



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, December 12, 2011

## *Electricity*

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### **Update: LS Power Cancels 1,200 MW Longleaf and 665 MW Plum Point II Coal-Fired Power Projects in Georgia and Arkansas, Cites Environmental Concerns**

LS Power Group LLC is canceling plans to build the proposed 1,200 MW Longleaf plant in southwest Blakely, Georgia and the proposed 665 MW Plum Point II unit in Osceola, Arkansas as part of a legal agreement with the Sierra Club, several environmental groups announced Monday. The nationwide agreement also requires LS Power to impose strict new limits on air emissions from the new 900 MW Sandy Creek coal-fired power plant in Riesel, Texas, which is still under development.

<http://www.arktimes.com/ArkansasBlog/archives/2011/12/12/sierra-club-ls-power-to-drop-2nd-coal-fired-unit-at-plum-point>

<http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/news/2011/12/12/longleaf-coal-plant-in-georgia-canceled.html>

<http://clatl.com/freshloaf/archives/2011/12/12/l-s-power-cancels-proposed-coal-plant-in-southwest-georgia>

<http://www.lspower.com/projects.htm>

### **Update: ERCOT Still Weighing Whether to Allow Luminant to Shut Two 593 MW Monticello Coal-Fired Units in Texas by Year-End**

In October, Luminant requested permission from the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) to shut two 593 MW coal-fired units at its Monticello power plant at the end of the year to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Cross-State Air Pollution Rule, which goes into effect January 1, 2012. In a market notice this week, ERCOT said it needs more time to study the potential impact the loss of nearly 1,200 MW would have to grid reliability in light of recent changes to its system and additional data from Oncor, the transmission provider in north Texas. The Council said it will issue a final determination December 19 on whether Luminant will need to maintain the Monticello units to support the grid. If so, ERCOT would likely negotiate a one-year contract with Luminant to keep the plant available until transmission equipment can be upgraded in the area, as it has generally done in similar cases.

Reuters, 08:20 December 12, 2011

### **Water Leak Shuts Constellation's 1,120 MW Nine Mile Point Nuclear Unit 2 in New York December 9**

Constellation Energy Nuclear Group shut the unit late Friday morning after discovering increased water leakage inside the facility's drywell—the steel reinforced concrete structure that houses the reactor vessel and associated piping—according to news reports. A Constellation spokeswoman said that the plant is in stable condition and the leak poses no risk to the public or plant employees. She pointed out that the drywell is designed to contain water leaks of this kind. Workers are investigating the cause of the leak. In August, operators shut the plant due to a leak they later discovered was coming from packing on a discharge isolation valve located on a reactor coolant pump, which is also inside the drywell, according to news reports.

<http://palltimes.com/articles/2011/12/09/news/doc4ee29a47c4d97046031487.txt>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

### **Update: TVA's 1,155 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 1 in Alabama Shut by December 10**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 9 the unit was operating at 40 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

## **Update: Xcel Energy's 578 MW Monticello Nuclear Unit in Minnesota Restarts December 9, Ramps Up to 96 Percent by December 12**

The unit automatically shut on November 20 when relays that are part of the reactor protection system activated. Operators were investigating what caused the relays to activate.

<http://www.startribune.com/local/west/134218228.html>

[http://www.xcelenergy.com/About\\_Us/Energy\\_News/News\\_Releases/Monticello\\_plant\\_automatically\\_shuts\\_down\\_safely](http://www.xcelenergy.com/About_Us/Energy_News/News_Releases/Monticello_plant_automatically_shuts_down_safely)

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

## **Luminant Shuts 593 MW Monticello Coal-Fired Unit 2 in Texas to Repair Main Power Transformer December 11**

Operators were using unit fans to assist in cooling the boiler during the repairs, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162656>

## **Dynegy's 335 MW El Segundo Gas-Fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by December 11**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit returned from an unplanned outage reported on December 9.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201112091515.html>

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201112111515.html>

## **Martinez Cogen's 115 MW Martinez Cogen's Natural Gas-Fired Unit in California Returns to Service by December 11**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit returned from an unplanned outage reported on December 10.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201112101515.html>

