



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, November 17, 2010

## Electricity

### Storms Knock Out Power to More than 165,000 Customers across U.S. Northeast November 16-17

Storms knocked out power to more than 165,000 customers across multiple U.S. Northeast states and Washington D.C. on November 16, according to news and company sources. An estimated 56,073 customers remained without power, as of latest reports. The following table lists peak and current outage figures, based on latest available data.

U.S. Northeast Customer Power Outages November 16 – 17, 2010			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
BGE	MD	47,596	11,193
Pepco	MD/DC	6,192	6,192
Dominion	VA	25,500	624
Peco	PA	17,000	1,400*
Penelec	PA	6,900	1,445
PPL	PA	5,517	1,644
Allegheny Power	PA/MD/WV	3,300	1,370
Duquesne Light	PA	1,300	1,300
Central Hudson Gas & Electric	NY	13,000	11,630
NYSEG	NY	3,500	3,500
National Grid	NY	3,300	3,265
Orange & Rockland	NY	2,500	978
Rochester Gas and Electric	NY	1,200	1,200
PSE&G	NJ	11,000	3,500*
Atlantic City Electric	NJ	9,000	1,832
JCP&L	NJ	8,700	5,000*
<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>165,505</b>	<b>56,073</b>

\*Estimates based on ranges of customer outages from company websites

\*\*Total outages only represent electric utilities listed in this table.

Sources:

BGE: <http://www.bge.com/portal/site/bge/menuitem.42d31413f80c584606370f10d66166a0/>

Pepco: <http://www.pepco.com/home/emergency/maps/stormcenter/>

Dominion Virginia Power: <http://www.dom.com/storm-center/dominion-electric-outage-summary.jsp> ,  
<http://www.wtop.com/?nid=600&sid=2121652>

Peco: <http://www.peco.com/outagemap> , [http://www.ldnews.com/news/ci\\_16635624](http://www.ldnews.com/news/ci_16635624)

Penelec: [http://www.firstenergycorp.com/outages/outages.do?state\\_code=PA](http://www.firstenergycorp.com/outages/outages.do?state_code=PA) ,  
<http://www.wjactv.com/news/25827688/detail.html>

PPL: <https://selfserv.pplelectric.com/EUSelfServ/Outage/OutageMap.aspx>

Allegheny Power: [http://app.alleghenyenergy.com/outagestatus/OMS\\_Customer\\_State.aspx?Option=State&User=](http://app.alleghenyenergy.com/outagestatus/OMS_Customer_State.aspx?Option=State&User=) ,  
<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10321/1103946-100.stm>

Duquesne Light: <http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10321/1103946-100.stm>

Central Hudson: <http://stormcentral.cenhud.com/default.aspx> ,  
<http://www.lohud.com/article/20101117/NEWS/101117001/-1/NEWSFRONT/More-than-1-400-without-power-in-Westchester-Putnam-after-wind-storm--wind-advisory-in-effect>

NYSEG: <http://ebiz1.nyseg.com/cusweb/outage/> , <http://www.wben.com/Power-Outages-Reported-Throughout-WNY/8594888>

National Grid: <http://www1.nationalgridus.com/niagamohawk/stormcenter/> ,  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/AP1628c920e52f46fea20dd623ad10efaf.html>

Orange & Rockland: [http://wpl.coned.com/or\\_stormcenter/default.aspx](http://wpl.coned.com/or_stormcenter/default.aspx) ,  
[http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2010/November/17/Wind\\_powerout-17Nov10.htm](http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2010/November/17/Wind_powerout-17Nov10.htm)  
Rochester Gas and Electric: <http://ebiz1.rge.com/cusweb/outage/> , <http://rocnow.com/article/local-news/2010101117002>  
PSE&G: [http://www.pseg.com/home/customer\\_service/outage\\_info/outagemap.jsp](http://www.pseg.com/home/customer_service/outage_info/outagemap.jsp) ,  
[http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/11/strong\\_winds\\_damage\\_small\\_airp.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/11/strong_winds_damage_small_airp.html)  
Atlantic City Electric: <http://www.atlanticcityelectric.com/home/emergency/maps/stormcenter/default.aspx> ,  
[http://www.myfoxphilly.com/dpp/weather/Thunderstorm\\_Wind\\_Damage\\_111710](http://www.myfoxphilly.com/dpp/weather/Thunderstorm_Wind_Damage_111710)  
JCP&L: [http://www.firstenergycorp.com/outages/outages.do?state\\_code=NJ](http://www.firstenergycorp.com/outages/outages.do?state_code=NJ) ,  
[http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/11/strong\\_winds\\_damage\\_small\\_airp.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/11/strong_winds_damage_small_airp.html)

## Update: After Wind Storm, Companies Restore Power to Most Customers in Washington State by November 17

Fewer than 10,000 customers remained without power in Washington on November 17, according to multiple news and company sources, after winds cut power to more than 300,000 on November 15-16. The following table lists peak and current outage figures, based on latest available data.

