



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, December 03, 2012

Electricity

Update: Heavy Rain Storms Cut Power to Nearly 340,000 PG&E Customers in Bay Area California November 28–December 2

A third storm to hit the San Francisco Bay Area in five days brought more heavy rain Sunday morning, causing power outages and flooding. Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) reported that in all, 337,547 customers throughout its Bay Area service territory lost power between Thursday and Sunday. The utility said it had 2,000 emergency workers in the field, but their work was slowed by the heavy rain. The utility expected to fully restore power on Monday. As of 12:30 p.m. EST this afternoon, the utility reported 4,452 customers remained without power.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_22115235/storms-take-break-power-restored-nearly-all-340

http://www.insidebayarea.com/breaking-news/ci_22110588/nasty-storm-rolls-into-bay-area

<http://www.pge.com/myhome/customerservice/outages/>

PG&E's 1,087 MW Diablo Canyon Nuclear Unit 1 in California Reduced to 50 Percent by December 2

Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E) Diablo Canyon nuclear Unit 1 entered an unplanned curtailment of 690 MW by December 1, according to a filing with the California Independent System Operator.

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

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201212011515.html>

PG&E's 407 MW Helms Hydro Unit 1 and 404 MW Helms Hydro Unit 3 in California Return to Service by December 2 after Plant-Wide Shutdown by November 30

Pacific Gas & Electric's (PG&E) reported all three units at its Helms hydropower station experienced unplanned outages by November 30, according to the California Independent System Operator. The 407 MW Unit 1 and 404 MW Unit 3 returned to service by December 2. The 407 MW Unit 2 remained shut Sunday due to planned and unplanned causes. PG&E has not publicly said why the units shut down.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201212021515.html>

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201211301515.html>

Northern California Power Agency's 247 MW Collierville Aggregate Hydro Units 1 and 2 in California Reduced by December 2

The units entered an unplanned curtailment of 197 MW.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201212021515.html>

California Department of Water Resources's 933 MW Hyatt-Thermalito Hydro Unit in California Reduced by November 30

The unit entered a curtailment of 833 MW that was due to planned and unplanned causes.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201211301515.html>

Update: Westar Says Repairs to Fire-Damaged 385 MW Gordon Evans Natural Gas- and Oil-Fired Unit 2 in Kansas Could Take 8 Weeks

Westar Energy Inc. has estimated it may take about 8 weeks to return its Gordon Evans Unit 2 to power after a fire last Thursday damaged a transformer. The unit had been shut for planned maintenance at the time of the fire, which did not cause any customers to lose power. A spare transformer was available at the site, which should speed the transformer repair. The other units at the plant were available for service but on reserve shutdown.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/03/utilities-operations-westar-gordonevans-idUSL1E8N32N320121203?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43>

SCE Reports Potential Tampering at Its 2,150 MW San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant in California

Southern California Edison (SCE) on Thursday reported an emergency generator at one of its San Onofre nuclear reactors may have been tampered with, prompting operators to increase security at the plant, which has been out of service since late January due to degradations in the steam generator tubes of both reactors. Operators in late October discovered engine coolant in an oil system in the backup diesel generator during routine monitoring. An internal probe found evidence of potential tampering, though the results of the investigation were not conclusive. The presence of coolant posed no safety risk, the company said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/30/edison-sanonofre-idUSL1E8MUBRM20121130?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43>

Update: DTE Says Its 1,089 MW Fermi Nuclear Unit 2 in Michigan Could Remain Offline for Months as It Repairs Reactor Feedwater Pump

DTE Energy reported that it may take months to restore its Fermi nuclear Unit 2 to full power due to substantial repairs needed on a reactor feedwater pump that was damaged in June, officials said. Unit 2 has been shut since November 7, when operators manually tripped the reactor's main turbine generator in response to hydrogen gas in-leakage into the stator water cooling system from the main turbine generator. Prior to the shutdown, the reactor had been operating at reduced power since July 29, after major vibrations on June 25 damaged one of two pumps that feed cooling water to the nuclear core. DTE has not reported the cause of the vibrations. DTE recently told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission that after assessing the feedwater pump's condition, "it was determined that it would be necessary to disassemble the (feedwater pump) turbine components and ship them offsite for decontamination, rework, or repair. Initial estimates indicated that between 6–12 months would be needed to repair and reinstall the turbine assembly." The company plans to fix the pump and restore it to service sometime during the first quarter next year.

