



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, December 17, 2012

## ***Electricity***

---

### **Powerful Storm Knocks Out Power to 30,000 Utility Customers in Western Washington December 17**

A powerful storm brought strong winds to Western Washington early Monday morning, bringing blizzard conditions to mountain passes and knocking out power to about 30,000 customers, including 11,000 Seattle City Light customers and 17,000 Puget Sound Energy customers. Mason County PUD and Peninsula Light also reported scattered outages.

<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/Powerful-storm-brings-damaging-winds-to-parts-of-region-183780211.html>

### **Storms, Heavy Winds Cut Power to 29,000 PG&E and Pacific Power Customers in Western Oregon December 16**

Heavy rainfall and strong winds knocked out power to 29,000 Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) and Pacific Power customers in Western Oregon Sunday night, according to local media.

[http://www.koinlocal6.com/mostpopular/story/Overnight-Update-Strong-possibly-damaging-winds/H\\_vy0SUjAUiAcW8rmM3ifw.csp](http://www.koinlocal6.com/mostpopular/story/Overnight-Update-Strong-possibly-damaging-winds/H_vy0SUjAUiAcW8rmM3ifw.csp)

### **California ISO to Pay Fine for Violations Related to 2010 San Diego Blackout**

The U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Friday issued an order that said the California Independent System Operator (ISO) has agreed to pay \$200,000 to settle allegations that it violated electric reliability standards in connection with a short San Diego blackout in the spring of 2010. On March 31, 2010, the California ISO, in conjunction with San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), scheduled InterGen's 322 MW Central La Rosita II power unit in Mexico to provide power on April 1, 2010. However, La Rosita II experienced an outage on the afternoon of March 31 and was not available to meet its schedule for April 1. The ISO knew La Rosita II was not available but failed to plan to replace the power scheduled from the unit, according to the FERC order. Shortly before midnight on March 31, 2010, the ISO granted a request from Calpine Corp's 604 MW Otay Mesa power plant to shut at midnight. One minute before midnight, an alarm alerted ISO operators that generation in the San Diego area had dropped below the required level. The FERC order said the operators were not adequately trained on how to respond, and just after midnight they started to shed load in the San Diego area, leaving about 250,000 SDG&E customers without power for 43 minutes. An ISO spokesman said the agency acknowledges the error and has enhanced its training, revised some operating procedures to reduce confusion, and assigned operating engineers to the control center at all times to assist power system engineers.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/14/utilities-caliso-sandiego-idUSL1E8NEDI120121214?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43>

### **PPL's 1,111 MW Susquehanna Nuclear Unit 2 in Pennsylvania Automatically Shuts During Turbine Control Valve Testing December 16**

PPL Corporation reported its Susquehanna nuclear Unit 2 automatically shut down from 98 percent power at approximately 1:56 a.m. EST Sunday morning during routine testing of a valve on the unit's main turbine system, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). A second Unit 2 reactor scram signal was received at approximately 2:10 a.m. due to reactor water level lowering to 13 inches, the filing said. Operators restored the reactor water level above the trip set-point, and confirmed all systems responded as expected and the reactor is in a safe and stable condition. Susquehanna workers are investigating why the testing caused the shutdown. Unit 1 continued to operate at full power Monday morning.

<http://pplweb.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=12270&item=136277>

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2012/20121217en.html>

## **NRC Begins Special Inspection of Entergy's River Bend Nuclear Power Plant in Louisiana after Operators Shut Diesel Generator in Response to Leak**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Friday announced it is conducting a special inspection at Entergy's River Bend Nuclear Station to review the circumstances surrounding a problem with an emergency diesel generator. On December 2 during testing of one of the emergency diesel generators, plant operators identified a leak from a pipe that provides cooling water to the engine. Operators shut down the diesel generator. The other onsite generator remains functional. The NRC inspection wants to better understand the cause of the leak and to review operators' corrective actions to ensure that the diesel generator will perform as intended.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2012/12-053.iv.pdf>

## **Nebraska Public Power District to Increase Output by 146 MW at Its 800 MW Cooper Nuclear Power Plant**

The Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) on Friday announced it would increase output at its Cooper Nuclear Station by 146 MW from its current 800 MW nameplate, through an extended power uprate. The increase in generation is intended to help NPPD meet additional load requirements the utility expects to have as early as 2018. The power uprate will require some equipment upgrades at the facility, including replacing a high-pressure turbine. Much of the new equipment will be installed during three, successive refueling and maintenance outages scheduled for 2014, 2016, and 2018. The project will require regulatory approvals from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Nebraska Power Review Board.

