



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, December 28, 2011

Electricity

Entergy Shuts 653 MW Pilgrim Nuclear Unit 1 in Massachusetts December 27 to Repair Safety Relief Valve

In a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Monday, Entergy Corp. said it was initiating a controlled shutdown of the unit due to suspected leakage across the first-stage safety relief valve. The safety relief valve was subsequently declared inoperable. An Entergy spokesman said the leak was minor and contained within the plant as designed, without posing a threat to workers or the public. It's unclear how long repairs will take.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-12-27/entergy-shuts-down-pilgrim-nuclear-reactor-to-repair-leak-1-.html?cmpid=yhoo>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20111227en.html>

Update: Exelon's 1,134 MW Limerick Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Ramped Up to 60 Percent by December 28

On the morning of December 27 the unit was operating at 16 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Exelon's 1,022 MW Clinton Nuclear Unit in Illinois Reduced to 82 Percent by December 28

On the morning of December 27 the unit was operating at 97 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Update: Entergy's 966 MW River Bend Nuclear Unit 1 in Louisiana Ramped Up to 50 Percent by December 28

On the morning of December 27 the unit was operating at 12 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

TMPA Shuts 470 MW Gibbons Creek Coal-Fired Unit 1 in Texas December 28 to Repair Air Preheater

The Texas Municipal Power Authority (TMPA) reported continued problems with its one of its air preheaters over the last month, prompting a unit shutdown for repairs beginning December 28, according to filings with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators will minimize opacity events related to startup, shutdown, and maintenance.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163089>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163088>

NRC Approves 158 MW Capacity Increase at Constellation's 1,148 MW Nine Mile Point Nuclear Unit 2 in New York

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on December 23 approved Constellation Energy Nuclear Group LLC's request to increase the generating capacity of Unit 2 by 15 percent, which equates to an expected increase in electrical output of about 158 MW, according to an NRC release. The NRC determined that Constellation could safely increase the reactor's output primarily by carrying out significant upgrades to several plant systems and components, including the feedwater pumps as well as the high-pressure turbine. Constellation will implement the uprate during its planned refueling and maintenance outage in April 2012.

Reuters, 15:02 December 23, 2011

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1135/ML113570371.pdf>

Iran Threatens to Block Strait of Hormuz if Sanctions are Widened; U.S. Naval Officials Warn That Attempts to Block the Strait Will Not Be Tolerated

Iranian officials have threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz, a vital oil-trade route linking the Persian Gulf to the Indian Ocean, if the West imposes more sanctions over its controversial nuclear program. U.S. naval officials in the region have warned that any attempt by Iran to close the Strait of Hormuz would “not be tolerated,” saying that a disruption of free navigation in an international strait would be outside the community of nations.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-16344102>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/dec/28/america-warns-iran-straight-hormuz?newsfeed=true>

Athabasca Oil Sands Corp. Announces Regulator Approval of 150,000 b/d MacKay River Oil Sands Project in Alberta

Athabasca Oil Sands Corp. announced today that MacKay Operating Corp. has received full regulatory approval from the Alberta Energy Resources Conservation Board and Alberta Environment and Water for the MacKay River commercial oil sands project. The MacKay River project is a 150,000 b/d steam assisted gravity drainage project with Phase 1 expected to produce 35,000 b/d of oil. Construction of the project will begin next month with startup targeted for 2014.

http://www.aosc.com/upload/media_element/106/01/december-28-2011-press-release---athabasca-oil-sands-corp.-announces-approval-of-mackay-river-commercial-oil-sands-project.pdf

Natural Gas

Equipment Malfunction Due to Cold Weather Leads to Flaring at Two DCP Midstream Booster Stations in Texas December 27

DCP Midstream reported equipment malfunctions at two booster stations near Midland, Texas on Tuesday, according to separate filings with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. One filing reports a slight blockage on an instrument air line at DCP’s Martin Booster Station, where the flare valve failed to open due to a lack of air pressure, which resulted in an engine going offline due to low suction pressure and the flaring of natural gas. Operators restarted the engine and the air line blockage cleared itself, which allowed the instrument air pressure to increase and close the flare valve. In another filing, DCP reported venting from its Parks Booster Station in Andrews, Texas due to inclement weather. Operators put the units back online as soon as possible.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163139>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163149>

HMI Panel Malfunction Shuts AGI Compressor at Regency’s 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas December 26

Regency Energy Partners reported that low RPMs caused by a human machine interface (HMI) panel malfunction shut an acid gas injector (AGI) compressor on Monday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators were investigating the cause of the HMI panel malfunction at the time of the filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163132>

MSU Malfunction Shuts Flash Gas Compressor at Amerada Hess’s Seminole Gas Processing Plant in Texas December 27

Amerada Hess reported an unplanned shutdown of the membrane separation unit (MSU) flash gas compressor at its Seminole plant Tuesday morning, according to a filing with state regulators. When operators restarted the compressor later that morning, they discovered a leak on the first-stage suction bottle pipeline weld. After inspecting the leak, operators decided on Wednesday to shut the compressor to repair the leak.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163148>

Low Suction Pressure Shuts AGI Units 1 and 2 at Enbridge’s Tilden Gas Plant in Texas December 26

Enbridge reported that acid gas injector (AGI) Nos. 1 and 2 went down on a low suction pressure alarm Monday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators inspected, reset, and restarted the AGI units, minimizing emissions by sending the vented gases to flare.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=163135>

Other News

Japan Releases 40-Year Plan to Clean Up and Fully Decommission the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant

Japan on Wednesday announced a plan to clean up and fully decommission the three wrecked reactors and spent fuel rods at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, a process the government said would take as many as 40 years. The plan calls for plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) to start removing spent fuel rods within two years from pools located on the top floor of each of reactor building. Next, TEPCO must remove melted fuel, the location and conditions of which are not exactly known. Removing fuel debris is expected to take 15 years and will require the development of remotely operated robots and technology because of extremely high radiation levels inside the reactor buildings. Completely decommissioning the plant will take an additional 5–10 years after operators remove the fuel debris.

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2102899,00.html>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
December 28, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	99.72	98.48	91.46
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.07	3.07	4.05

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Storm, High Winds Cut Power to 5,300 Atlantic City Electric Customers in South Jersey and 14,000 LIPA Customers in Long Island December 27–28

<http://www.longislandpress.com/2011/12/27/storm-wind-leaves-9k-without-power-impacts-lirr/>

http://www.nj.com/salem/index.ssf/2011/12/5300_in_south_jersey_without_p.html

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 EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://www.eia.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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