



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, December 31, 2009

## ***Electricity***

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### **TVA Shuts Two Units after Fire at 712 MW John Sevier Coal-fired Power Plant in Tennessee December 30**

The fire occurred at the 176 MW Unit 4, but Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) also shut the 176 MW Unit 3 as a precaution, a news source said. Responders extinguished the blaze within hours, and damage was limited to a breaker box at Unit 4. The incident began when a circuit breaker snag caused an electrical arc, a separate source said. TVA did not say when it might bring back either unit, but did say it expected to restart Unit 3 before Unit 4.

<http://www.tva.gov/sites/johnsevier.htm>

<http://www.newschannel5.com/Global/story.asp?S=11748869>

Reuters, 10:42 December 31, 2009

### **Turbine Collapses at NextEra's 16.5 MW Wind Farm in California December 30**

The incident followed a similar collapse in New York last week. It was not clear if the fall forced shut the entire wind farm or just the affected 750 kW unit. There were no injuries.

Bloomberg News, 17:31 December 30, 2009

### **Update: Luminant to Restart 591 MW Sandow Coal-fired Unit 4 in Texas December 31-January 1**

Operators shut the unit to fix a boiler tube leak by December 30, the company said in a filing with state regulators.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=133803>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=133811>

### **Update: NRC Says FirstEnergy Should Have Declared Alert after June Explosion at 882 MW Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant in Ohio**

FirstEnergy should have declared an alert after the June 25 explosion in the site's electrical transmission switchyard, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) could penalize the company for failing "to recognize the hazard to the station's operations," the NRC said in a letter. The incident caused no injuries or radiation releases, and the facility remained online throughout.

<http://toledoblade.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20091230/NEWS16/912309997>

## ***Petroleum***

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### **Citgo Quickly Contains Small Fire at 156,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery December 30**

The fire occurred in a gasoline-producing reformer, a news source said. Operators confined the fire within minutes to the affected unit, a company spokesman said. It was not clear if the unit remained offline, or if the incident had any impact to production. Also at Corpus Christi, Citgo shut a platformer reactor due to a "leaking flange" on December 30, it said in filings with state regulators. The filings did not say if the shutdown and fire were related.

<http://www.caller.com/news/2009/dec/30/small-fire-at-citgo-refinery-is-confined-in/>

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20091230-710204.html>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=133842>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=133841>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=133840>

Reuters, 09:02 December 31, 2009

Bloomberg News, 11:23 December 31, 2009

### **Update: Valero Restarts Fire-Downed Coker at 245,000 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery December 30**

Valero restarted the coker unit, but a crude unit was still offline after the December 24 fire, a spokesman said by December 31. The facility remained at reduced rates, he said.

DJN, 11:27 December 31, 2009

### **PetroChina, Athabasca Oil Sands Corp. Plan 300,000-to-500,000 b/d Production at Oil Sands Sites in Alberta, Canada**

The companies plan to begin production in 2014 at the MacKay River and Devon oil sands sites in Alberta, Canada, and expect to eventually boost output to 300,000-to-500,000 b/d, combined, according to a news source.

<http://www.benzinga.com/73543/petrochina-s-canadian-project-ok-ed-analyst-blog>

### **AMBO's "Clean Energy Alliance" Plans 750,000 b/d, 556-mile, Bulgaria-to-Albania Oil Pipeline**

The line would deliver oil from Burgas, Bulgaria to the Vlore port in Albania, according to a news source.

[http://www.mrt.com.mk/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=7958&Itemid=28](http://www.mrt.com.mk/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7958&Itemid=28)

## ***Natural Gas***

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### **Update: Blue Sky Gas Storage Shelves Plans for 4.4 Bcf Natural Gas Storage Facility in Colorado by December 31**

Blue Sky Gas Storage turned down a certificate from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to build and operate the site, citing capital and credit concerns, a news source said on December 31. The company had planned to connect the "Blue Sky" site to multiple nearby pipelines via two 100 MMcf/d lines, according to its website. The facility would have had 100 MMcf/d in deliverability capacity and 100 MMcf/d in injection capacity.

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

<http://blueskygasstorage.com/>

## ***Other News***

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### **U.S. Biodiesel Tax Subsidy to Expire at End of 2009**

The subsidy pays refiners \$1 per gallon to mix biodiesel into products, according to a news source. Some analysts contend that its expiration could cripple the industry, and at least one Republican Congressman—Iowa's Chuck Grassley—is urging its renewal. A similar North Carolina law is also set to expire at the year's end. That law creates a tax exemption for "ethanol produced in, or imported into, the state and delivered to a licensed fuel distributor," a separate news source says.