<http://www.monroenews.com/news/2012/dec/02/fermi-nuclear-plant-fixes-taking-time/>

Update: Constellation's 565 MW Nine Mile Point Nuclear Unit 1 in New York Shut by December 1

Constellation Nuclear Energy Group on Friday shut its Nine Mile Point Unit 1 to conduct turbine system repairs, according to a spokeswoman. The unit had been operating at reduced power since November 13, when workers identified a problem with the turbine lubrication oil system.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-11-30/nebraska-utility-raises-power-to-cooper-as-nuclear-output-gains>
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Entergy's 813 MW FitzPatrick Nuclear Unit in New York Reduced to 75 Percent by December 3

Entergy Corp. reported it reduced its FitzPatrick nuclear power plant to 75 percent from full power Sunday night to removed algae and debris that accumulated in the station's main condenser waterboxes, a spokesman said. Certain lake conditions that include wind direction and turbulence in the lake can increase algae and debris at the station's intake system. Operators completed the work by Monday morning and were ramping up power.

Reuters, 09:31 December 3, 2012

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

Update: PPL's 1,111 MW Susquehanna Nuclear Unit 2 in Pennsylvania Ramped Up to 95 Percent by December 3

Susquehanna Unit 2 is returning from an outage that began November 19, when operators manually shut the reactor due to a hydraulic oil leak on a system that controls the flow of steam into the turbine. Operators repaired the hydraulic system and restarted the unit November 29.

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

Update: Constellation's 825 MW Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Unit 1 in Maryland Restarts by November 1, Ramps Up to Full Power by December 3

Constellation Energy Nuclear Group's Calvert Cliffs Unit 1 is returning from an outage that began November 27, when operators shut the reactor for unplanned work on control element assemblies after monitors detected traces of electrical noise from one of the coils on the No. 37 assembly.

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

AMSAC Actuation Causes Turbine Trip at Duke Energy's 1,100 MW McGuire Nuclear Unit 2 in North Carolina December 2

Duke Energy reported that the Anticipated Transient Without Scram Mitigation System Actuation Circuitry (AMSAC) on Sunday caused a Unit 2 turbine trip with reactor power at 31 percent, as operators were ramping up power following the recent completion of a planned refueling outage, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The 2A and 2B Auxiliary Feedwater pumps automatically started. The 2B Nuclear Service Water pump started as a result of 2B Auxiliary Feedwater pump automatically starting. Later that day, operators reported the Unit 2 AMSAC actuation again generated a Unit 2 turbine trip signal. The Unit 2 turbine was already tripped, but the 2A and 2B Auxiliary Feedwater and 2B Nuclear Service Water pump started. Operators were working to calibrate the AMSAC actuation pressure switches. On the morning of November 3, the NRC reported the unit was operating at 45 percent power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2012/20121203en.html>

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

FPL's 565 MW Duane Arnold Nuclear Unit in Iowa Shut by December 2

Florida Power & Light's (FPL) Duane Arnold nuclear unit was returning from a planned refueling outage and had ramped up to 71 percent power by the morning of December 1 before shutting down.

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

Update: FPL's 512 MW Point Beach Nuclear Unit 2 in Wisconsin Restarts by December 1, Ramps Up to 76 Percent by December 3

Florida Power & Light's (FPL) Point Beach nuclear Unit 2 is returning from an outage that began by November 1. The utility has publicly said why the reactor was shut.

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

Update: Indiana-Michigan Power's 1,060 MW D.C. Cook Nuclear Unit 2 in Michigan at Full Power by December 2

On the morning of December 1 the unit was operating at 68 percent.