<http://www.nppd.com/2012/power-uprate-at-cooper-nuclear-station-sought-by-nebraska-public-power-district/>

## **Update: PG&E's 1,087 MW Diablo Canyon Nuclear Unit 2 in California at Full Power by December 15; 1,087 MW Diablo Canyon Nuclear Unit 1 Reduced to 88 Percent by December 17**

Pacific Gas & Electric Corp. (PG&E) returned its Diablo Canyon Unit 2 to full power by Saturday following work to replace fuses in the main generator, according to a spokesman. Operators had reduced Unit 2 to 15 percent power on Thursday while the work was performed. Diablo Canyon Unit 1 was had been operating at full power, but operators reduced the unit to 88 percent by Monday morning. The utility has not publicly said why it was reducing Unit 1.

Reuters, 14:10 December 14, 2012

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

## **Update: Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuclear Unit 1 in Mississippi Restarts by December 15, Ramps Up to 60 Percent by December 17**

Entergy's Grand Gulf Unit 1 is returning from an outage that began by December 9. Operators have not publicly announced the cause of the shutdown.

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

## **Constellation's 835 MW Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Unit 2 in Maryland Reduced to 85 Percent by December 16**

On the morning of December 15 the unit was operating at full power.

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

## **Update: Exelon's 1,111 MW La Salle Nuclear Unit 2 in Illinois at Full Power by December 15**

On the morning of December 14 the unit was operating at 80 percent.

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

## **Update: Exelon's 855 MW Quad Cities Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois at Full Power by December 15**

On the morning of December 14 the unit was operating at 88 percent.

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

## **CDWR's 933 MW Hyatt-Thermalito Hydro Unit in California Reduced by December 14**

The unit entered a curtailment of 780 MW that was due to planned and unplanned causes.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201212141515.html>

## **Update: Dynegy's 510 MW Moss Landing Natural Gas-Fired Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by December 14**

The unit returned from an unplanned curtailment of 260 MW that began by December 13.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201212141515.html>

## **Update: GenOn's 215 MW Mandalay Natural Gas-Fired Unit 1 and 215 MW Natural Gas-Fired Unit 2 in California Return to Service by December 14**

GenOn's Mandalay Unit 1 returned from an unplanned curtailment of 110 MW that began by December 13. Prior to the curtailment, Unit 1 had been shut since December 11 due to an unplanned outage. Mandalay Unit 2 returned from an unplanned outage that began by December 7.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201212141515.html>

## ***Petroleum***

---

### **Update: Buckeye Says Repairs to Its 140,000 b/d Petroleum Products Pipeline in New Jersey Should Be Complete by December 24**

Buckeye Partners on Friday said it expects to be able to complete repairs on the shut section of its 140,000 b/d petroleum products pipeline in Hillsborough, New Jersey within the next 10 days (approximately December 14–24). Buckeye shut the pipeline, which runs from Linden, New Jersey to Macungie, Pennsylvania, on December 10 after detecting a gasoline spill; the pipeline remained shut as of late last night. Operators on Sunday said the pipeline would remain out of service until it is repaired, and that preparations were underway for a permanent repair, which will be performed on a later date.

Reuters, 17:16 December 14, 2012

Reuters, 20:48 December 16, 2012

### **Coker Upset Causes Emissions at PBF Energy's 180,000 b/d Paulsboro, New Jersey Refinery**

PBF Energy Inc. reported a "pressure upset" triggered a malfunction on the coking unit at its Paulsboro refinery on Friday, causing a release of hydrogen sulfide to the air, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators reduced pressure in the unit and secured the release.

