



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, December 14, 2010

Electricity

Update: After Storms, Companies Restore Power to Most Customers in Michigan and Wisconsin by December 14

Fewer than 15,000 customers remained without power in Michigan and Wisconsin on December 14, news and company sources reported, after winter storms cut power to more than 222,000 customers on December 12-13. The following table lists peak and current outages, based on latest available data.

Michigan/Wisconsin Customer Power Outages			
December 12 – 14, 2010			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Consumers Energy	MI	75,000	9,000
DTE Energy	MI	73,000	5,800
Lansing Board of Water and Light	MI	15,000	0
Great Lakes Energy	MI	7,093	44
We Energies	WI	39,000	77
Alliant	WI	5,800+	43
Wisconsin Public Service	WI	5,300	17
Water Works & Lighting Commission	WI	2,000	0
TOTAL *		222,193	14,981

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

Sources:

Consumers Energy: <http://www.9and10news.com/Category/Story/?id=275987&cID=2>

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

<http://www.9and10news.com/Category/Story/?id=275987&cID=2> ,

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20101214/METRO/12140395/1409/metro/Another-brutally-cold-day-on-tap-for-Metro-Detroit>

Lansing Board of Water and Light:

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20101212/NEWS01/12120581/Power-restored-to-15-000-in-the-Lansing-area-scattered-outages-reported>

Great Lakes Energy: <http://www.gtlakes.com/storm-central/> , <http://www.gtlakes.com/power-expected-to-be-restored-today-to-remaining-members/>

We Energies: <http://www.we-energies.com/outagemapext/> , <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-wi-winterstorm-power.0.6647039.story>

Alliant: <http://www.alliantenergy.com/UtilityServices/StormOutageCenter/ElectricalOutageSummary/index.htm> , <http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/111747944.html>

Wisconsin Public Service: <http://www.wisconsinpublicservice.com/outagesummary/view/outagegrid.aspx> , <http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/111747944.html>

Water Works & Lighting Commission:

<http://www.wisconsinrapidtribune.com/article/20101213/WRT0101/101213108/1982/WRT04/Early-morning-power-outage-is-explained>

Storm Knocks Out Power to More than 58,000 Customers in Washington December 13-14

Fewer than 25,000 customers remained without power, as of latest reports. The following table lists peak and current outage figures, based on latest available data.

Washington Customer Power Outages December 13 – 14, 2010			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Puget Sound Energy	WA	30,000	10,111
Seattle City Light	WA	8,600	2,008
Tacoma Power	WA	8,000	8,000
Peninsula Light	WA	6,000	200
Snohomish County PUD	WA	3,500	3,500
Grays Harbor PUD	WA	2,300	450
TOTAL*		58,400	24,269

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

Sources:

Puget Sound Energy: <http://www.pse.com/safetyReliability/pservicealert/Pages/LatestUpdates.aspx> ,
<http://sam.pse.com/TextView.aspx>

Seattle City Light: <http://www.seattle.gov/light/sysstat/> ,
http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/theweatherbeat/2013675842_stormcutspowertoathousandsteendiesinhousehitb-ycar.html

Tacoma Power: <http://blog.thenewtribune.com/crime/2010/12/14/lights-out-for-at-least-17000-customers-in-pierce-county/>

Peninsula Light: <http://twitter.com/PenLightCo> , <http://blog.thenewtribune.com/crime/2010/12/14/lights-out-for-at-least-17000-customers-in-pierce-county/>

Snohomish County PUD: <http://heraldnet.com/article/20101214/BLOG41/101219880/-1/news01>

Grays Harbor PUD:

https://www.ghpud.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&layout=blog&id=89&Itemid=181

Winds, Rain Knock Out Power to More than 90,000 Customers in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, Canada December 13-14

Heavy winds and rain cut power to more than 80,000 Nova Scotia Power customers in Nova Scotia and 12,000 NB Power customers in New Brunswick on December 13-14, news and company sources reported. Some 32,169 Nova Scotia Power customers and 1,786 New Brunswick Power remained in the dark, as of latest reports.

<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/906829--powerful-rain-storm-rips-through-the-maritimes>

<http://www.nspower.ca/en/home/residential/outageinformation/liveoutagemap.aspx>

FPL's 512 MW Point Beach Nuclear Unit 2 in Wisconsin Shut by December 14

FPL shut the unit on December 13 after a failure prevented the facility from "meeting rod group alignment limits," the company said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). A technical specification required operators to idle the unit. FPL said a damaged cable was likely to blame for the incident. The NRC reported that on the morning of December 13 the unit was operating at full power.

