



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, December 16, 2011

Electricity

Two 1,129 MW Units Shut at Duke Energy's Catawaba Nuclear Power Plant in South Carolina by December 16

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that Units 1 and 2 at the plant shut by December 16. On the morning of December 15 both units were operating at full power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Constellation's 1,120 MW Nine Mile Point Nuclear Unit 2 in New York Restarts, Ramps Up to 20 Percent by December 16

Constellation Energy Nuclear Group shut the unit on December 9 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.

<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: Entergy's 730 MW Palisades Nuclear Unit in Michigan Restarts, Ramps Up to 22 Percent by December 16

Entergy reported that the reactor was manually tripped Wednesday afternoon due to the loss of both main feedpumps, which tripped on low suction pressure due to an unplanned opening of the A main feedpump recirculation valve.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20111215en.html>

TVA's 1,155 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 1 in Alabama Reduced to 80 Percent by December 16

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 15 the unit was operating at full power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Entergy's 966 MW River Bend Nuclear Unit 1 in Louisiana Reduced to 63 Percent by December 16

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 15 the unit was operating at full power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Equipment Malfunction Shuts Luminant's 593 MW Big Brown Coal-Fired Unit 1 in Texas December 15

Luminant reported Thursday that Unit 1 tripped after an unspecified malfunction caused the west bus backup relay to trigger the west generator breaker to open, according to a filing with state regulators. The company reported in another filing later that day that operators were restarting the unit, minimizing startup time by placing control equipment into service as soon as minimum operating temperatures were reached.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162835>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162837>

Update: Luminant Restarts 593 MW Monticello Coal-Fired Unit 1 in Texas December 16 after Boil Tube Repairs

Luminant shut the unit Wednesday to repair a boiler tube leak, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators were restarting the unit today, minimizing startup time by placing control equipment into service as soon as minimum operating temperatures were reached.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162772>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162774>

Luminant Shuts 90 MW Decordova Natural Gas-Fired Combustion Turbine 4 in Texas December 15

Operators observed a brief episode of opacity during the shutdown of Combustion Turbine 4. The exact cause of the opacity is under investigation at this time. The unit was shut down as soon as possible and the fuel oil supply was shut off.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162840>

AES's 175 MW Alamitos Gas-Fired Unit 2 in California Shut by December 15

The unit reported an unplanned outage by December 15.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201112151515.html>

Watson Cogeneration's 417 MW Watson Natural Gas-Fired Unit in California Reduced by December 15

The unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 217 MW by December 15.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201112151515.html>

Update: CPUC Approves Long-Term Contract for Sempra Generation's 150 MW Copper Mountain Solar 2 Power Plant in Nevada, Enables Construction to Commence

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) on Thursday approved Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) 25-year contract to purchase 150 MW of renewable power from Sempra Generation's Copper Mountain Solar 2 project in Boulder City, Nevada. With state regulatory approval of the contract secured, Sempra Generation announced that construction on the 1,100-acre solar plant will begin this year. The first 92 MW of solar panels at Copper Mountain Solar 2 are expected to be installed by year-end 2012, with the remaining 58 MW slated for completion by 2015. Under the terms of the contract, PG&E has the option to accelerate the commercial operation date of the second phase.

<http://sempra.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=19080&item=96732>

Petroleum

Sunoco Shuts Hydrotreater for Unplanned Work at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery December 15

Sunoco Inc. shut down a hydrotreater for unplanned work at its refinery in Philadelphia, according to sources familiar with refinery operations on Thursday. The sources noted also that Sunoco reportedly was halting spot sales of ultra-low sulfur diesel at some of its terminals in the area due to lack of product after the shutdown.

Reuters, 15:15 December 15, 2011

Delek Reports FCCU Upset at Its 58,000 b/d Tyler, Texas Refinery December 15

Delek U.S. Holdings reported that it has restored normal operations after an upset at the gasoline-making fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) during an operational transition period on Wednesday, according to a filing with state regulators.

Reuters, 18:13 December 15, 2011

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162842>

Equipment Malfunction Leads to Hydrogen Sulfide Release at ConocoPhillips's 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery December 15

ConocoPhillips reported that an unspecified equipment failure at its Wood River refinery Thursday morning resulted in the release of hydrogen sulfide from a packing on a three-quarter inch line, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators had blocked in the release at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=998191

Process Upset Leads to Flaring at Motiva's 236,400 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery December 15

Motiva reported a process operations upset during swapping of furnaces at its refinery in Norco on Thursday that led to a release of butadiene, benzene, ethylene, propylene, and sulfur dioxide from a converter to the flare, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The filing does not specify which unit was involved in the upset.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=998216

Compressor Malfunction Leads to Flaring at Wynnewood Refining Company's 70,000 b/d Wynnewood, Oklahoma Refinery December 14

Wynnewood Refining Co. reported a compressor malfunction at its facility late Wednesday, according to a notice filed with the U.S. National Response Center. The malfunction led to a release of sulfur dioxide from the flare.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=998151

Koch Pipeline Company Places Helena Crude Oil Terminal into Service in Karnes County, Texas

Koch Pipeline Company, L.P. announced today that it is receiving Eagle Ford crude oil at its Helena terminal in Karnes County, Texas. The crude oil will be transported from Helena to Pettus via a new 24-mile, 16-inch pipeline the company plans to commission soon. That pipeline ties into the company's existing lines in Pettus for transportation to Ingleside and Corpus Christi. Koch Pipeline is also building a 20-inch line from Karnes County to San Patricio County that ultimately will tie into Ingleside and is expected to be in service in mid-2012. The company is the largest transporter of South Texas crude oil.