Washington Customer Power Outages November 15 – 17, 2010			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Puget Sound Energy	WA	140,000	4,000
Tacoma Power	WA	54,000	400
Avista	WA	44,000	2,391
Peninsula Light	WA	26,000	715
Snohomish County PUD	WA	25,000	2,000
Seattle City Light	WA	18,000	1
<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>307,000</b>	<b>9,507</b>

\*Total outages only represent electric utilities listed in this table.

Sources:

Puget Sound Energy: <http://sam.pse.com/TextView.aspx> ,  
[http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2013446711\\_outages17m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2013446711_outages17m.html) ,  
<http://www.theolympian.com/2010/11/16/1441973/pse-power-expected-to-be-fully.html> ,  
<http://www.kirotv.com/weather/25824756/detail.html>  
Tacoma Power: [http://www.mytpu.org/tacomapower/news.aspx?news\\_id=183](http://www.mytpu.org/tacomapower/news.aspx?news_id=183) ,  
[http://www.mytpu.org/tacomapower/news.aspx?news\\_id=184](http://www.mytpu.org/tacomapower/news.aspx?news_id=184) ,  
<http://www.mytpu.org/newsroom/page.aspx?id=1678> , <http://www.mytpu.org/newsroom/page.aspx?id=1681>  
Avista: <https://www.avistautilities.com/safety/layouts/avista/transactions/viewoutages.aspx> ,  
<http://www.kxly.com/news/25808581/detail.html>  
Peninsula Light: <http://twitter.com/PenLightCo> , <http://www.komonews.com/news/local/108329119.html>  
Snohomish County PUD: <http://heraldnet.com/article/20101116/NEWS01/101119857/1058/COMM0617> ,  
<http://www.snopud.com/newsroom/StormUpdates.ashx?p=1180>  
Seattle City Light: <http://www.seattle.gov/light/sysstat/> , <http://www.b-townblog.com/2010/11/16/power-restored-to-most-burienites-after-severe-windstorm-strikes-area/>  
BC Hydro: <http://www.bchydro.com/outages/orsTableView.jsp> , <http://www.vancouverite.com/2010/11/15/high-winds-17000-without-power-on-southern-vancouver-island/>

## Entergy's 813 MW FitzPatrick Nuclear Unit in New York Reduced to 14 Percent by November 17

Entergy expected to reduce the unit to 13 percent power “to address a low oil level reading in a motor on a reactor water recirculation pump,” a plant spokeswoman said on November 16. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of November 16 the unit was operating at 42 percent.  
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-17/u-s-nuclear-output-rises-as-duke-energy-boosts-oconee-1-reactor.html>  
Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Update: Duke Energy's 846 MW Oconee Nuclear Unit 1 in South Carolina Ramped Up to 98 Percent by November 17**

The company shut the unit to fix an oil leak on the main transformer, a plant spokeswoman said on November 16. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of November 16 the unit was operating at 19 percent.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-17/u-s-nuclear-output-rises-as-duke-energy-boosts-oconee-1-reactor.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **NextEra's 493 MW Blythe Gas-Fired Power Plant in California Shut by November 16**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit shut by November 16.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201011011515.html>

### **AES's 179 MW Redondo Gas-Fired Unit 5 in California Shut by November 16**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage on November 16.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201011161515.html>

### **Update: FPL's 693 MW Turkey Point Nuclear Unit 3 in Florida Ramped Up to 55 Percent by November 17**

FPL shut the unit on November 15 due to the "loss of a circulating water pump" when a separate pump was already offline, the company said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that on the morning of November 16 the unit was not operating.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20101116en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Update: Progress Energy's 900 MW Harris Nuclear Unit 1 in North Carolina Ramped Up to 93 Percent by November 17**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of November 16 the unit was operating at 72 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Update: FirstEnergy Cancels Plans to Convert R.E. Burger Coal-Fired Units 4 and 5 in Connecticut to Run on Biomass – Company to Permanently Shutter Units**

Citing lower market prices, FirstEnergy abandoned plans to convert its R.E. Burger coal-fired Units 4 and 5 in Connecticut to run principally on biomass, and said it would instead permanently shut the units by December 31, 2010. The units generate 312 MW of power, combined.

