



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, December 05, 2008

Electricity

Florida Power's 834 MW Crystal River Nuke Unit 3 in Florida Reduced to 52 Percent by December 5

The unit was reduced so short work could be performed on a feed water pump. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported the unit was operating at 100 percent on December 4.

Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN0544119420081205>

Update: Mountainview Power Company's 525 MW Mountainview Gas-fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by December 4

The California Independent System Operator reported the unit returned from an unplanned curtailment of 285 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200812041515.html>

ISO New England Projects Adequate Power Supplies to Meet Winter Electricity Demand

The Independent System Operator (ISO) for New England has reported its six-state region will have the resources needed to meet demand for electricity this winter. ISO New England serves Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. New England's peak demand for electricity is forecasted to reach 23,030 MW under standard weather conditions, although in the event of prolonged cold weather, the demand for electric energy could climb to 24,175 MW. The combination of 33,750 MW of capacity available from regional power plants and more than 1,800 MW of demand-side resources can be called upon to help the region meet peak demand this winter.

[http://www.iso-ne.com/nwsiss/pr/2008/08winter_release_final\(2\).pdf](http://www.iso-ne.com/nwsiss/pr/2008/08winter_release_final(2).pdf)

California Regulators Approve Edison Deal for 245 MW Solar Plant

The California Public Utilities Commission approved plans to develop a large scale solar-thermal power plant being developed by Edison International and eSolar. The solar facility is to be built in Kern County, California with plans to produce up to 245 MW of electricity.

<http://www.lloyds.com/dj/DowJonesArticle.aspx?id=413520>

PJM Board Authorizes \$1.6 Billion in Transmission Additions, Upgrades

The PJM Interconnection Board has approved \$1.6 billion in electric transmission systems additions and upgrades for the grid that serves 51 million people in 13 states and the District of Columbia. The upgrades are required to maintain reliability of the power supply system. Among the upgrades and improvements is a 500-kV transmission line to be built in northern New Jersey to strengthen the regional grid.

<http://www.pjm.com/contributions/news-releases/2008/20081204rtep-authorizations-news-release.pdf>

Southern Company Plans to Build 720 MW Gas-fired Power Plant in North Carolina

Southern Company announced December 5 its subsidiary, Southern Power will build an electric generating plant in southern Cleveland County, North Carolina. The generating plant will consist of four Siemens F Class gas turbine units and will be able to generate approximately 720 MW at the summer peak. Initial construction is expected to begin in 2010, with commercial operation of all four units expected in early 2012.

<http://southerncompany.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=1841>

OPG's 515 MW Pickering Nuke Unit 5 in Ontario Shut by December 5

The unit will remain out of service for up to one week as workers replace a seal on a pump in the reactor's water-cooling system.

Reuters, 08:20 December 5, 2008

OPG's 881 MW Darlington 4 Nuke-fired Unit in Ontario Shut December 5

Reuters, 08:20 December 5, 2008

Petroleum

Enbridge CEO Expresses Interest in Exporting Crude from Oil Sands to Europe and U.S. East Coast

The CEO of Enbridge said December 4 its company, along with other oil sands producers, is interested in exporting crude from its oil sands fields in the Alberta province of Canada to Europe and to the U.S. East Coast by pipeline and tanker. The company will decide whether to proceed in the first quarter of 2009, the CEO said.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/News/Articles/200812/Oil_Sands_Players_Eyeing_Exports_To_Euro_14075.aspx

Update: November 20 Fire at Delek's 55,000 b/d Tyler, Texas Refinery Claims Second Victim

An explosion and fire at Delek's Tyler refinery November 20 resulted in the death of a second worker who died from injuries suffered from the blast.

<http://www.tylerpaper.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081204/NEWS08/812040287/0/FRONTPAGE>

Oil Futures Price Drops Five Percent to Four-Year Low December 5

Oil dropped five percent to a four-year low below \$42 a barrel the morning of December 5. Traders are associating the decrease to a recently released U.S. government report showing the heaviest job losses within the U.S. in over 34 years.