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

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Indiana-Michigan Power's 1,000 MW D.C. Cook Nuclear Unit 1 in Michigan Reduced to 49 Percent December 13

The unit slipped to 49 percent capacity on December 13 after workers "manually started all Auxiliary Feedwater (AFW) pumps in response to a loss of the Unit 1 East Main Feedwater Pump," the company said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that on the morning of December 13 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20101214en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

High Winds' 162 MW High Winds Energy Center in California Shut by December 13

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage by December 13.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201012131515.html>

Concerns over Eagles Cast Doubt on Future for Four Proposed Wind Farms on U.S. Public Lands

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management indefinitely stopped issuing permits for proposed wind farms on U.S. public lands over the summer, the Associated Press reported on December 13, amid wildlife officials' concerns that the turbines would pose a danger to protected golden eagles. The halt put in doubt plans for four wind farms – representing a combined 416 MW of proposed power – throughout the country. Should the BLM fail to approve the projects before the end of 2010, the affected companies could miss out on expiring stimulus grants. That, in turn, could kill the projects. Three of the four wind farms would be located in California, including RES Americas' proposed 74 MW project in San Bernardino County.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jRxYzPxaZLe35vMftMjybSvl3H8Q?docId=1871493da18a4953883513fb9ab55edb>

Update: Consumers Energy Aims to Break Ground in Summer 2011 on Proposed 100 MW Lake Winds Energy Park in Michigan

The company expects to open the facility in late 2012.

http://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/index.ssf/2010/12/construction_on_mason_county_w.html

<http://www.consumersenergy.com/News.aspx?id=2537&year=2010>

Lincoln Renewable Energy Plans at Least 109 MW of Solar Power Projects across United States

The company plans to construct:

- The 50 MW Homestead Solar project in Clark County, Nevada
- A 39 MW Solar farm in Alamosa County, Colorado
- The 10 MW NJ Cedar Solar farm in Salem County, New Jersey (groundbreaking scheduled for early 2011)
- The 10 MW NJ Oak Solar project in Cumberland County, New Jersey
- Other projects in New Mexico and Texas

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/lincoln-renewable-energy-granted-site-plan-approval-for-60-million-nj-utility-scale-solar-farm-111843929.html>

SaskPower to Extend Life of Boundary Dam Coal-Fired Unit 3 in Saskatchewan, Canada by 30 Years – Unit to Produce 115-120 MW of Electricity

SaskPower plans to rebuild Unit 3 at its six-unit, 824 MW coal-fired Boundary Dam power station in Saskatchewan, Canada in a bid to extend the life of the unit by 30 years, the company said on December 10. The company had expected to shut the unit in 2013. It plans to began working on major components of the plant in 2011, break ground in 2012, and commence operations in the fall of 2013. The unit will, upon completion, produce 115-120 MW of electricity. SaskPower said it would await new federal regulations before deciding whether to construct an integrated carbon capture and storage system at the site.

http://www.saskpower.com/news_publications/news_releases/?p=1120#more-1120

http://www.saskpower.com/sustainable_growth/projects/carbon_capture_storage.shtml

Petroleum

Valero Restarts 65,000 b/d FCC at 145,000 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery by December 14

Valero restarted a 65,000 b/d gasoline-producing fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC) by December 14 at its 145,000 b/d Houston, Texas refinery, according to a company spokesman. The company shut the unit to fix a compressor, a spokesman said on December 8.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-14/valero-restarts-catalytic-cracker-at-houston-refinery-update1-.html>

DJN, 10:56 December 8, 2010

Update: After Power Failure, Tesoro Expects to Resume Planned Rates at 166,000 b/d Martinez, California by December 14

A partial power failure forced shut multiple units at the refinery on December 9, but power was returned to all the affected units over the weekend and Tesoro expected to resume planned rates by December 14, a spokesman said.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFWEN439820101213>

Leak Leads Buckeye Partners to Shut 12-Inch Crude Oil Pipeline in Illinois

Buckeye Partners LP shut the line after it leaked an unknown quantity of crude near Romeoville, Illinois, a company spokeswoman said. The affected line runs about three miles; it delivers crude oil from the Shell's Lockport Tank Farm to Citgo's Lemont, Illinois refinery. The spilled oil appeared to have been contained in a ditch, according to a state environmental spokeswoman.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-14/buckeye-shuts-12-inch-crude-oil-pipeline-in-illinois-update1-.html>

