



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, December 20, 2010

## Electricity

### **Wind Storms Down Trees and Power Lines, Knocking Out Power to at Least 122,600 Customers in Washington and Oregon December 17-18**

According to various reports, high winds were responsible for knocking out power to the following numbers of customers:

- 100,000 Puget Sound Energy (PSE) customers in Washington
- 12,000 Seattle City Light customers in Washington
- 5,600 Clark Public Utilities customers in Washington
- 5,000 Portland General Electric (PGE) customers in Oregon

Reports indicate that power has been restored to all Seattle City Light, Clark Public Utilities, and PGE customers. As of December 19, all but about 8,000 PSE customers had seen their power restored. It is expected that power will be restored to all but a few PSE customers by the afternoon of December 20.

PSE: <http://www.pse.com/safetyReliability/pse-service-alert/Pages/LatestUpdates.aspx>,  
[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2013719890\\_weather20m.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2013719890_weather20m.html)

Seattle City Light: <http://www.seattle.gov/light/sysstat/>,  
[http://www.seattlepi.com/local/432069\\_power19.html?source=mypi](http://www.seattlepi.com/local/432069_power19.html?source=mypi)

Clark Public Utilities: <http://www.clarkpublicutilities.com/yourhome/outages/outages-map>,  
<http://www.kptv.com/weather/26185934/detail.html>

PGE: [http://www.portlandgeneral.com/safety\\_outages/outages/outage\\_updates/outage\\_map.aspx](http://www.portlandgeneral.com/safety_outages/outages/outage_updates/outage_map.aspx),  
<http://www.kptv.com/weather/26185934/detail.html>

### **Update: Energy Northwest's 1,107 MW Columbia Generating Station Nuclear Unit in Washington at Full Power by December 19**

The company ramped up the unit after repairing leaking steam relief valves. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 18 the unit was operating at 65 percent.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-20/u-s-nuclear-output-little-changed-as-sequoyah-shuts-after-fire.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Update: Southern's 856 MW Hatch Nuclear Unit 1 in Georgia Ramped Up to 67 Percent by December 20**

According to a company spokeswoman, the unit was shut to fix a feedwater pump. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 18 the unit was not operating.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Update: Exelon's 619 MW Oyster Creek Nuclear Unit in New Jersey at Full Power by December 18, Reduced to 20 Percent by December 20**

The unit had been shut to replace a faulty electrical transformer with the plant's spare transformer. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 17 the unit was operating at 65 percent.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/NJ-nuke-plant-back-online-apf-3299347852.html?x=0&.v=1>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Progress Energy's 872 MW Brunswick Nuclear Unit 1 in North Carolina Reduced to 63 Percent by December 18, at Full Power by December 20**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 17 the unit was operating at full power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **TVA's 1,125 MW Sequoyah Nuclear Unit 1 in Tennessee Shut Due to Fire on December 20**

According to a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), a fire in the main generator bus duct led to a manual reactor trip on December 20. The fire was extinguished later in the day. The NRC reported that on the morning of December 19 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20101220en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Exelon's 1,131 MW Byron Nuclear Unit 2 in Illinois Reduced to 89 Percent by December 19, at Full Power by December 20**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 18 the unit was operating at full power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Exelon's 1,134 MW Limerick Nuclear Unit 2 in Pennsylvania Reduced to 79 Percent by December 19**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 18 the unit was operating at full power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **PPL's 1,105 MW Susquehanna Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Reduced to 83 Percent by December 18, Ramped Up to 98 Percent by December 19**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 17 the unit was operating at 98 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **TVA's 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 3 in Alabama Reduced to 69 Percent by December 18, Ramped Up to 95 Percent by December 19**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 17 the unit was operating at full power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **FPL's 693 MW Turkey Point Nuclear Unit 4 in Florida at Full Power by December 18**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 17 the unit was operating at 1 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Update: Duke Energy's 510 MW Moss Landing Gas-Fired Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by December 17**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned curtailment of 260 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201012171515.html>

### **PG&E's 154 MW Kerkhoff Hydro Unit 1 in California Shut by December 19**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage by December 19.  
<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201012191515.html>

### **Mountainview Power Company's 525 MW Mountainview Gas-Fired Unit 3 and Unit 4 in California Reduced by December 17, Return to Service by December 18**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the units with a combined capacity of 1,050 MW reported unplanned curtailments of 175 MW (350 MW total) on December 17. The units reported a return from the curtailments by December 18.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201012171515.html>  
<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201012181515.html>

