



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, December 23, 2009

## Electricity

### Update: More than 120,000 Customers Remain Without Power along U.S. East Coast December 23

More than 121,000 customers remained without power in West Virginia, Kentucky and Virginia on December 23, about five days after a winter storm cut power to nearly 345,000 customers across the three states, sources reported. Utilities in North Carolina, Tennessee, Massachusetts and Maryland restored power to nearly all affected customers, as of latest reports. Appalachian Power, the hardest-hit utility, expected to restore service to most of its downed customers by Christmas, but said some would remain in the dark into the weekend. The following table lists peak and current outage figures, based on latest available data.

East Coast Winter Storm Customer Power Outages			
December 18 – December 23, 2009			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Appalachian Power	WV	135,500	45,035
Allegheny Energy	WV	31,000	7,269
Kentucky Power	KY	69,624	34,632
Kentucky Utilities	KY	35,000	6,000
Jackson Energy Cooperative	KY	16,000	0
Licking Valley Rural Electric	KY	8,500	500
Appalachian Power	VA	43,200	27,400
Dominion	VA	6,000	262
Progress Energy	NC	67,000	562
Duke Energy	NC	19,781	509
Haywood EMC	NC	9,600	26
Appalachian Power	TN	19,456	492
NSTAR	MA	15,000	1,000
BG&E	MD	11,000	70
<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>486,661</b>	<b>123,757</b>

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

Sources:

Appalachian Power (WV, VA, TN): <https://www.appalachianpower.com/outages/>  
<https://www.appalachianpower.com/outages/details.aspx?stormName=December%2018%20Snow%20Storm%20-%20VA>

Allegheny Energy (WV)

[http://app.alleghenyenergy.com/outagestatus/OMS\\_Customer\\_State.aspx?Option=State&User=](http://app.alleghenyenergy.com/outagestatus/OMS_Customer_State.aspx?Option=State&User=)

Kentucky Power (KY):

<https://kentuckypower.com/outages/details.aspx?stormName=December%2018%20Snow%20Storm%20-%20Kentucky%20Power> , <http://www.lex18.com/news/90000-still-without-power-in-state-following-snowstorm/>

Kentucky Utilities (KY): <http://www.eon-us.com/storm/interactivemap/default.htm> , <http://www.eon-us.com/storm/default.asp> , [http://www.psc.ky.gov/agencies/psc/press/122009%5C1222\\_r03.PDF](http://www.psc.ky.gov/agencies/psc/press/122009%5C1222_r03.PDF)

Jackson Energy Cooperative (KY): [http://www.psc.state.ky.us/agencies/psc/press/122009/1221\\_r01.PDF](http://www.psc.state.ky.us/agencies/psc/press/122009/1221_r01.PDF) ,

<http://www.jacksonenergy.com/news/newsdetail.aspx?itemID=60>

<http://www.jacksonenergy.com/news/newsdetail.aspx?itemID=62>

Licking Valley Rural Electric Cooperative Corp.:

[http://www.psc.ky.gov/agencies/psc/press/122009%5C1222\\_r01.PDF](http://www.psc.ky.gov/agencies/psc/press/122009%5C1222_r01.PDF) ,

[http://www.psc.ky.gov/agencies/psc/press/122009%5C1222\\_r03.PDF](http://www.psc.ky.gov/agencies/psc/press/122009%5C1222_r03.PDF)

Progress Energy (NC): <http://www.progress-energy.com/aboutus/news/article.asp?id=23142>

Duke Energy (NC): <http://www.duke-energy.com/outages/stats/> , <http://www.citizen-times.com/article/20091219/NEWS01/91218069/1311>

Haywood EMC (NC): <http://www.haywoodemc.com/pages/outages.htm> ,  
[http://www.yourdailyjournal.com/printer\\_friendly/5250396](http://www.yourdailyjournal.com/printer_friendly/5250396)

Dominion (VA): <http://thelede.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/12/19/winter-storm-races-north/>  
<http://thelede.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/12/19/winter-storm-races-north/>  
<http://www.dom.com/storm-center/dominion-electric-outage-summary.jsp>

NSTAR (MA) [http://www.nstaronline.com/residential/storm\\_center/updates.asp](http://www.nstaronline.com/residential/storm_center/updates.asp)

Baltimore Gas & Electric – BG&E (MD): <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/local/ap/nearly-10000-in-central-maryland-lost-power-79757402.html>

<http://ozarksfirst.com/content/fulltext/?cid=218081>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/21/us/21storm.html/>

## **Entergy's 813 MW FitzPatrick Nuke Unit in New York Reduced to 55 Percent December 22**

Operators slowed the unit to repair a condenser, but expected to resume full service on December 23, a spokeswoman said. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 22 the unit was operating at full power.