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

Update: PNM to Install Pollution Controls at Its 1,800 MW Coal-Fired San Juan Generating Station in New Mexico Following Expiration of EPA Stay

PNM Resources' New Mexico utility, PNM, is moving forward with plans to install pollution controls at its San Juan Generating Station following the recent expiration of an administrative stay granted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to allow further consideration of alternatives to plans for addressing emissions contributing to regional haze. The EPA in August 2011 ordered PNM under the Clean Air Act to install selective catalytic reduction (SCR) technology at the San Juan plant by September 2016 to reduce emissions. PNM and New Mexico have argued that the technology is unnecessary and expensive and would result in an excessive financial burden for utility customers and will continue its legal appeal of the federal plan. Given the compliance date still stands, the company is moving forward with plans to install of SCRs on all four coal-fired units at the plant and in December will submit a filing with the N.M. Public Regulation Commission requesting project approval for the SCR installation.

<http://www.pnmresources.com/press/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=724226>

Petroleum

Update: Colonial Pipeline Expects Slightly Reduced Flow Rates on Its Gasoline Line 1 as It Performs Additional Repairs at Houston Station

Colonial Pipeline on Monday said operators were not satisfied with the initial repairs made on the shut Houston section of its main gasoline line and so have shut that section while an additional set of repairs are being performed, according to a statement. Colonial is operating Line 1 from other origins, including Pasadena, but expected to experience slightly reduced flow rates while these repairs are being completed. The company had reported last Thursday that it had restarted its Line 1 east of Houston about 7 hours after isolating a leak near the Houston station and planned to restart the segment by Friday afternoon. On Friday Colonial said it would delay restarting the Houston segment until Saturday to continue repairs.

Reuters, 10:24 December 3, 2012

Reuters, 15:45 November 30, 2012

Valero Reports No Impact to Operations after Sight Glass in Alkylation Unit Explodes at Its 180,000 b/d Memphis, Tennessee Refinery December 3; One Worker Killed

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development today reported one of two workers who were injured in a hazmat incident at Valero's Memphis refinery has died. Fire officials reported the workers were exposed to a mixture of propane and hydrofluoric acid when a sight glass in the alkylation unit ruptured. Valero said refinery operations weren't affected by the accident, which was under investigation.

<http://www.commercialappeal.com/news/2012/dec/03/valero-refinery-worker-injured-possible-hazmat-inc/>

Unspecified Unit Upset Leads to Sulfur Dioxide Release at Citgo's 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery December 2

Citgo Petroleum Corp. reported an unspecified unit upset led to a release of sulfur dioxide at its Lemont refinery on Sunday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The release was not secured, and maintenance activity was being performed.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1032067

Natural Gas

Power Loss Shuts AGI Compressor at Regency's 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas December 1 and December 2

Regency Energy Partners reported an acid gas injector (AGI) compressor at its Waha plant on Saturday shut down on complete loss of purchase power, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Emissions related to the shutdown continued from Saturday until Sunday. Operators reported the AGI compressor shut down again Sunday due to low inlet gas pressure.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=176617>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=176607>

Other News

Labor Strike at Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach Continues, Shuts 10 of 14 Cargo Terminals

Negotiations to end the labor strike at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach continued for a fourth consecutive day Sunday, but sources close to the talks said the sides likely were not close to reaching an agreement. The International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 63 Office Clerical Unit want to protect employment for as many of their members as possible, while management officials want more flexibility to control the number of temporary and fulltime office workers they hire. The strike has shut down 10 of the 14 cargo container terminals at the busiest shipping hub in the United States—Los Angeles is the top port by container traffic, and Long Beach ranks second, according to industry data. Many containers destined for Southern California are being held on ships that cannot be serviced in Long Beach or Los Angeles or at other ports on the West Coast and Mexico.

http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_22111152/negotiations-end-port-strike-continue?source=most_email

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-port-strike-20121203,0,4039007.story>

International News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
December 3, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	88.70	87.30	100.19
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.46	3.59	3.49

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 and 1:00 PM Eastern Time every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

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

Updated after 2:00 PM Eastern Time every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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

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