### **PG&E's 407 MW Helms Hydro Unit 2 and 404 MW Helms Hydro Unit 3 in California Shut by December 17, Return to Service by December 18**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the units reported unplanned outages by December 17. The units reported a return from the outage by December 18.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201012171515.html>  
<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201012181515.html>

### **Loss of Communications Reported at OPPD's Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant in Nebraska after Loss of Communications December 18**

In a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, operators indicated that various phone lines were not operating properly at the plant. The communications issue was later resolved.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20101220en.html>

### **Fire Reported at Southern's Vogtle Nuclear Power Plant in Georgia December 20**

According to a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, smoke and sparks were found coming from a heater control panel. The panel was deenergized and the fire was contained.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20101220en.html>

## ***Petroleum***

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### **At Least 28 Dead, 52 Injured after Pemex's Veracruz-to-Mexico State Crude Pipeline Explodes in Puebla, Mexico December 19 – Explosion Likely Caused by Illegal Tapping**

According to the Puebla State Secretary, criminals punctured the pipeline to steal crude oil. However, the fuel exited at such a high pressure that the thieves lost control and the oil flooded the streets before exploding. According to Pemex, oil thefts from pipelines are a common problem. This particular pipeline has been tapped illegally 100 times this year, and there have been 580 illegal taps nationwide during the same time period. In total, as much as ten percent of Pemex's product is stolen, costing the company hundreds of millions of dollars per year.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-12034038>  
<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-lt-mexico-pipeline-explosion,0,8546.story>

### **Update: Work Continues on 150,000 b/d Gasoline-Making Fluid Catalytic Cracker at Hovensa's 500,000 b/d St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands Refinery December 20**

The unit was shut on December 9 for unscheduled maintenance. There is no estimate as to when the unit will be put back into operation.

Reuters, 12:20 December 20, 2010

### **Flaring Reported after Valero Shuts Unit #47 for Required Maintenance at Its Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery December 17-18**

DJN's reported that the hydrocracker was shut for repairs by December 20 and attempted to restart last week.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148579>  
DJN, 12:13 December 20, 2010

## **Tesoro Plans to Return Its 166,000 b/d Golden Eagle Refinery in California to Normal Rates by December 21**

The facility experienced a power outage last week.

DJN, 12:13 December 20, 2010

## **Update: Eight More States Issue Hours-of-Service Waivers amid Cold Weather December 13-18**

Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia issued hours-of-service exemptions December 13-18 for trucks delivering propane and home heating fuels, according to the National Propane Gas Association's Web site. A total of nine states now have active waivers, though New York's waiver expires after December 20. The newly issued waivers expire over a period extending from December 21 (for Delaware) to January 13 (for Virginia).

<http://www.npga.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=832>

## **Total Shelves Plans for 150,000 b/d Strathcona Bitumen Upgrader near Fort Saskatchewan in Alberta Following Joint Venture Announcement with Suncor December 17**

As a result of the joint venture, Total will have access to Suncor Energy's Voyageur upgrader near Fort McMurray, negating the economic rationale for building its own upgrader. Total's proposed Strathcona upgrader had recently been approved by the Energy Resources Conservation Board.

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/sports/golf/Total+shelves+Fort+Saskatchewan+bitumen+upgrader+plans/3995968/story.html>

## **Chevron Suspends Production from Its Dibi-Abiteye Pipeline in Nigeria's Delta State after Breach December 17**

The company said it is investigating the breach, while the Niger Delta Liberation Force said on December 18 that it was responsible for the attack. The Dibi-Abiteye pipeline feeds the Escravos oil stream which is responsible for about 123,000 b/d of exports. It is not clear how much of an impact the production suspension will have on these exports.