Bloomberg News, 09:08 December 23, 2009

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

## **Update: Exelon's 1,116 MW Peach Bottom Nuke Unit 2 in Pennsylvania at Full Power by December 23**

The company slowed the unit "due to an instrumentation problem on an electrical bus," a news source said previously. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 22 the unit was operating at 49 percent.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2216114320091222?type=marketsNews>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

## **Luminant to Restart 593 MW Big Brown Coal-fired Unit 2 in Texas December 22-23**

The unit shut "due to suspected condenser vacuum failure" on December 20, Luminant said in a previous filing with state regulators.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=133516>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=133517>

## **Update: CDWR's 237 MW Devil Canyon Hydro Units 1-4 in California Ramp up by December 22**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the units reported a return from an unplanned curtailment of 227 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200912221515.html>

## **Update: Reliant's 215 MW Mandalay Gas-fired Unit 2 in California Returns to Service by December 22**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200912221515.html>

## **Companies Cancel 109 Coal-fired Power Plant Projects over Two-Year Span**

Companies have abandoned 109 coal-fired power projects over the past two years amid environmental, regulatory and economic concerns, among other factors, a news source said. American Municipal Power (AMP), which recently canceled plans to construct a 960 MW coal-fired facility in southeast Ohio, expects to construct a natural gas-fired plant instead, according to the source.

<http://www.mnn.com/earth-matters/energy/stories/another-one-bites-the-coal-dust>

## **ERCOT Reviewing 5,729 Miles of Transmission Line Proposals in Texas**

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) is reviewing proposals that would, over the next five years, improve or add 5,729 circuit miles of transmission and more than 19,000 megavolt ampere (MVA) of autotransformer capacity, the group said in its annual electric system constraints and needs report. Companies have completed 1,137 circuit miles of transmission and 8,511 MVA of autotransformer capacity since 2008, according to ERCOT.

[http://www.ercot.com/news/press\\_releases/2009/nr-12-21-09](http://www.ercot.com/news/press_releases/2009/nr-12-21-09)

## **Duke Energy to Convert or Retire Two Units at 560 MW Gallagher Coal-fired Power Plant in Indiana**

Duke Energy must decide by January 1, 2012 whether to retire two of four units at its 560 MW coal-fired power plant in Indiana, or convert the units to run on natural gas, according to a lawsuit settlement between the company and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the U.S. Department of Justice and others. Duke expects to convert the units, but has not made any final decision. As part of the settlement, the company also plans to increase output by about 16 MW at its existing 81 MW Markland Dam hydroelectric power plant near Vevay, Indiana.

<http://www.duke-energy.com/power-plants/coal-fired/gallagher.asp>

<http://www.duke-energy.com/news/releases/2009122201.asp>

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/cases/civil/caa/dukeenergy.html>

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/2520f12f7372fe1d85257694005ab7a7!OpenDocument>

## **Solargen Energy Plans 420 MW Solar Farm in California**

The company plans to install 1.2 million solar panels across the Panoche Valley in San Benito County, California. It aims to break ground by December 2010 and open the project by 2016.

[http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_14050919](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14050919)

## **SolarReserve Plans 100 MW Crescent Dunes Solar Energy Project in Nevada**

The company expects to begin construction by the end of 2010 and open the project two years later.

[http://www.solar-reserve.com/pressReleases/Tonopah\\_PPA\\_Press\\_ReleaseFINAL.pdf](http://www.solar-reserve.com/pressReleases/Tonopah_PPA_Press_ReleaseFINAL.pdf)

## **Secretary Chu Announces \$60 Million in Funds to Strengthen U.S. Electric Transmission Networks December 18**

Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced \$60 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to support transmission planning for the country's three interconnection transmission networks, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) said in a December 18 release. The six awards will promote collaborative long-term analysis and planning for the Eastern, Western and Texas electricity interconnections, which will help states, utilities, grid operators, and others prepare for future growth in energy demand, renewable energy sources, and Smart Grid technologies.

<http://www.energy.gov/news2009/8408.htm>

## ***Petroleum***

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### **Boiler Trip Triggers Flaring at Sunoco's 178,000 b/d Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania Refinery December 22**

It was not clear if the snag had any impact to production.