Reuters, 12:22 December 5, 2008

Cheap Fuel Oil Prompts Utilities and Industrial Firms to Switch from Natural Gas, Analysts Say

Dramatic decreases in the price of residual fuel oil over the last month has urged utilities and industrial firms to switch from using natural gas to fuel power generation. According to data recently released by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) the week of December 1, residual fuel oil deliveries increased to 958,000 b/d, up 571,000 b/d the previous week and more than double the figures reported from mid-October to mid-November.

Reuters, 11:38 December 5, 2008

Natural Gas

FERC Approves Expansion of El Paso's Wyoming Interstate Company Piceance Lateral

FERC December 4 issued the pipeline a certificate for a compression expansion that will add 230,000 Dth/d of takeaway capacity on its Piceance Lateral.

NGI's Daily Gas Price Index, December 05, 2008 <http://intelligencepress.com/>

Planned Mackenzie Valley Pipeline to Deliver Natural Gas from Canada's Arctic to Wait One Year for Regulatory Report

Canada's Joint Review Panel, responsible for conducting environmental and socioeconomic reviews, said it will release its report on the proposed pipeline in December 2009. The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline project is estimated to be 760-miles in length and will carry 653.3 Bcf/d of natural gas from Canada's Arctic areas to Alberta.

Reuters, 11:09 December 5, 2008

Other News

Mississippi River at St. Louis, Missouri Reopens to Traffic Following Closure due to Low Water Levels, U.S. Coast Guard States

The major commercial center for barge traffic along the Mississippi River at St. Louis, Missouri has reopened December 5 following a four-day closure prompted by low water levels that caused one vessel to run aground. Reuters, 12:35 December 5, 2008

Multiple Ethanol Plants Come On-Line During Turbulent Economic Times

Five ethanol producing plants across the country managed to complete their respective projects on schedule despite the bleak economy. Cardinal Ethanol's 100 MMgal/yr ethanol plant in Indiana began production in early November and Ethanol Grain Processors' 110 MMgal/yr ethanol plant in Tennessee started up in late November. Cilion completed construction of its 55 MMgal/yr ethanol plant in California in November, and Hawkeye Renewables started up two of its 110 MMgal/yr ethanol plants in Iowa in late October.

http://ethanolproducer.com/article.jsp?article_id=5150

ExxonMobil's 'Outlook for Energy' Report Predicts Global Energy Demand to Rise 35 Percent by 2030

ExxonMobil estimates the world's energy demand is expected to grow by 1.2 percent per year on average through 2030 and a total of 35 percent from today to 2030, equivalent to 310 million b/d despite strides the petroleum industry is taking to become more energy efficient and resourceful.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=70321

View the report here: http://www.exxonmobil.com/corporate/energy_outlook.aspx

Lack of Water to Battle Recent Toxic Fire at Oil & Gas Facility within Seal Beach Naval Weapons Station in California Prompts Fire Authorities to Investigate 'Poor' Fire Plan

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/fire-water-gas-2245900-oil-refuge>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
December 5, 2008			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	41.10	52.79	88.40
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	6.65	6.71	7.04

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Dominion Power Reports 10,434 Customers without Power Midday in Virginia December 5 – Only 494 Customers Remain without Power

http://www.dom.com/news/outage_sos.jsp

Federal Bankruptcy Court Agrees to Let Troubled Verasun Borrow \$200M to Fund Operations at its Ethanol Plants in Iowa and South Dakota

http://www.kcautv.com/Global/story.asp?S=9464340&nav=menu110_2

Malfunction Reported at Alon USA's 70,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery December 5

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=117366>

Small Explosion, Fire Burns Worker Atop Turbine at Elkhorn Ridge Wind Farm in Nebraska

http://www.southwestiowanews.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=20212336&BRD=2703&PAG=461&dept_id=627131&rfi=6

Bank of America to No Longer Finance Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining

<http://news.mongabay.com/2008/1204-coal.html>

Serbia's Arm of Gazprom's South Stream Natural Gas Pipeline to be Operational by 2015

Reuters, 09:37 December 5, 2008

Pirates Attack Oil-Services Vessel off the Coast of Nigeria, Kidnap Two Workers December 4

<http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-af-nigeria-oil-unrest.1.1312282.story>

IEA Cuts Global Oil Demand Growth Forecasts for 2008-2013, Sees Growth of 1.2 Percent Annually

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/8219489.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>

Links

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

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

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. EST. 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