Update: Enbridge Resolves Most Issues along U.S. Oil Pipeline System, Expects to Clear Backlog of Crude Oil by Early January: CEO

Enbridge has repaired most of the problems that triggered numerous shutdowns along its Canada-to-United States oil pipeline system in recent months and the company expects to clear the backlog of produced oil that those disruptions caused by early January 2011, its CEO said on December 14. The outages – and subsequent pipeline bottleneck – have disrupted crude oil production and transportation at and from multiple Canadian locations, news and company sources reported previously.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/energy-resources/Enbridge+expects+clear+backlog+soon/3975810/story.html>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN0926277820101209>

Update: Valero to Begin Restarting 235,000 b/d Aruba Refinery within Days – Facility Has Been Offline for about 17 Months

Valero planned to begin restarting its 235,000 b/d Aruba refinery within the next several days, the company said on December 13, about 17 months after it shut the facility due to weak economics and local tax issues. The company said in June 2010 that a tax settlement and an improved economy had made it possible to consider restarting the refinery. After a plantwide turnaround – completed by December 13 – the company confirmed that it would, in fact, resume operations. It expects to return all units to full operations by the end of January 2011.

http://www.valero.com/NewsRoom/Pages/PR_20101213_0.aspx

Shell Considering 200,000 b/d Pierre River Oil Sands Mine in Alberta, Canada

Federal and provincial regulators plan to jointly review the project, but Shell has not yet sanctioned the mine. The facility would be located near the company's existing Jackpine mine in Alberta, Canada.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Shell+oilsands+mine+expansion+takes+step+forward/3972819/story.html>

Occidental Petroleum to Boost Oil-and-Gas Production by at Least 24,000 Boe/d in Williston Basin, North Dakota

Occidental Petroleum plans to increase its oil-and-gas production to at least 30,000 boe/d in the Williston Basin, North Dakota over the next five years. The company's existing territory, including a block of land it is in the process of purchasing, produces more than 6,000 boe/d.

<http://newsroom.oxy.com/news/oxy/20101210005306/en>

Saudi Aramco Plans 250,000 b/d Expansion at Existing 750,000 b/d Shaybah Oilfield in Saudi Arabia

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=102150

Natural Gas

Update: NTSB Sees No Signs of External Corrosion in Preliminary Investigation of Natural Gas Pipeline that Exploded in San Bruno, California on September 9, 2010

The outer surfaces of a section of the 30-inch, Pacific Gas & Electric-owned (PG&E) natural gas pipeline that ruptured and exploded in San Bruno, California on September 9, 2010 showed no evidence of external corrosion, or signs of dents, gouges, or other physical indications consistent with excavation damage, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) found in its preliminary investigation into the fatal blast. The NTSB said that the investigation was still in an early phase.

<http://www.nts.gov/Pressrel/2010/101214.html>

DJN, 13:38 December 14, 2010

Spectra Energy Announces Open Season for Natural Gas Pipeline Expansion in U.S. Northeast and New England

Spectra Energy Corp's Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC launched a non-binding open season on December 13 for the Algonquin Incremental Market (AIM) project, a proposed expansion of the company's existing Algonquin pipeline system that would deliver natural gas from producers in the Appalachian and Marcellus Shale regions to markets in the U.S. Northeast and New England. The project would be located in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York, and would enter service in the fourth quarter of 2014, according to Spectra's website.