Bloomberg News, 17:19 December 22, 2009

### **PdVSA to Restart 120,000 b/d Petroanzoategui Oil Upgrader in Venezuela this Weekend**

Petroleos de Venezuela SA (PdVSA) said on December 2 that it expected to restart the facility in one week, but said by December 22 that it planned to resume operations over the weekend, a news source said. The company began restarting another upgrader—its jointly-owned 200,000 b/d Petrocedeno facility—after boiler malfunctions, it said on December 8.

Bloomberg News, 10:58 December 22, 2009

## **Update: Calik Group, Eni Plan 1.5 Million b/d, 342-mile Trans-Anatolian Oil Pipeline in Turkey**

The line would deliver Caspian-derived oil from Samsun, Turkey, on the Black Sea, to Ceyhan, Turkey, on the Mediterranean Sea.

[http://www.forexyard.com/en/reuters\\_inner.tpl?action=2009-12-23T104601Z\\_01\\_LDE5BM0J7\\_RTRIDST\\_0\\_TURKEY-PIPELINE-INTERVIEW-UPDATE-1](http://www.forexyard.com/en/reuters_inner.tpl?action=2009-12-23T104601Z_01_LDE5BM0J7_RTRIDST_0_TURKEY-PIPELINE-INTERVIEW-UPDATE-1)

## **Natural Gas**

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### **CIG Declares Force Majeure at Totem Natural Gas Storage Field in Colorado December 22**

Colorado Interstate Gas (CIG) curtailed withdrawal service capacity at its Totem Storage field in Colorado, effective December 17, to perform repairs, it said in a notice. The company planned to update customers no later than January 8, 2010 on the status of the work.

<http://ebb.cigco.com/ebbCIG/Notices/NoticeView.asp?sPipelineCode=CIG&sSubCategory=Critical&sNoticeId=7956>

### **Targa Resources Plans 60,000 b/d Expansion at 215,000 b/d NGLs Fractionation Facility in Texas**

Targa Resources Partners plans to boost capacity to 275,000 b/d at its existing 215,000 b/d Cedar Bayou Fractionators, L.P. natural gas liquids (NGLs) fractionation facility in Mont Belvieu, Texas, according to a release. The company expects to open the expansion during the first quarter of 2011.

<http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/globenewswire/180794.htm>

### **Cook Inlet Basin Natural Gas Reserves Dwindle to about 20 Percent of Original Size— Alaska DNR**

Alaska's Cook Inlet basin contains about 1,142 Bcf of natural gas reserves, as producers have extracted all but 20 percent of the original deposit, the state's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said in a report. The remaining supplies should be enough to provide for the railbelt and Southcentral Alaska for the next decade or more, according to the DNR. To read the report, click on the first link below.

[http://www.dog.dnr.state.ak.us/oil/programs/resource\\_evaluation/res\\_eval\\_pub/Cook%20Inlet%20Reserves\\_DNR.pdf](http://www.dog.dnr.state.ak.us/oil/programs/resource_evaluation/res_eval_pub/Cook%20Inlet%20Reserves_DNR.pdf)

[http://dnr.alaska.gov/shared/mediareleases/dsp\\_media\\_release.cfm?id=1319&title=Department%20of%20Natural%20Resources%20Cook%20Inlet%20Gas%20Reserves%20Study](http://dnr.alaska.gov/shared/mediareleases/dsp_media_release.cfm?id=1319&title=Department%20of%20Natural%20Resources%20Cook%20Inlet%20Gas%20Reserves%20Study)

### **Rex Energy Corporation, Stonehenge Energy Resources Plan 40 MMcf/d Cryogenic Gas Processing Plant in Pennsylvania**

<http://ir.rexenergycorp.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=432187>

## **Other News**

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### **Stealth Ventures, Clean Coal Ltd. Plan Underground Coal Gasification Project in Nova Scotia, Canada**

The site—a 177,000 acre property in the Cumberland Basin, Nova Scotia—contains an estimated 1.183 Tcf of "Discovered Coalbed Methane Resource," Stealth Ventures Ltd. said in a release.

<http://micro.newswire.ca/release.cgi?rkey=1712235374&view=11631-0&Start=0&htm=0>

### **DOE to Invest \$366 Million in Energy Innovation Hubs**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) plans to invest up to \$366 million to establish and operate three new Energy Innovation Hubs, the DOE said in a December 22 release. The Hubs will focus on three areas: the production of fuels directly from sunlight, improving energy-efficient building systems design, and computer modeling and simulation for the development of advanced nuclear reactors. The Hubs are slated to begin work in 2010 and be fully operational by 2011.