Reuters, 06:55 December 20, 2010

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE6BJ0BX20101220>

## **Natural Gas**

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### **Update: May Audit Reveals Problems with PG&E's Pipeline Inspection Methods as Company Official Reacts to San Bruno, California Disaster Report Error December 19**

According to an audit performed four months before the San Bruno pipeline explosion, PG&E was supposed to rule out the likelihood of weld failure before performing "direct assessment" inspections of its pipelines. However, the audit indicates that PG&E instead used direct assessment inspections first, and justified doing so later. In related news, a PG&E vice president said it was "terribly unacceptable" on December 19 that the company erroneously told the National Transportation Safety Board that the ruptured pipeline in San Bruno was seamless.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/12/19/MNAK1GS8LI.DTL&ao=all>

[http://www.mercurynews.com/san-mateo-county/ci\\_16899475?nclick\\_check=1](http://www.mercurynews.com/san-mateo-county/ci_16899475?nclick_check=1)

## **Other News**

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### **Update: California Regulators Adopt Greenhouse Gas Cap-and-Trade Plan December 16**

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted a plan to cap greenhouse gases through a cap-and-trade system. The first phase of implementation will affect 600 large polluters, including many electrical power plants, though ultimately 80 percent of carbon-emitting entities will be covered. Most emissions allowances will be given away for free during this period. A small amount will be auctioned at the rate of \$10 per metric ton of carbon dioxide. During later phases, emissions allowances will be auctioned at \$15 per metric ton of carbon dioxide. There will be a total of 394.5 million allowances in the market in 2015, though the number will decline to 334.2 million in 2020.

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=25100](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=25100)

## Molycorp Announces Planned 2011 Reopening of Its Mountain Pass, California Rare Earth Elements Mine December 20

The company has begun mine-preparation work as it plans to reopen the mine as a response to increased reliance on China for rare earth elements and China's recent limits on the export of such metals. Only Mountain Pass and one other mine in Australia have the potential to rebalance supply away from China in the coming years according to reports since rare earth element mines can take up to a decade to develop. Mining at Mountain Pass had previously been suspended in 2002 due to environmental reasons. Rare earth metals are critical in many energy applications such as refinery catalysts, diesel fuel additives, and superconductors, to name a few. For more information on the company, its mine, and rare earth elements, visit <http://www.molycorp.com/default.asp>.  
[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704447604576007290928049906.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704447604576007290928049906.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices December 20, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	88.68	88.42	73.98
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	4.10	4.55	5.65

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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### DOI Approves SolarReserve's Proposed 110 MW Crescent Dunes Solar Project in Nye County, Nevada December 20 – Construction to Begin Mid-2011

<http://solarreserve.com/pressReleases/SolarReserveTonopahDOIapproval121810.pdf>

### Update: Marathon Receives Permit in Late November to Increase Capacity of Its Garyville, Louisiana Refinery from 436,000 b/d to 545,000 b/d

Reuters, 17:55 December 17, 2010

### Update: PdVSA Delays Restart of Its 335,000 b/d Isla Refinery in Curacao Due to Catalytic Cracker Unit Problems until Week of December 26

Reuters, 08:28 December 18, 2010

### Flaring Reported after Valero Shuts Unit #47 for Required Maintenance at Its 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery December 17-18

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148579>

### Wind Has the Potential to Provide 24 Percent of New England's Annual Electricity Needs by 2020: GE Energy Applications & Systems Engineering, on Behalf of ISO New England

Report: [http://www.iso-ne.com/committees/comm\\_wkgrps/prtcpnts\\_comm/pac/reports/2010/newis\\_report.pdf](http://www.iso-ne.com/committees/comm_wkgrps/prtcpnts_comm/pac/reports/2010/newis_report.pdf)

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/12/17/AR2010121705285.html>

### DOT Releases New Safety Guidelines for Development Near Existing Transmission Pipelines December 16

Report: <http://primis.phmsa.dot.gov/comm/landuseplanning.htm>

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=25096](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=25096)

**NorthWestern Energy to Purchase Power from Compass Wind’s 25 MW Spion Kop Wind Project in Montana – Commercial Operation Expected to Begin by the End of 2012 Pending Regulatory Approval**

[http://www.northwesternenergy.com/%5COurCompany%5CNewsCenter%5Cdisplaynews.aspx?Page=NorthWestern\\_Energy\\_Signs\\_Memorandum\\_of\\_Understanding\\_with\\_Compass\\_Wind&article=6970&Item=20](http://www.northwesternenergy.com/%5COurCompany%5CNewsCenter%5Cdisplaynews.aspx?Page=NorthWestern_Energy_Signs_Memorandum_of_Understanding_with_Compass_Wind&article=6970&Item=20)

**Faulty Scrubber Level Sensor Causes AGI Compressor Failure at Waha Gas Plant in Texas December 19**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148597>

**Control Loop Failure Causes #2 West Credo (ENG-2) Unit to Shut at West Credo Booster Station in Texas December 18**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148593>

**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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