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1033243](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1033243)

### **Marathon Shuts Unspecified Operating Unit Due to Leak at Its 490,000 b/d Garyville, Louisiana Refinery December 15**

Marathon Petroleum Co. reported it was shutting an unspecified operating unit at its Garyville refinery Saturday evening after discovering a leak on the unit, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators said that gas oil leaking into the atmosphere may have contained hydrogen sulfide.

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1033366](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1033366)

### **Valero Reports FCCU Stack Emissions at Its 171,000 b/d McKee, Texas Refinery December 13**

Valero Energy Corp. reported emissions from a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) stack at its McKee refinery Thursday were due to a precipitator field tripping offline, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=177160>

### **Update: Valero Restarts Hydrocracker at Its 93,000 b/d Three Rivers, Texas Refinery December 14**

Valero Energy Corp. said a hydrocracker at its Three Rivers refinery was approaching planned rates on Friday; operators shut the unit last Wednesday after an unspecified snag led to flaring. Operators reported they were beginning restart procedures at the Complex I Area 2 unit very early Friday morning, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Emissions related to restart procedures were expected to last until Saturday morning.

Reuters, 15:29 December 14, 2012

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=177161>

## **Malfunction Causes SRU Emissions at Total's 232,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery December 16**

Total Petrochemicals USA reported an unspecified malfunction of Unit 833 at its Port Arthur refinery very early Sunday morning cause the unit to shut down, resulting in emissions from that unit, sulfur recovery unit (SRU) No.1, tail gas thermal oxidizer No. 3, Area 5, and the North Flare, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=177192>

## **Valero Reports Flaring at Its 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery December 15**

Valero Energy Corp reported flaring at its Corpus Christi refinery on Saturday was due "third-party conditions," according to a filing with the Corpus Christi/Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee. The filing did not identify the third party.

Reuters, 18:28 December 16, 2012

## **CVR Reduces Feed to Unit after Compressor Failure Triggers Flaring at Its 70,000 b/d Wynnewood, Oklahoma Refinery December 15**

CVR Energy Inc. reported the failure of a compressor triggered flaring at its Wynnewood refinery on Saturday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators reduced feed to the unspecified unit on which the compressor was located, and repairs were underway at the time of the filing.

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1033337](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1033337)

## **Shell Shuts SRU Due to Amine Leak at Its 145,000 b/d Anacortes, Washington Refinery December 12**

Shell Oil reported it shut down sulfur recovery unit (SRU) No. 3 at its Anacortes refinery December 12 due to amine leak, according to a filing with the Northwest Clean Air Agency.

Reuters, 16:31 December 14, 2012

## ***Natural Gas***

---

### **Total Signs 20-Year Deal to Buy LNG from Cheniere's Sabine Pass LNG Export Terminal in Louisiana**

Cheniere Energy Partners, L.P. today announced that its subsidiary, Sabine Pass Liquefaction, LLC has entered into a liquefied natural gas (LNG) sale and purchase agreement with Total Gas & Power North America, Inc., under which Total has agreed to purchase 91,250,000 MMBtu of LNG annually plus 13,500,000 MMBTU of seasonal LNG volumes upon the commencement of train five operations. These volumes represent approximately 2.0 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of the approximately 4.5 mtpa of nominal capacity of train five being developed at Sabine Liquefaction. Sabine Liquefaction is currently developing five liquefaction trains adjacent to the Sabine Pass LNG terminal. The first two trains are under construction and the third and fourth trains are expected to commence construction in 2013.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=207560&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1767716>

## ***Other News***

---

### **Pacific Gas & Electric Fires Nearly 20 Workers for Lying About Inspections in California**

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2012/12/14/pge-workers-fired-for-lying-about-inspections/>

## ***International News***

---

Nothing to report.

## Energy Prices

---

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
December 17, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	87.13	85.78	93.23
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	3.15	3.33	3.05

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](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

---

*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 PM Eastern Time. 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](mailto:ead@oe.netl.doe.gov)