<http://www.energy.gov/news2009/8409.htm>

## Energy Prices

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<b>U.S. Oil and Gas Prices</b>			
December 23, 2009			
	<b>Today</b>	<b>Week Ago</b>	<b>Year Ago</b>
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	75.86	72.95	29.74
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	5.56	5.53	5.39

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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**Winter Storm Cuts Power to 7,634 Alliant Customers, 7,606 MidAmerican Customers in Iowa December 23—4,314 Alliant Customers and 3,050 MidAmerican Customers Still Without Power, as of Latest Reports**

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20091223/NEWS/91223004/1001/Dangerous-storm-arriving-15-000-without-electricity>

<http://www.alliantenergy.com/UtilityServices/StormOutageCenter/ElectricalOutageSummary/index.htm>

<http://www.midamericanenergy.com/storm/outageWatch/MECOutageWatch.aspx>

**Attempted Copper Thieves Likely to Blame as Substation Explosion Cuts Power to 7,100 Dakota Electric Customers in Minnesota by December 23**

[http://blogs.citypages.com/blotter/2009/12/suspected\\_power.php](http://blogs.citypages.com/blotter/2009/12/suspected_power.php)

**Substation Fire Cuts Power to about 10,000 DTE Energy Customers in Michigan December 21—Company Expected to Restore Service to All Affected Customers Later in Day**

<http://www.hometownlife.com/article/20091221/NEWS24/91221011>

**Monitor Records Trace Radiation Levels about One Mile from Exelon's Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant in Pennsylvania November 18-November 24—No Danger to Public, Company Spokeswoman Says**

<http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/3728390>

**Appeals Court Upholds NRC's Denial of Petition to Assess the Safety of Spent Fuel Pools during Relicensing Process by December 22**

<http://www.rutlandherald.com/article/20091222/NEWS02/912220363/1003/NEWS02>

**ExxonMobil Sees no Production Impact after Compressor Shutdown at 567,000 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery December 22**

Bloomberg News, 12:19 December 23, 2009

**Propane Truck Flips, Spills 1,000 Gallons of Fuel in New Mexico December 21**

<http://www.krqe.com/dpp/news/local/northwest/car-hits-propane-truck-closing-interstate-40>

**Truck Tips Over, Spills Small Amount of Heating Oil in Rhode Island by December 20**

[http://www.projo.com/news/content/Dumped\\_Truck\\_12-20-09\\_HFGRO8L\\_v11.36f8660.html](http://www.projo.com/news/content/Dumped_Truck_12-20-09_HFGRO8L_v11.36f8660.html)

**Human Error could be to Blame for Gasoline Spill, Explosion at Tesoro Gas Station in Idaho December 17**

<http://www.kpvi.com/Global/story.asp?S=11702912>

**Kuwait Aims to Produce 4 Million b/d of Oil by 2020, from 2.25 Million b/d in November 2009**

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=84612](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=84612)

**National Fuel Gas Company's Seneca Produces 10 MMcf/d of Natural Gas over 24-Hour Stretch in Marcellus Shale in U.S. Northeast**

<http://www.natfuel.com/news/SRCX%2012-22-0912222009-122628.pdf>

**Pennsylvania Investing in Alternative Energy Projects that Would, Over Their Lifetimes, Produce More than 470,000 Mwh of Electricity and 3,183 MMcf of Natural Gas**

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/governor-rendell-announces-green-energy-works-projects-will-use-waste-material-to-generate-power-for-80000-homes-79920932.html>

**Security Forces Move in to Diffuse Ex-Militant's Protests over Amnesty Payments in Nigeria by December 23**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE5BM0Q420091223?type=marketsNews>

**Update: Federal Appeals Court Upholds State Rejection of Permit for AES Corp.'s Planned Sparrows Point LNG Terminal in Maryland December 22**

<http://wjz.com/local/sparrows.point.2.1387471.html>

**Karoon-and-ConocoPhillips-Owned Sites Could Contain 7.6 Tcf of Natural Gas Reserves Offshore Australia**

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=84613](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=84613)

**Encana Seeks Government Contribution to Boost Natural Gas Fueling Capacity along Canadian Highways**

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/edmonton/story/2009/12/21/encana-natural-gas-fueling-stations.html>

## **Links**

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***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](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/ead.aspx>

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