other explosives planted by the militants.

http://articles.marketwatch.com/2013-01-21/36458416_1_foreign-hostages-algerian-officials-american-hostage

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/desert-siege-toll-passes-80-113245254.html>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
January 22, 2013			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL			
West Texas Intermediate U.S.	96.16	93.88	98.97
\$/Barrel			
NATURAL GAS			
Henry Hub	3.54	3.39	2.36
\$/Million Btu			

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

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 p.m. ET. 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