<http://americanagriculturist.com/story.aspx?s=34225&c=8>

<http://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2009/12/28/daily13.html>

### **Update: Bionol Opens 110 MMGal/Yr. Corn-based Ethanol Plant in Clearfield, Pennsylvania December 26**

<http://ethanol-news.newslib.com/story/6938-34349/>

<http://www.farmanddairy.com/news/ethanol-production-to-start-in-western-pa/12979.html>

### **Land Board Okays Plan to Lease Field with Estimated 572 Million Tons of Coal in Otter Creek Valley, Montana**

Developers do not expect to begin production for five to 10 years; any plan would require additional approvals.

<http://www.cleanskies.com/articles/montana-board-approves-coal-lease-sale>

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices December 31, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	79.88	76.23	39.25
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	5.78	5.55	5.71

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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### **Transmission Line Snag Cuts Power to about 18,500 PPL Customers in Pennsylvania December 29**

<http://www.wayneindependent.com/news/x1689186796/Power-knocked-out-for-18-500>

### **Update: PSC Staff Sees Likely Cost Increases, Possible Delays in Georgia Power's Plans to Construct Two New Nuclear Power Units at Existing Vogtle Facility in Georgia**

<http://www.gpb.org/news/2009/12/14/psc-staffers-criticize-georgia-power>

### **BioPro Plans 2011 Start-Date for 25 MW Biomass-fired Power Plant in Illinois**

<http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/3745697>

### **NRC to Update Security Measures for U.S. Nuclear Waste Storage Sites**

[http://chronicle.augusta.com/stories/2009/12/30/met\\_561296.shtml](http://chronicle.augusta.com/stories/2009/12/30/met_561296.shtml)

### **Tanker Leaks Unspecified Quantity of Fuel after Incident along Ohio Interstate December 29**

<http://www.whiotv.com/news/22085478/detail.html>

### **OSHA Cites Murphy Oil for 18 Serious Safety and Health Violations at 120,000 b/d Meraux, Louisiana Refinery December 29**

[http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=NEWS\\_RELEASES&p\\_id=17010](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=NEWS_RELEASES&p_id=17010)

[http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2009/12/murphy\\_oil\\_refinery\\_in\\_st\\_bern.html](http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2009/12/murphy_oil_refinery_in_st_bern.html)

### **Update: U.S. Chemical Safety Board Recommends Third-Party Audits at Citgo Refineries in Louisiana and Texas after July 19 Explosion at Company's Corpus Christi, Texas Facility**

<http://www.mysuburbanlife.com/lemont/topstories/x1689186691/Citgo-refinery-in-Lemont-to-undergo-safety-audit>

### **Kazakhstan's Karachaganak Oil-and-Gas Field Contains More than 1.2 Million Metric Tons of Oil and Condensate—BG Consortium**

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=84758](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=84758)

### **Jordan Prosecutors Questioning 10 Men Suspected of Trying to Blow up Oil Tankers En Route to Iraq**

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=20231](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=20231)

**Underground Gasoline Leak Triggers Local Evacuations in Delaware County, Pennsylvania December 29**

<http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/3746312>

**Turbine Shutdown Triggers Flaring at Fullerton Gas Plant in Texas December 30**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=133839>

**Leak along Southern Union Natural Gas Gathering Line Causes Flaring at Cowden Central Battery in Texas by December 30**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=133843>

**Investigators Discover Discharge of “Weathered Petroleum Product” at Chesapeake Appalachia Natural Gas Drilling Location in Pennsylvania**

<http://thetimes-tribune.com/news/gas-driller-cited-for-violation-after-environmentalist-takes-photos-1.517197>

**Update: Joint Review Panel Issues Notice of Conditional Support for Multiple Companies’ Planned 1.9 Bcf/d, 746-mile Beaufort Sea-to-Alberta, Canada Mackenzie Natural Gas Pipeline December 30**

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/business/Panel+approves+Mackenzie+natural+pipeline+project/2393015/story.html>

**Eleven Northeast and Mid-Atlantic U.S. States Sign MOU to Develop Regional Low Carbon Fuel Standard**

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/governor-rendell-announces-next-step-in-mid-atlantic-agreement-on-low-carbon-fuel-standard-80360597.html>

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## Links

***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.

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## ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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<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)