Reuters, 10:58 December 16, 2011

<http://www.kochind.com/files/121611KPLPutsHelenaTerminalinOperation.pdf>

Update: Shell Pipeline Announces Successful Solicitation for Proposed 600,000 b/d Westward Ho Crude Oil Pipeline Project

Shell Pipeline today announced that it received a very encouraging response to its non-binding solicitation of interest period for firm capacity on its proposed Westward Ho pipeline project. The indicative response from shippers supports a 30-inch pipeline build that could enable the distribution of approximately 600,000 b/d of crude oil from St. James, Louisiana to the Port Neches/Nederland, Texas area. The company estimates that the expansion could be completed and commissioned by early 2015.

http://www.shell.us/home/content/usa/aboutshell/media_center/news_and_press_releases/2011/12162011_ho-pipeline.html

Canada's National Energy Board Maintains Same-Season Arctic Drilling Provisions Despite Requests for Waivers

Canada's National Energy Board (NEB) said on Thursday that any company interested in drilling for oil and gas in Arctic waters must first demonstrate that it has the capacity to sink a relief well in the same drilling season to cope with possible well blowouts. The announcement was made despite requests from BP and ExxonMobil that the same-season provision be waived and comes with a stringent list of requirements that must be met before the NEB will grant drilling permits.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/12/16/us-energy-arctic-idUSTRE7BE1NY20111216?type=GCA-GreenBusiness&feedType=RSS&feedName=GCA-GreenBusiness&rpc=43>

Cheniere Developing 13.5 MTPA LNG Liquefaction Project in Corpus Christi, Texas

Cheniere Energy, Inc. announced today that its wholly owned subsidiary, Corpus Christi Liquefaction, LLC is developing a liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminal at one of Cheniere's existing sites that was previously permitted for a regasification terminal. The LNG export terminal site is located in San Patricio County, Texas, and it is anticipated that the terminal would be primarily supplied by reserves from the Eagle Ford Shale, located approximately 60 miles northwest of Corpus Christi. The proposed liquefaction project is being designed for up to three trains capable of producing in aggregate up to 13.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa), which equates to roughly 1.75 Bcf/d. Cheniere has initiated the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's National Environmental Policy Act pre-filing review for the proposed Corpus Christi Project.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=101667&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1640460>

Update: ConocoPhillips to Resume LNG Exports from 1.5 MTPA Kenai, Alaska Terminal

ConocoPhillips will restart exports from its 1.5 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant in Kenai, Alaska, a company spokeswoman said late on Thursday. The 42-year-old facility was scheduled to shut down last spring, but energy shortages caused by the Japanese earthquake and tsunami spurred a temporary demand in Asia for extra deliveries. The plant continued exports through November and then began to shut down. The spokeswoman said Thursday, however, that the company has found enough gas supply to resume exports, and it has signed new contracts for natural gas supplies from Cook Inlet producers. ConocoPhillips has also leased an LNG tanker to restart the plant's export business with Asian markets, which are expected to resume in the second half of 2012.

<http://lnglicensing.conocophillips.com/EN/lngprojects/Pages/index.aspx>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/12/16/conocophillips-lng-idUSL3E7NG26820111216?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43>

Compressor Snag Shuts Unit at Exterran's 50 MMcf/d Reinecke Gas Plant in Texas December 14

Exterran reported that on Wednesday Unit 77081 went down on compressor oil pressure. Operators left the unit down and started a spare unit to reduce venting.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162809>

Valve Problems Shut AGI Unit, Lead to Flaring at Enbridge's Tilden Gas Plant in Texas December 14

Enbridge reported that a third-stage relief valve failure shut the facility's acid gas injector (AGI) No. 2 Wednesday afternoon, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators immediately responded to correct the situation and routed vented gas to flare to mitigate emissions. In another filing with the state regulator Wednesday, Enbridge reported that later that afternoon, a bad fifth-stage suction valve problem shut the AGI No.2 unit again. Operators again immediately responded to correct the situation and routed vented gas to flare to mitigate emissions.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162820>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162822>

Other News

Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant Is Now in Stable Cold Shutdown – Japanese Government

The Japanese government on Friday declared the Fukushima Daiichi plant has been brought to a safe state of cold shutdown, nearly nine months after a tsunami precipitated meltdowns at the facility's three reactors. A technical measure of stability, "cold shutdown" means that fuel temperatures within the reactors are now cool enough to be considered safe. The reactors are emitting little new radiation into the air and are no longer undergoing nuclear fission. The government will now focus its attention on decontaminating the region surrounding the plant and planning when to allow the estimated 88,000 people evacuated from areas within a 20-km radius around the plant to return, which will depend on the government's determining how much contamination is tolerable.

DJN, 10:18 December 16, 2011

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
December 16, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	93.23	98.55	88.11
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.05	3.42	4.22

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Nothing to report

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 & 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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