



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, December 20, 2012

Major Developments

Snow and Rain Storms Knock Out Power to Nearly 470, 000 Utility Customers in U.S. Midwest, Gulf Coast December 19–20

A strong line of snow and rain storms with powerful winds knocked out power to approximately 469,568 utility customers in the U.S. Midwest and Gulf Coast Wednesday night and Thursday. Utilities hit first in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Kansas, and Missouri were restoring power Thursday, while the storms continued to affect parts of Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee this afternoon and were expected to increasingly impact Illinois and Michigan late today. Isolated tornadoes were also reported in Alabama and Arkansas. As of 2:00 p.m. EST, utilities reported 291,797 customers remained without power. Consumers Energy said it was preparing for an expected storm late Thursday and into Friday, when high winds and heavy, wet snow may result in power outages to its service territory in Michigan. In northern Illinois, ComEd said it was preparing additional crews and equipment to respond quickly to expected power outages.

https://www.comed.com/newsroom/news-releases/Pages/newsroomreleases_12202012.pdf

<http://www.consumersenergy.com/News.aspx?id=5941&year=2012>

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/comed-makes-preparations-advance-highly-140000770.html>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/20/utilities-storm-poweroutages-idUSL1E8NK1UP20121220?feedType=RSS&feedName=financialsSector&rpc=43>

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2012/dec/20/strong-storms-down-trees-spawn-possible-tornado/?f=news-weather>

U.S. Midwest and Gulf Coast Customer Power Outages			
December 19–20, 2012			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Alabama Power Co.	AL	18,000	17,500
AEP – SWEPCO	AR, LA, TX	64,200	26,678
Entergy – Arkansas	AR	38,739	38,739
Alliant	IA	26,638	26,638
MidAmerican	IA, IL	43,300	37,074
Ameren	IL	4,146	4,146
Kansas City Power & Light	KS, MO	32,600	26,300
Westar	KS	12,500	2,967
Cleco	LA	6,900	1,017
Entergy – Louisiana	LA	22,000	7,133
Entergy – Mississippi	MS	16,000	5,654
Ameren – Missouri	MO	13,340	13,340
Omaha Public Power District	NE	40,200	30,039
AEP – Oklahoma	OK	2,600	190
Oklahoma Gas & Electric	OK	3,000	2,169
Memphis Light	TN	4,012	4,012
CenterPoint	TX	60,000	10,581
Entergy – Texas	TX	19,000	11,196
Oncor	TX	39,700	23,691
AEP – Appalachian	WV, VA	2,693	2,693
TOTAL*		469,568	291,757

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

Sources:

<https://twitter.com/alabamapower>

<http://viewoutage.entergy.com/ar.aspx>
<https://www.swepco.com/outages/>
<https://www.swepco.com/outages/details.aspx?stormName=SWEPCO>
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<http://azimuth.mlgw.org/OutageSummary.php>
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<http://www.click2houston.com/news/Cold-front-brings-strong-winds/-/1735978/17844148/-/4819dn/-/index.html>
<http://viewoutage.entergy.com/tx.aspx>
<https://www.appalachianpower.com/outages/Default.aspx>

Electricity

PPL's 1,111 MW Susquehanna Nuclear Unit 2 in Pennsylvania Automatically Shuts Due to Low Reactor Pressure Vessel Level December 19

PPL Corporation reported the Susquehanna Unit 2 reactor automatically scrambled Wednesday evening on low reactor pressure vessel (RPV) level while transitioning the 'A' reactor feed pump from discharge pressure mode to flow control mode. Operators had been ramping up power on the unit following an outage that began December 16, during routine testing of a valve on the unit's main turbine system. The unit had ramped up to 18 percent power when it automatically scrambled Wednesday. All safety systems operated as expected. The cause of the loss of feed water flow and trip of the reactor recirculation pumps is under investigation. Unit 1 was not affected and continues to operate at 99 percent power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2012/20121220en.html>

Southern Reports Elevated Tritium Levels in Groundwater Samples at Its Hatch Nuclear Power Plant in Georgia