<http://www.firstenergycorp.com/NewsReleases/2010-11-17-FirstEnergy-Cancels-Biomass-Project.pdf>

<http://www.firstenergycorp.com/NewsReleases/2009-04-01%20Burger%20Plant%20Biomass.pdf>

### **CenterPoint Energy Plans Advanced Distribution Management System across Texas Electric Grid**

CenterPoint Energy selected ABB to deploy an intelligent grid Advanced Distribution Management System (ADMS) across the company's Texas service territory. The ADMS will process data from power line sensors and smart electric meters to identify the location of power outages and remotely control intelligent grid switching devices to shorten the duration of power outages. Phase 1 is expected to be completed in 2013; it will cover more than 500,000 customers in central Houston and along the Houston Ship Channel.

<http://www.centerpointenergy.com/newsroom/newsreleases/4de883d7fe13c210VgnVCM10000026a10d0aRCRD/>

### **ERCOT Increases Target Reserve Margin for Texas Electric Grid**

The directors of the Electric Reliability (ERCOT) voted to increase the target electricity reserve margin to 13.75 percent, compared to 12.5 percent at present. Texas customers set new electric consumption records during the summer and winter months of 2010.

Reuters, 19:59 November 16, 2010

## **Solar Millennium Plans 500 MW Solar Power Projects in Nevada and California**

Solar Millennium LLC plans to construct two 500 MW solar power facilities – one in Nevada and another in California. More specifically:

- Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar approved on November 15 the company's plans to build a 500 MW solar power facility – the Amargosa Farm Road Solar Project – on U.S. public lands in Nevada. The project would include two 250 MW parabolic trough, dry-cooled power plants equipped with thermal energy storage capability.
- A California Energy Commission siting committee recommended approval of the company's plans to construct a 500 MW facility – the Palen Solar Power Project – in Riverside County, California. The project would involve a concentrating solar trough thermal electric generating facility. It would include two adjacent and independent 250 MW units.

<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/Secretary-Salazar-Approves-Second-Large-Scale-Solar-Energy-Project-on-Public-Lands-in-Nevada.cfm>

[http://www.energy.ca.gov/releases/2010\\_releases/2010-11-12\\_palen\\_PMPD.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/releases/2010_releases/2010-11-12_palen_PMPD.html)

[http://www.solarmillennium.de/press/press-releases/2010\\_11\\_16-news.html](http://www.solarmillennium.de/press/press-releases/2010_11_16-news.html)

## **BC Hydro to Break Ground on New Transmission Line, Substation in British Columbia, Canada**

BC Hydro expects to break ground this week on a transmission system that, when complete, will serve the city of Vancouver in British Columbia, Canada. The project will include a new substation and a transmission line; the transmission line will be equipped to deliver electricity to about 30,000 homes. BC Hydro plans to complete the line by July 2011, but does not expect to commission the substation and finish equipment installations until late 2012 or early 2013.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Hydro+plans+million+upgrades+Vancouver/3840697/story.html>

## ***Petroleum***

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### **Update: Tesoro Returns 170,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery to Planned Rates**

Tesoro returned its 170,000 b/d Golden Eagle refinery in Martinez, California to “targeted” rates on November 16, six days after a power failure forced offline some units, a company spokesman and Bloomberg News said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-17/tesoro-s-martinez-refinery-reached-targeted-rates-update1-.html>

### **Update: After Fatal April Explosion, Tesoro Resumes Planned Rates at 125,000 b/d Anacortes, Washington Refinery by November 16**

Tesoro returned its 125,000 b/d Anacortes, Washington refinery to “targeted” rates by November 16, a company spokesman said. Tesoro shut the facility after a fatal explosion in April. It began restarting the facility in mid-October, but boiler issues postponed that work. Due to slow demand, Tesoro expects to run its Washington and Alaska refineries at reduced rates – between 52 and 58 percent – during the fourth quarter of 2010, its chief operating officer said recently.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-17/tesoro-s-anacortes-refinery-resumed-targeted-rates-update1-.html>

### **Operator Error Leads to Release from SRU at U.S. Oil & Refining's 37,850 b/d Tacoma, Washington Refinery by November 17**

