



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, December 19, 2007

Electricity

Update: Over 52,000 Customers Remain without Power Throughout the Central Plains

Utilities across the Central Plains are reporting outage numbers significantly lower than a week ago when the severe ice storm began affecting the region December 9. As of 2:00 PM EST today, 52,227 customers remained without electricity with Oklahoma Gas & Electric reporting the most outages at 25,831 customers without power. Major progress has been made throughout Kansas and Missouri.

<http://www.oge.com/systemwatch/>

Chemical Plant Explosion Knocks Two Units Offline at JEA's Northside Generating Station in Jacksonville, Florida December 19

According to a JEA Company representative, the explosion did not take place at the JEA Northside Generating Station. However, "because it was a large explosion it knocked out two of our generating units offline at Northside. That is not affecting our customer service."

<http://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/stories/2007/12/17/daily20.html>

AES's 681 MW Somerset Coal-fired Unit in New York Shut December 18

Reuters, 20:49 December 18, 2007

PPL's 759 MW Montour Coal-fired Unit in Pennsylvania Shut December 19

Reuters, 9:44 December 19, 2007

MACH Gen's 1,138 MW Athens Gas-fired Unit in New York Shut December 14

Reuters, 20:49 December 18, 2007

SCE's 525 MW Mountainview Gas-fired Unit 3 in California Shut December 18

According to a filing with California Independent System Operator, the unit experienced an unplanned outage on December 18.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200712181515.html>

AmerGen's 619 MW Oyster Creek Nuke Unit in New Jersey Reduced to 84 Percent December 19

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the unit was operating at 100 percent on December 18. Information derived from NRC Power Reactor Status Reports.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2007/>

Update: San Miguel Electric Coop's 391 MW San Miguel Coal-fired Unit in Texas Returns to Service December 19

The unit was shut to repair tube leaks.

Reuters, 07:41 December 19, 2007

OPG's 490 MW Nanticoke Coal-fired Unit 8 in Ontario Shut December 19

Reuters, 7:58 December 19, 2007

Bruce's 750 MW Bruce Nuke Unit 4 in Ontario Shut December 19

Reuters, 9:44 December 19, 2007

PPL Seeks License to Build Nuclear Power Plant in Northeast Pennsylvania

December 19

Pennsylvania Power & Light (PPL) plans to apply to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for a license to build and operate a third nuclear plant in northeast Pennsylvania. PPL plans to build the unit near the Susquehanna nuclear plant near Berwick, Pennsylvania. PPL said it plans to file the license application by the end of 2008, although it has not yet decided to move forward with construction.

<http://www.pplweb.com/newsroom/newsroom+quick+links/news+releases/121907+PPL+to+Seek+License.htm>

Petroleum

Update: BP Prudhoe Bay Line Replacement Half Complete

Intending to replace 16 miles of oil transit pipelines crippled by corrosion, BP has replaced half of the transit pipeline that moves Alaska North Slope crude production at Prudhoe Bay to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Sections of the damaged lines sprung leaks March 2007 and August 2007, corrosion was determined the cause of both spills. Oil Daily, December 19, 2007

Update: Frontier's 52,000 b/d Cheyenne Refinery in Wyoming Running at Reduced Rates After Fire

The company says the crude unit will be running at 25-30,000 b/d for the next three to four weeks during repairs to the coking unit which damaged in a fire that occurred late on December 15.

Reuters, 12:48 December 19, 2007

Update: State of Alaska Investigating Cause of Leak that Triggered Leak in a ConocoPhillips North Slope pipeline

The pipeline rupture which occurred on Alaska's North Slope December 16 is prompting Alaska officials to investigate the cause of the rupture as well as to consider how widespread corrosion problems throughout the state's aging fields could be.

Reuters, 09:52 December 19, 2007

Enbridge and ExxonMobil Partner to Take Bids for Proposed 400,000 b/d Oil Pipeline December 19

Enbridge Inc. and partner Exxon Mobil Corp. are asking customers to submit binding capacity commitments for their proposed \$3 billion 36-inch pipeline to help transport Canadian oil-sands production to refineries in Texas. The pipeline is expected to enter production by late 2010 to early 2011.

Bloomberg News, 12:50 December 19, 2007

Update: Syncrude Restarts 100,000 b/d Coker after Fire at Oil Sands Project in Alberta December 18

Syncrude Canada Ltd. has restarted its 100,000 barrel-per-day coker 8-3 unit after it was shut down to repair damages from a December 5 fire.

Reuters, 17:04 December 19, 2007

Crude Prices Increase as EIA's Latest Weekly Numbers Show Large Drop in Crude Stocks Extended Closure of Houston Ship Channel Last Week Seen Playing a Role

According to the latest weekly information from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), stocks of crude oil fell 7.59 million barrels to 296.9 million barrels last week, the lowest level since February 2005. The closure of the Houston Ship Channel for more than 78 hours last week due to fog is seen by traders and industry analysts as a factor in explaining the drop in crude inventories.