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201112111515.html>

## **Delta Power's 240 MW Crockett Cogen Gas-Fired Unit in California Returns to Service by December 10**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit returned from an unplanned outage reported on December 9.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201112091515.html>

## **Update: Calpine's 751 MW Pastoria Gas-Fired Unit in California Returns to Service by December 9**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned curtailment of 281 MW.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201112091515.html>

## **SMUD's 230 MW Solano Wind Farm in California Reduced by December 9**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 128 MW on December 9.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201112091515.html>

## ***Petroleum***

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## **Fire Shuts Coker Unit at Pasadena Refining System's 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery December 10**

Pasadena Refining System reported a fire at the refinery's coker unit Saturday that caused minor injuries to one worker, according to news reports and a filing with state regulators. The unit was shut, and officials contained and extinguished the fire, preventing it from impacting any other units at the facility. Operators are de-inventorying the unit and investigating the cause of the fire.

Reuters, 19:49 December 11, 2011

<http://english.capital.gr/News.asp?id=1353294>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162661>

### **ConocoPhillips Reports Small Fire at Coker Unit at Its 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery December 9**

ConocoPhillips reported a small fire in the new coker unit at its joint-venture refinery on Friday morning, but said there were no injuries or offsite impacts as a result. Earlier in the week the company reported minor compressor issues and problems with an unspecified unit. The refinery completed the startup of the new coker on November 30. Reuters, 09:39 December 12, 2011

### **Update: Valero Reports Normal Coking Unit Operations at Its 285,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery after Compressor Snag Led to Coker Flaring December 9**

Valero Energy Corp. reported Monday that no material impact to production has been associated with the emissions report last week. On Friday the company reported in a filing with state regulators that a wet gas compressor snag led to flaring from a delayed coking unit.

Reuters, 11:02 December 12, 2011

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162605>

### **Hydrocracker Malfunction Leads to Flaring at BP's 455,790 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery December 10**

A hydrocracking unit malfunctioned Saturday, according to filing with state pollution regulators. The refinery lowered the system pressure on the ultracracker to reseal the pressure relief valves that had opened to release excess pressure in the unit, according to the filing. Operators are investigating the cause of the malfunction.

[http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/12/11/refinery-operations-bp-texascity-](http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/12/11/refinery-operations-bp-texascity-idUSN1E7BA04320111211?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43)

[idUSN1E7BA04320111211?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43](http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162658)

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162658>

### **SRU Trips, Leads to Flaring at ExxonMobil's 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery December 10**

ExxonMobil reported that its sulfur recovery unit No. 3 (SRU-3) tripped Saturday, resulting in flaring and elevated emissions from the SRU vents, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The refinery initiated the sulfur shed plan and restarted SRU-3. Operators anticipate some impact to production but have restored normal operations, according to the filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162651>

### **Sunoco Restarts Units at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery after Various Repairs December 6-7**

Sunoco reported that it restarted the hydrotreater 870 on December 7 after shutting it for compressor repairs and sulfiding on December 6, according to a filing with Philadelphia pollution regulators. Sunoco Inc. also reported that it restarted a isomerization unit and a deisobutanizer unit December 8 following a shutdown December 7. Reports of the filing don't indicate why the units were shut down.

Reuters, 13:53 December 9, 2011

Reuters, 14:36 December 9, 2011

### **ConocoPhillips Reports Continuous Ammonia Release from FCC Unit at Its 198,400 b/d Ponca City, Oklahoma Refinery December 9**

ConocoPhillips reported Friday a continuous release of more than 100 pounds of ammonia per day from its No. 5 gasoline-producing fluidic catalytic cracking (FCC) unit, according to a notice filed with the U.S. National Response Center. The filing says the release was discovered Thursday but requires no remedial response.