An operator error led to a release from a sulfur recovery unit (SRU), the company said in a filing with the National Response Center. It was not clear if the incident had any impact on production.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-17/top-oil-market-news-crude-declines-for-fourth-day-bp-report.html>

### **Erosion to Blame for Hydrogen Sulfide Release from Flare Line at Shell's 145,000 b/d Anacortes, Washington Refinery November 16**

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-17/top-oil-market-news-crude-declines-for-fourth-day-bp-report.html>

## **BP and MMS to Blame for Deepwater Horizon Disaster in U.S. Gulf of Mexico: Preliminary Report from Government-Commissioned Experts**

BP and the now-disbanded Minerals Management Service (MMS) were both to blame for the Deepwater Horizon explosion and subsequent oil spill, according to a preliminary report from a 15-member committee with the National Academy of Engineering. Specifically, the report faulted lapses in BP's management system and the company's failure to appropriately assess risk, as well as insufficient oversight from the MMS. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar commissioned the report.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/17/us/17spill.html?\\_r=1&emc=tnt&tntemail1=y](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/17/us/17spill.html?_r=1&emc=tnt&tntemail1=y)

## **Natural Gas**

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### **Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Bans Natural Gas Drilling within City Limits November 16**

The city council unanimously approved the ban, citing health and environmental issues. It was the first such ban among Pennsylvania cities.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/11/16/AR2010111603275.html>

### **Natural Gas Well Blows Out in Frio County, Texas November 14**

The blowout forced plumes of water into the air, and led to the release of some natural gas. Crews were working to cap the leak, but there were no injuries, as of latest reports. It was not clear from a local news source whether the well was producing natural gas at the time of the incident.

<http://www.kens5.com/home/Well-blowout-in-Frio-County-sends-plume-of-oil-into-air-108193429.html>

## **Other News**

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Nothing to report.

## **Energy Prices**

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices November 17, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	80.69	87.68	79.14
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	3.66	3.76	2.65

Source: Reuters

## **Energy Notes**

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### **Winds Knock Out Power to More Than 10,000 FirstEnergy Customers in Ohio November 17**

<http://www.wkyc.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=158968&catid=3>

### **Winter Storm Cuts Power to about 15,000 BC Hydro Customers in British Columbia, Canada November 17 – More than 12,000 Remain Without Power, as of Latest Reports**

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/british-columbia/story/2010/11/17/bc-winter-storm-weather.html>

<http://www.bchydro.com/outages/orsTableView.jsp>

**Winds Topple 11 Transmission Structures, Cut Electricity to Thousands of Customers near Viola, Iowa November 16**

<http://www.nwcn.com/news/idaho/Power-poles-fall-like-dominoes-close-Hwy-95-108582789.html>

**Update: California Energy Commission Siting Committee Recommends Approval of SolarReserve's Proposed 150 MW Rice Solar Energy Project in Riverside County, California**

[http://www.energy.ca.gov/releases/2010\\_releases/2010-11-12\\_rice\\_PMPD.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/releases/2010_releases/2010-11-12_rice_PMPD.html)

**NRC Reports Two Violations of Low Safety Significance after September Fire Inspection at Dominion's Millstone Nuclear Power Plant in Connecticut**

<http://www.theday.com/article/20101116/BIZ02/311169931/-1/BIZ>

**Rebel Attack Leaves Six Dead at Oil Platform Offshore Cameroon November 16-17**

DJN, 09:42 November 17, 2010

**Seminole Pipeline Shuts in Block Valves after Third Party Strikes Chaparral Natural Gas Pipeline in Texas November 16**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147462>

**Equipment Failure Leads to Shutdown of Midkiff Gas Plan in Texas November 16 – Incident Leads to Disruptions at Associated Compressor Stations**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147465>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147467>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147466>

**Despite Recent Problems, Experts Say Regulations and New Technologies Have Improved Safety along Oil-and-Gas Pipelines throughout United States**

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/17/business/energy-environment/17PIPE.html?\\_r=2&sq="+natural gas"&st=nyt&adxnnl=1&scp=5&adxnnlx=1290016823-GidnsVPG0UaPn4QnBwjZnQ](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/11/17/business/energy-environment/17PIPE.html?_r=2&sq=)

## **Links**

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***This Week in Petroleum*** from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

***Weekly Petroleum Status Report*** from EIA

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil\\_gas/petroleum/data\\_publications/weekly\\_petroleum\\_status\\_report/wpsr.html](http://www.eia.doe.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://tonto.eia.doe.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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