Bloomberg News, 13:22 December 19, 2007

Houston Ship Channel Closes to Tanker Traffic Due to Fog December 19

The largest U.S. petroleum port was closed to tanker traffic at 6:25 a.m. December 19 and specifically delayed 15 inbound and 12 outbound vessels. The Houston Ship Channel typically has 55 vessel movements a day and takes two-three days of shutdown before Houston-area operations are affected.

Bloomberg News, 09:16 December 19, 2007

Mexico Files Brief with United Nations Seeking Access to Disputed Area of the Gulf of Mexico

The Mexican government filed a brief with the United Nations Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf December 18 to seek the commission's recommendations on the platform limits for exploration and exploitation in an oil and gas rich 6,500-square mile disputed area in the Gulf of Mexico. In 2000, the area under dispute was divided under a bilateral agreement with the United States that gave Mexico 60% of the area. However, that agreement did not establish any type of cooperative agreement for the development of the area.

Oil Daily, December 19, 2007

Leak Reported at ExxonMobil's 348,500 b/d Beaumont Refinery in Texas December 19

The company reported a leak in a liquid separator at the refinery that led to a chemical release from the crude distillate unit (CRU).

<http://www2.tceq.state.tx.us/eer/main/index.cfm?fuseaction=getDetails&target=101529>

Natural Gas

Update: Kern River Gas Transmission Company Extends Open Season for Possible 500,000 dth/d Expansion

Kern River Gas Transmission Company announced that none of its shippers elected to relinquish existing firm transportation capacity by the original open season deadline and is extending its an open season through Jan. 11, 2008, to garner shipper interest for year-round transportation service to Utah, Nevada or California.

http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20071218005910&newsLang=en

Other News

Update: President Bush Signs Major Energy Legislation into Law December 19

President Bush signed into law H.R. 6, *The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007*, approved by the U.S. Congress. The measure is meant to reduce U.S. reliance on foreign oil by raising fuel-economy standards for vehicles and energy efficiency in buildings and appliances. To view the complete text of the measure, click on the following link:

<http://www.thomas.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?c110:7:./temp/~c110SHrt8l>:

Vectren Receives Coal Mining Permit Approval from Indiana Department of Natural Resources December 14

Vectren Fuels received approval December 14 from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to begin mining operations at Oaktown, Indiana. Construction work is to begin this week with production from the mines scheduled for early 2009. The Oaktown mines 1 & 2 are expected to produce 5 million tons annually.

<http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/prnewswire/CLTU09518122007-1.htm>

NRC Orders Nuclear Plants to Report on Steps to Detect and Prevent Inattentive Behavior of Security Guards at Nuclear Plants

After reports of inattentive security guards at some nuclear power plants raised concerns about procedures and working conditions, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has directed all 104 of the nation's nuclear plants to respond within 60 days with information on working conditions and programs to identify and prevent future problems.

<http://www.thejournalnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071216/NEWS03/712160341/1019/NEWS03>

SunEdison Activates Largest U.S. Photovoltaic Plant for Xcel Energy in Colorado December 17

SunEdison activated the 8.22 MW Alamosa photovoltaic solar plant December 17 ahead of its scheduled completion date. It is the largest solar PV plant in the United States and is unique in that it consists of three distinct types of solar technologies; single axis tracking array, fixed-mount array, and dual axis tracking array with photovoltaic concentrator technology. The facility will generate approximately 17,000 MWh annually.

<http://www.sunedison.com/images/press/121607-alamosa.pdf>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices December 19, 2007			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	91.58	88.40	63.06
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	7.18	7.04	6.27

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

DTE Energy Proceeds with Plan to Store Spent Nuclear Fuel from its Fermi Nuke Plant in Michigan, Signs \$62.5 Million Contract to Store Waste in Sealed Cylindrical Casks

<http://www.myfoxatlanta.com/myfox/pages/Business/Detail?contentId=5233605&version=1&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=4.1.1>

ERCOT Says New Generation Will Add to 2009 Summer Power Reserve

Reuters, 12:50 December 19, 2007

Petrobras Reports November Oil Production Increased 1.8% Topping out at 1.7 MM b/d

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=54144

Union Workers Extend Labor Strike 24 Hours at Five Total Refineries in France - Small Short-term Disruption Expected

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/News/Articles/200712/Total_French_Refinery_Workers_Extend_Str_7726.aspx

Mexico's Coatzacoalcos, Cayo Arcas and Dos Bocas Oil Ports Reopen after Brief Shutdown Following Storm

Reuters, 17:33 December 18, 2007

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

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/index.aspx>.

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