Southern Nuclear Operating Company on Wednesday reported that results from routine monitoring of groundwater at Plant Hatch indicated tritium was detected above historical background levels at two sample points on site. Additional samples were taken from the same points and analysis confirmed that tritium was present at elevated levels in both samples and that tritium had not migrated out of the general area of initial discovery. Immediate actions are being taken to locate the source of the leak and actions are in progress to stop the leak. The investigation currently shows that the tritium is confined to a small area on the plant site in the vicinity of the Unit 1 Condensate Storage Tank (CST), and there is no significant potential for off-site impact.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2012/20121220en.html>

Update: Constellation's 565 MW Nine Mile Point Nuclear Unit 1 in New York Ramped Up to 25 Percent by December 20

Constellation Energy Nuclear Group's Nine Mile Point Unit 1 is returning from an outage that began December 13, when operators initiated a manual reactor scram from full power due to a primary containment leakage.

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

Entergy's 966 MW River Bend Nuclear Unit 1 in Louisiana Reduced to 50 Percent by December 20

On the morning of December 19 the unit was operating at full power.

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

Heavy Snowfall Knocks Out Power to 34,000 Hydro-Quebec Customers December 19

<http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/Canada/2012/12/19/20442266.html>

ONEOK NGL Pipeline Reports 13,000-Barrel Propane Release in Texas December 19

ONEOK NGL Pipeline, L.P. reported a pipeline failure discovered west of Savoy, Texas on Wednesday had resulted in the release of 13,000 barrels of propane and the formation of a vapor cloud, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators shut-in the pipeline and emergency responders and company personnel were at the site.

Reuters, 00:18 December 20, 2012

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1033675

Update: Repairs to 325,000 b/d CDU at Motiva's 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery Now Seen Done on December 23 – Sources

Repair work at the new 325,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) at Motiva Enterprises' Port Arthur refinery is expected to take longer than expected and should be completed by Sunday, sources familiar with refinery operations said on Wednesday. The work had previously been expected to have been done by Thursday or Friday, the sources said.

Reuters, 14:15 December 19, 2012

CVR Reduces Charge Rates, Shifts to All Sweet Crude Due to Unplanned Maintenance at Its 70,000 b/d Wynnewood, Oklahoma Refinery December 19

CVR Energy Inc. reported an ongoing release of hydrogen sulfide at its Wynnewood refinery was due to unplanned maintenance, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The filing was an update to an emissions report first filed on Monday, when the refinery reported that a unit shut for routine maintenance had caused an unknown amount of hydrogen sulfide to be released to the flare. Operators reduced production rates to limit emissions. On Wednesday, operators said they had reduced charge rates and shifted to "all sweet crude" to minimize emissions.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1033539

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1033763

Update: Total Reports Additional Emissions Related to Malfunction at Its 232,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery December 16

Total Petrochemicals USA reported that due to a previously reported malfunction of Unit 833 at its Port Arthur refinery very early Sunday morning, Unit 870 also experienced emissions at a later time, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. An unspecified malfunction of Unit 833 caused that unit to shut down, resulting in emissions from that unit, sulfur recover unit No. 1, tail gas thermal oxidizer No. 3, Area 5, and the North Flare. Operators were routing all tailgas to flare.

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

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=177339>

Natural Gas

FPL Issues RFP to Build 400 MMcf/d Southeast Natural Gas Pipeline in Florida

Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) on Wednesday issued a request for proposals (RFP) to build a natural gas pipeline to serve Florida, where new natural gas transportation infrastructure will be needed by 2017 to meet growing demand. A new major natural gas pipeline will also improve the reliability of the state's fuel transportation system and expand the state's access to onshore sources, helping reduce exposure to offshore sources in the Gulf of Mexico and supply interruptions caused by tropical weather. The proposed new Southeast Pipeline will initially have a capacity of 400 MMcf/d beginning in 2017, increasing in capacity in future years. It will be composed of two segments: The Florida Interstate Connection and Central Florida Hub comprise the upstream pipeline project, which will originate at an existing hub in western Alabama, run east and then south, ending at a new hub to be built in Central Florida that will allow the new pipeline to interconnect with Florida's existing pipeline systems. The Florida Southeast Connection is the downstream pipeline project, which will originate at the new Central Florida Hub and connect with FPL's system in Martin County, Florida.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/fpl-continues-reduce-oil-consumption-190000649.html>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
December 20, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	89.44	86.03	96.71
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.25	3.33	3.02

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

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

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

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