



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, December 22, 2015

Electricity

Wind, Rain Knock Out Power to 32,000 PGE Customers in Oregon December 21

Rain and high winds knocked out power to 32,000 Portland General Electric (PGE) customers in Oregon on Monday. Wind gusts of more than 40 mph were reported, knocking down trees and power lines. As of 3:30 p.m. EST Tuesday, 3,567 customers remained without power.

<https://www.portlandgeneral.com/outages/outage-map>

<https://twitter.com/portlandgeneral>

http://www.oregonlive.com/weather/index.ssf/2015/12/wind_rain_leave_21500_customer.html

Snowstorm Knocks Out Power to Nearly 16,000 Idaho Power Customers December 20

Heavy snow and broken branches broke multiple power lines early on Monday knocking out power to nearly 16,000 Idaho Power customers in central Idaho. The power went out just hours after utility crews restored service to 10,000 customers who lost power over the weekend. As of 3:30 p.m. EST Tuesday, 552 customers remained without power.

<https://www.idahopower.com/Outages/Map/default.cfm>

<https://twitter.com/idahopower>

<http://www.spokesman.com/blogs/boise/2015/dec/21/heavy-snow-leaves-16000-without-power-central-idaho/>

Update: Exelon's 1,134 MW Limerick Nuclear Unit 2 in Pennsylvania at Full Power by December 22

On the morning of December 21 the unit had restarted and ramped up to 23 percent. The unit shut from full power on December 19 due to low reactor water level.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20151221en.html>

Update: FirstEnergy's 1,235 MW Perry Nuclear Unit 1 in Ohio at Full Power by December 22

FirstEnergy Corp on Monday said unit 1 was reduced to 85 percent from full power over the weekend to perform a control rod sequence exchange and complete turbine valve testing.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

Reuters, 12:25 December 21, 2015

STP's 1,251 MW South Texas Nuclear Unit 1 in Texas Shut December 21

STP Nuclear Operating Co said on Tuesday it shut its unit 1 at its South Texas nuclear power plant after an equipment malfunction was identified during power ascension. The unit was shut from 29 percent power early Monday.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20151222en.html>

Reuters, 8:01 December 22, 2015

RRI Energy's 320 MW Etiwanda Gas-fired Unit 3 in California Reduced by December 21

The unit entered an unplanned curtailment of 170 MW.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201512211515.html>

Dominion, Governor McAuliffe Announce Partnership to Increase Solar Energy by 110 MW in Virginia

Dominion Virginia Power and the Commonwealth of Virginia reached an agreement to deploy 110 MW of solar power generation. The Commonwealth will purchase the solar-generated electricity through a long-term agreement with Dominion. Dominion will work with various state agencies to determine the location and size of the individual facilities. Timeline for construction and costs will be determined as individual projects are scoped and developed.
<https://www.dom.com/residential/dominion-virginia-power/news/news-releases/137086>

NRC Says Xcel Energy Agrees to Corrective Measures at Its 578 MW Monticello Nuclear Plant in Minnesota

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said Xcel Energy agreed to take corrective measures to address the improper testing of welds on six spent fuel canisters at the Monticello nuclear plant in Minnesota. The NRC said Tuesday that its inspector saw two contractors fail to properly perform the examinations in 2013. The NRC also said the testing examinations were falsely recorded, and the plant failed to have effective quality controls in place to monitor the work. The NRC found the contractors' actions were deliberate and put the plant in violation of agency requirements.

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1535/ML15356A077.pdf>

http://www.xcelenergy.com/Energy_Portfolio/Monticello_Nuclear_Generating_Plant

Reuters, 11:01 December 22, 2015

Petroleum

Department of Commerce Says Government License No Longer Needed to Export U.S. Crude Oil

The Department of Commerce's Bureau of Industry and Security today stated that a license is no longer required to export crude oil from the United States—a notice formally lifting restrictions, that for nearly 40 years prohibited the export of unprocessed, domestic crude oil. Most exports of crude oil may now be made as NLR (no license required), and crude oil is now classified as "EAR99", which subjects such commodity to the Export Administration Regulations (EAR), but not listed with a specific Export Control Classification Number (ECCN) on the Commerce Control List (CCL). Exporters should be aware that exports to embargoed or sanctioned countries or persons, including those listed in parts 744 and 746 of the EAR and persons subject to a denial of export privileges, continue to require authorization. BIS said it will shortly be taking steps to amend the Export Administration Regulations to reflect this change. Companies holding current licenses for crude oil exports should be aware of section 750.7(i) of the EAR terminating license conditions upon the termination of the requirement for the export license.

<https://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/crude-oil-export-licensing-policy>

Update: Hydrocracker at ExxonMobil's 502,500 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana Refinery to Remain Shut into Second Quarter of 2016 – Sources

ExxonMobil Corp's 23,000 b/d hydrocracking unit at its Baton Rouge, Louisiana refinery is expected to remain shut into the second quarter of 2016 after the unit was shut by an explosion on Friday, two Gulf Coast market sources said on Monday. Prior to the explosion, the unit had been scheduled for a planned overhaul from February 10 through April 1, 2016. The refinery will combine repairs with the planned overhaul, said the sources. An ExxonMobil Baton Rouge spokeswoman said the refinery continues to meet its contractual commitments.
Reuters, 5:01 December 21, 2015

Operations Restored at Marathon's 451,000 b/d Galveston Bay, Texas Refinery after Coker Compressor Trip December 22

Marathon Petroleum Corp on Tuesday said a compressor tripped offline in a coking unit at its Galveston Bay, Texas refinery. The unit was brought to a safe state, the compressor was restarted, and normal operations resumed
Reuters, 15:22 December 22, 2015

Valero Reports Reformer Emissions at Its 205,000 b/d Corpus Christi East, Texas Refinery December 20

Valero Energy Corp reported a pilot flame was lost on a reformer on December 20. The pilot flame was reignited and normal operations resumed.

Reuters, 12:50 December 21, 2015

Natural Gas

DCP Midstream Reports Flaring at Its 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas December 21

DCP Midstream reported a turbine strainer malfunction occurred Tuesday causing a restriction in the flow of gas. To prevent an excess buildup of pressure, the gas was routed to the flare. Maintenance was notified and will be pulling the strainer and will either replace it or clean it before returning the turbine to normal operations.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=224810>

Regency Reports Loss of Delta V Controls at Its 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas December 21

Regency reported an emergency shutdown caused by the loss of the Delta V controls. Once the Delta V issues were resolved, the plant was restarted.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=224809>

Targa Reports AGC Shut at Its 150 MMcf/d Sand Hills Gas Plant in Texas December 20

Targa reported the acid gas compressor (AGC) C-14 shut due to loss of power from a plant generator, which caused flaring. Operations began restarting the generator and the AGC. Once the AGC was restarted, flaring ceased.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=224744>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Update: Mexico's 330,000 b/d Salina Cruz Refinery Operating Normally after Fire – Source

Mexico's largest oil refinery, Salina Cruz, is operating normally after a fire on November 24, an official at state oil company Pemex said. At the time the company reported that output was not affected, but traders said the incident had hurt its operations. Industry publisher Energy News Today (ENT) said the plant's alkylation unit, which was damaged by the fire, would be undergoing repairs until February.

Reuters, 9:18 December 22, 2015

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
December 22, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	36.07	37.27	55.43
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	1.71	1.69	3.44

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 & 1:00 PM ET every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://www.eia.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM ET 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. ET. 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