http://www.spectraenergy.com/news/releases/2010/dec/20101213_01.asp

http://www.spectraenergy.com/what_we_do/projects/algonquin/

Other News

Lock Shutdowns along Columbia and Snake Rivers Could Lead to Mild Fuel Supply Disruptions in Eastern Oregon from December 10 through March 18: State DOE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) shut the Dalles, John Day, and Lower Monumental navigational locks along the Columbia and Snake Rivers in Oregon on December 10, and the Oregon Department of Energy (State DOE) warned that the shutdown could lead to higher fuel prices and possible mild supply disruptions in Eastern Oregon. The USACE is replacing the downstream navigation lock gates at the affected dams, and the closures are expected to last until March. The work will block all waterborne movement along the Columbia/Snake navigation system. Barges normally deliver multiple products – gasoline, diesel, aviation fuels, and bio fuels – along the system to serve Eastern Oregon communities. Tidewater Barge Lines, via 240-600 barge shipments, transports roughly 12-15 million barrels of refined petroleum products per year. Prior to the start of the outage, it planned to pre-stage six barges containing a total of 228,000 barrels of refined petroleum product near the Pasco, Washington terminal. That fuel was expected to last up to three weeks. The U.S. Coast Guard, meanwhile, expects tanker truck shipments to increase sharply as companies compensate for the lost barge deliveries. Companies are also considering moving product by rail and pipeline from Salt Lake City, Utah to Spokane, Washington, for distribution into Eastern Oregon.

http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/NUCSAF/docs/Lock_Outage_SITREP2.pdf

http://www.oregon.gov/ENERGY/NUCSAF/docs/Lock_Outage_SITREP1.pdf

Coal-Carrying Train Cars Derail in Jamestown, North Dakota December 12

Twenty-one coal-carrying train cars derailed in a Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railway yard in Jamestown, North Dakota on December 12, spilling an unspecified quantity of coal along the tracks, according to a news source and company and emergency officials. The company expected the cleanup to last for several days. No one was injured.

<http://www.jamestownsun.com/event/article/id/125232/>

Three Coal-Carrying Train Cars Derail in Prichard, Alabama December 10

Ten train cars (including three hauling coal) derailed in Prichard, Alabama on December 10, a city spokeswoman said. The incident blocked traffic along a local road, but the road was scheduled to be cleared within hours, according to the spokeswoman. No injuries were reported, she said.

http://blog.al.com/live/2010/12/train_derails_in_prichard.html

Green Vision Group Aims to Produce 240 MMGal/Yr. of Beet-Based Ethanol

Green Vision Group plans to open a 3.5 MMGal/Yr. beet-based, demonstration ethanol plant in North Dakota in 2012, and eventually aims to build several plants to produce a total of 240 MMGal/Yr. It could begin commercially producing the bioengineered ethanol beets by late 2013 or early 2014.

<http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/301693/>

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101214/BUSINESS/12140365/1029/BUSINESS/N.-Dakota-group-to-test-iowa-ethanol-technology>

Flint Hills Resources Begins Operations at New Fuel Terminal in Mustang Ridge, Texas during November 2010

The terminal includes a four-bay truck-loading facility and ethanol offloading capability.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=25025

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices December 14, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	88.73	88.51	69.82
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.55	4.47	5.21

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Tree Knocks Out Transmission Line, Cuts Power to More than 20,000 Progress Energy Customers in Moore County, North Carolina December 13

<http://www.fayobserver.com/articles/2010/12/13/1055394?sac=Home>

Leak Leads to Increased Tritium Levels in Groundwater at Progress Energy's 1,875 MW Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant in North Carolina – “No Offsite Consequence,” Company Says December 13

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Progress-Energy-monitors-apf-252507581.html?x=0&.v=1>

Crude Oil Production to Slide by More than 5 Percent in January 2011 at Nine Main North Sea Locations, from Combined 2,073,000 b/d in December 2010 to 1,967,000 in January 2011: Trading Sources

Reuters, 11:58 December 14, 2010

Statoil to Launch New Compressor Module, Raise Total Reserves at Kristin and Tyrihans Oil, Gas, and Condensate Fields in Norwegian Sea by as Much as 115 Million Boe – Company Expects to Install Module in 2013

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFOSN00488720101214>

Compressor Shuts at Rocker B Compressor Station in Texas December 13

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148420>

Compressor Shuts Briefly after High Discharge Pressure at Cedar Lake Booster Station in Texas December 13

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148411>

Fire Destroys 2.5 MMGal/Yr. Soy Energy Biodiesel Plant in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania over Weekend – Facility Was Offline at Time of Incident

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-13/fire-at-central-pa-biodiesel-plant-burns-10-hours.html>

<http://americanfuels.blogspot.com/2010/12/soy-energy-biodiesel-plant-destroyed-by.html>

Regulators, Electric Utilities, Automobile Companies Partner in Bid to Spur Electric Vehicle Growth in California – Collaborative Aims to Make California Home to One Million Plug-in Hybrid and Battery-Powered Vehicles by 2010

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jMz_N88LgT2nuY9dQOnaxf3BP5eQ?docId=55bd043d5fa84b90a5ef682a23498c56

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