



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, December 30, 2014

## *Electricity*

---

### **Wind Storm Knocks Out Power to Over 60,000 PG&E Customers in California December 30**

Strong winds toppled trees and downed power lines knocking out power to 60,656 Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) customers in Northern and Central California as of 4:30 p.m. EST Tuesday. Winds of up to 60 mph were reported and the National Weather Service issued a high wind warning until noon PST Wednesday.

<http://www.pgecurrents.com/2014/12/30/pge-implementing-plans-for-pending-wind-storm/>

<https://twitter.com/pge4me>

<http://forecast.weather.gov/wmap/watxtget.php?cwa=sto&wva=high%20wind%20warning>

<http://www.chicoer.com/general-news/20141230/update-920-am-thousands-without-power-from-winds-on-paradise-ridge>

### **Update: Entergy's 974 MW River Bend Nuclear Unit 1 in Louisiana Ramps Up to Full Power December 30**

Entergy Corp said its River Bend nuclear power reactor ramped up to full power on Tuesday morning following a reduction in output due to a control rod pattern adjustment. The unit was cut to 62 percent power at 12:30 a.m. (local time) Tuesday, a company spokeswoman said. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission had said in a report earlier that the unit was reduced to 74 percent power by early Tuesday from 97 percent power early Monday.

Reuters, 11:32 December 30, 2014

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/>

### **Update: La Paloma Generating Company's 260 MW Gas-fired Unit 4 in California Returns to Service by December 29**

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began by December 27.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201412291515.html>

## *Petroleum*

---

### **U.S. Issues First Guidance on What Petroleum Can Be Exported December 30**

The Obama administration on Tuesday took two long-awaited steps that could increase the amount of processed light crude that can be shipped under the 40-year-old ban on exports of most domestic crude. The Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS) released the guidance in the form of frequently asked questions (FAQ) in the first effort by the administration to clarify an issue that has caused confusion and consternation in energy markets for more than a year. It also gave permission to "some" companies to ship treated light oil called condensate, but did not give details about the private applications that it approved. Energy companies must process crude in distillation towers in order to export it and not simply treat it with pressure reduction alone through the use of flash drums that have so-called heater treaters, or separators, the BIS said. "Crude oil processed through such equipment remains classified as crude oil," and is not allowed for export, according to the government guidance, which has been in the works for nearly a year. Last summer BIS put a hold on applications for permission to export lightly treated condensate. The domestic drilling boom of the past six years has led to a build-up of light oil in Texas and Louisiana, which many refiners find difficult to process.

Reuters, 15:17 December 30, 2014

<http://www.bis.doc.gov/index.php/policy-guidance/faqs>

### **ExxonMobil Reports Normal Operations after Unit Upset at Its 344,600 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery December 30**

ExxonMobil Corp reported its Beaumont, Texas refinery returned to normal operations after a unit upset, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The company said there was minimal impact to production and all contractual commitments were anticipated to be met.

Reuters, 13:55 December 30, 2014

### **Valero Reports Flaring at Its 200,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery December 29**

Valero Energy Corp reported operating conditions at its Corpus Christi, Texas refinery made flaring necessary, according to a community alerting system.

Reuters, 20:06 December 29, 2014

## ***Natural Gas***

---

### **Regency Reports AGI Compressor Shut at Its 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas December 30**

Regency reported the acid gas injector compressor was shut to replace valves and tubing. Once the work was completed, the compressor was reset and restarted.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=207868>

### **DCP Midstream Reports Turbine Shut at Its 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas December 29**

DCP Midstream reported while the inspection and evaluation group was conducting emergency shutdown checks, an unexpected shutdown occurred shutting the cold plant expanders, which caused the cold plant to lose flow. The resulting low flow then caused B turbine to shut and started a flare event. The expanders and B turbine were restarted, flow was restored, and the plant was running within normal operating specifications.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=207869>

### **Targa Reports Amine Treater Upset at Its 150 MMcf/d Sand Hills Gas Plant in Texas December 28**

Targa reported due to the Targa High Plains plant shutting down, inlet gas was redirected to the Sand Hills gas plant through the Railway Ranch Compressor Station. This caused an upset in the amine treater which caused products to go sour. The result was that inlet gas was routed to the emergency inlet flare, F-1, and residue and cryo inlet gases were routed to the emergency flare, F-2. When the Targa High Plains plant restarted, flaring at the Sand Hills gas plant ceased.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=207837>

## ***Other News***

---

Nothing to report.

### Update: Libyan Oil Port Fire Destroys up to 1.8 Million Barrels of Crude Oil

A fire burning for almost a week at Libya's biggest oil port of Es Sider has destroyed up to 1.8 million barrels of crude and damaged seven storage tanks, causing total damage of \$213 million, a top oil official said on Tuesday. The Es Sider terminal and nearby Ras Lanuf stopped working three weeks ago when forces loyal to a rival government in Tripoli tried seizing them from forces allied to the recognized Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni. A huge fire at a tank farm outside the terminal was reported on Thursday after a rocket hit, with both sides blaming the other. Two tanks have collapsed and two others are still on fire, a spokesman for state National Oil Corp (NOC) said. Two tank fires had been extinguished. Es Sider is fed from fields run by Waha Oil Co, a joint-venture between Libya's NOC with U.S. companies Hess, Marathon, and ConocoPhillips. Without the two ports, which accounted for around 300,000 b/d of exports, Libya's total output was in the range of the 380,000 b/d reported on Sunday. The ports of Zawiya and Mellitah in the west of the country have also halted oil exports as the conflict has shut down the connecting fields of El Sharara and El Feel. Only the ports of Hariga and Brega in the east and two offshore fields are still working but part of the output is needed to feed the 120,000 b/d Zawiya and 20,000 b/d Tobruk refineries. Reuters, 12:09 December 30, 2014

## Energy Prices

---

| U.S. Oil and Gas Prices  |       |          |          |
|--|-------|----------|----------|
| December 30, 2014  |       |          |          |
|  | Today | Week Ago | Year Ago |
| <b>CRUDE OIL</b><br><b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b><br>\$/Barrel | 54.09 | 55.81    | 99.60    |
| <b>NATURAL GAS</b><br><b>Henry Hub</b><br>\$/Million Btu             | 3.01  | 3.04     | 4.34     |

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](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](mailto:ead@oe.netl.doe.gov)*