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=997587](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=997587)

### **Pop Valve Trips, Causes Emissions at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery December 11**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162653>

### **FERC Approves Perryville's Request to Increase Working Gas Capacity to 20 Bcf at Crowville Project Natural Gas Storage Facility in Louisiana**

The U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has approved a request from Perryville Gas Storage LLC, a joint venture under Cardinal Gas Storage Partners LLC, to increase working gas capacity and otherwise expand its Crowville Project natural gas storage facility in Louisiana, according to a FERC Order Amending Certificate on November 29. The Crowville Project to develop two salt-dome storage caverns outside Delhi, Louisiana will have an expanded capacity of 27.6 Bcf, with a working gas capacity of 20 Bcf, according to the FERC order. Perryville in March applied to expand the working gas capacity at each of two caverns from 7.5 Bcf to 10 Bcf. Commercial storage services for the first of two working gas storage caverns are expected to commence in early third quarter of 2012. The facility is expected to provide 1,200 MMcf/d of peak deliverability and 600 MMcf/d of peak injection capability from the two salt caverns. The facility will have the ability to interconnect to CenterPoint Energy's Perryville Hub and several pipelines near the facility site, as well as a number of additional pipelines at Delhi.

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=28819](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=28819)

<http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/Files/20111129111908-CP11-159-000.pdf>

<http://www.perryvillegasstorage.com/>

### **Cardinal Gas Storage Partners to Construct New 17 Bcf Natural Gas Storage Facility near the Perryville/Delhi Hub in Louisiana**

Cardinal Gas Storage Partners LLC announced Thursday that its subsidiary Cadeville Gas Storage LLC has entered into an agreement with agreement with Shell Energy North America (US), L.P. for Cadeville to construct a depleted reservoir storage facility in Ouachita Parish, Louisiana near the Perryville/Delhi Hub in northeast Louisiana. The storage facility is expected to be in service in 2013 and is designed to have approximately 17 Bcf of working gas capacity.

<http://www.cardinalgas.com/docs/Cadeville-Shell%20Announcement%2012.8.11.pdf>

### **High Discharge Pressure Shuts Turbine at DCP Midstream's 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant, Shuts Engines at Two DCP Midstream Booster Stations in Texas December 9–11**

DCP Midstream reported that a turbine shut down on high first-stage discharge pressure on Friday at its Goldsmith plant, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Operators restarted the turbine as soon as possible. According to separate TCEQ filings on Sunday, discharge line blockages caused engines to go offline and gas to be vented at DCP Midstream's Weir and McElroy gas pipeline booster stations. Operators are metering in methanol to help clear the blockage. Once they clear the blockage, they will restart the engines, which will stop the venting of natural gas.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162623>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162659>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162660>

### **Exterran Reports Numerous Problems at Its 50 MMcf/d Reinecke Gas Plant in Texas December 9–10**

In numerous filings with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), Exterran reported that a plant upset due mostly to cold weather caused the facility's Units 74156, 70792, 40046, 70427, and 71050 to shut on December 9. Operators corrected the problems and restarted the units. On December 10, additional TCEQ filings report the plant experienced a number of functional issues due to fuel problems. Units 74156, 71850, 72834, 75156, 40046, and 70792 all went down on fuel problems. Operators worked to reduce CO2 levels in the fuel and restarted the units. Unit 70539 went down on high jacked water temperature, also on December 10.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162618>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162619>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162622>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162624>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162627>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162654>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162655>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162645>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162646>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162647>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162648>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162649>

## Scrubber Pump Malfunction Shuts Unit, Leads to Flaring at Enbridge's 100 MMcf/d Aker Gas Plant in Texas December 9

Enbridge reported that Unit C-401 shut down when hydrate in the 5th stage scrubber line overwhelmed the scrubber pump, resulting in emissions, according to a filing with state regulators. Operators reduced gas flow and shut-in the sulfinol flow, and operators drained and reprimed the scrubber and heated the line with steam before returning C-401 to service.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162636>

## Other News

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Nothing to report

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices December 12, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	97.73	101.56	87.81
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	3.29	3.35	4.37

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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### Tanker Truck Crashes, Spills 8,000 Gallons of Diesel Fuel in Maryland December 8

[http://www.carrollcountytimes.com/news/local/two-injured-fuel-spilled-after-collision-involving-tanker-truck/article\\_f6a23566-20f9-11e1-839d-001871e3ce6c.html](http://www.carrollcountytimes.com/news/local/two-injured-fuel-spilled-after-collision-involving-tanker-truck/article_f6a23566-20f9-11e1-839d-001871e3ce6c.html)

## Links

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***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](http://www.eia.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://www.eia.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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