



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, January 17, 2013

## ***Electricity***

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### **Update: Vermont's Supreme Court to Decide Whether Entergy's 563 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant Can Continue to Operate**

The Vermont Supreme Court heard arguments Wednesday in a dispute between Entergy Nuclear and the New England Coalition, which claims Entergy disobeyed a Public Service Board order issued in June 2002. The order held that if Entergy did not receive a new state operating permit by March 2012, it would need to cease operations. Vermont Yankee has applied for but not yet received a new operating permit, and yet continues to operate. Entergy is arguing that state law permits a company that has filed for a new permit to continue operating under an old one. The court did not indicate when it would rule.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/vt-supreme-court-hear-arguments-170133204.html>

[http://www.vpr.net/news\\_detail/97169/entergy-asks-court-to-dismiss-attempt-shut-down-ya/](http://www.vpr.net/news_detail/97169/entergy-asks-court-to-dismiss-attempt-shut-down-ya/)

### **Update: Entergy's 653 MW Pilgrim Nuclear Unit 1 in Massachusetts Restarts January 16, Ramps Up to 50 Percent by January 17**

Entergy Nuclear on Wednesday restarted Pilgrim Unit 1 after an outage that began on January 10, when operators manually shut the reactor when both recirculation pumps spuriously tripped.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

<http://www.patriotledger.com/business/x1665863424/Power-plant-in-Plymouth-back-online>

### **Xcel's 522 MW Prairie Island Nuclear Unit 2 in Minnesota Reduced to 40 Percent by January 17**

On the morning of January 16 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

### **La Paloma Generating Company Shuts 260 MW La Paloma Natural Gas-Fired Unit 4 in California January 16**

The unit entered an outage that was due to both planned and unplanned causes.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201301161515.html>

### **Luz Solar Partners' 175 MW Aggregate Solar Units 3-7 Unit in California Shut by January 16**

The units entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201301161515.html>

## ***Petroleum***

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### **Update: Motiva May Restart 325,000 b/d CDU at Its 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery This Weekend**

Motiva Enterprises said it may be ready to attempt to restart a 325,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Port Arthur refinery for the fourth time this weekend, after repairs to fix a leak on a pipe carrying heated crude oil to the CDU. Motiva was forced to stop restart procedures January 12 after the leak developed. Operators began attempts to restart the unit in December after it was shut in June to repair extensive damage caused by a caustic leak.

Reuters, 18:55 January 16, 2013

## **ExxonMobil Reports an Unspecified Leak at Its 238,600 b/d Joliet, Illinois Refinery**

**January 16**

ExxonMobil reported an unspecified leak at its Channahon refinery on Wednesday, according to a filing with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Operators removed pressure from the flare line in response, the filing said. Reuters, 4:01 January 17, 2013

<http://tier2.iema.state.il.us/FOIAHazmatSearch/HazmatDetails.aspx?RptNum=H-2013-0052>

## **PBF Reports Emissions at Its 190,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery January 16**

PBF Energy said an instrument malfunction likely caused a release of hydrogen sulfide, hydrogen cyanide, and ammonia from an incinerator stack that tripped at its Delaware City refinery on Wednesday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators had secured the release and were investigating its cause.

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1035893](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1035893)

## **Leak Causes Fire Near Delayed Coking Unit at HollyFrontier's 52,000 b/d Cheyenne, Wyoming Refinery January 16**

HollyFrontier Corp. said a leak that occurred in a piece of equipment adjacent to the refinery's delayed coking unit started a fire at its Cheyenne refinery just after 12:00 p.m. local time on Wednesday had been extinguished less than 2 hours later. No other units were impacted, the company said.

Reuters, 19:34 January 16, 2013

<http://k2radio.com/leak-causes-fire-at-holly-frontier-refinery/>

## **Update: BP Restarts Hydrocracker Unit at Its 265,000 b/d Carson, California Refinery by January 16**

BP Plc on Wednesday said it restarted a hydrocracking unit at its Carson refinery, after a shutdown due to a small fire on Monday. A hydrotreater was also shut down due to the fire but was restarted Tuesday.

Reuters, 17:12 January 16, 2013

## ***Natural Gas***

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### **Cold Weather Disrupting Natural Gas Production in Western United States**

As the weather in the western United States has dipped recently, production of natural gas has dropped off, according to energy traders and analysts. Kinder Morgan announced on its website that supply at its 10,200-mile El Paso Natural Gas pipeline system in the San Juan Basin was underperforming. The San Juan Basin, which stretches across southern Colorado and northern New Mexico, is susceptible to freezing due to water production in those areas. Northern Natural Gas, which operates a 14,900-mile pipeline system that extends from the Permian Basin in Texas to the upper Midwest, posted a similar notice on its website, issuing an operational flow order.

Reuters, 14:38 January 16, 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/16/energy-natgas-freezeoffs-idUSL1E9CGB8H20130116?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43>

## ***Other News***

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Nothing to report

## ***International News***

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### **Update: TAQA Resumes Nearly Full Rates on Its 90,000 b/d Brent Crude Oil Pipeline Network in U.K. North Sea by January 16**

Abu Dhabi National Energy Company, also known as TAQA, on Wednesday reported that it had restarted its 90,000 b/d Brent pipeline after shutting it due to a leak on the legs of the Comorant Alpha platform on Monday.

Approximately 80,000 b/d of oil have been restored to the pipeline so far. The 91-mile pipeline carries oil from nine platforms extending across 20 North Sea oilfields to a terminal in the Shetlands, supplying approximately 6 percent of the United Kingdom's North Sea oil and gas production.

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil\\_gas/a/123519/TAQA\\_Bratani\\_Restoring\\_Brent\\_Pipeline\\_Oil\\_Flow](http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/123519/TAQA_Bratani_Restoring_Brent_Pipeline_Oil_Flow)

## Update: U.S. Confirms American Hostages Among Dozens Held by Militants at Ain Amenas Natural Gas Facility in Algeria January 17

The United States military has deployed an unmanned Predator drone over the Ain Amenas natural gas facility where it is believed that 5 to 7 Americans are being held hostage, along with dozens of hostages from other countries, Dow Jones newswire reported Thursday afternoon (U.S. time). The White House confirmed it was working with Algerian authorities, but that the best information it had this afternoon was that U.S. citizens are among the hostages. The Ain Amenas field, which is jointly operated by BP Plc, Statoil, and the Algerian state oil and gas company Sonatrach, was attacked by militants from Mali early Wednesday. The total number of hostages is unclear but reports suggest around 40 foreign hostages. Some hostages were killed during the assault, but officials do not know exactly how many. Meanwhile, newswires reported around lunchtime Thursday (U.K. time) that a spokesman claimed 34 hostages and 14 kidnappers have been killed in air strikes against the facility. Earlier Thursday, local media said that 30 Algerian hostages and 15 foreign hostages had escaped. Statoil and BP reported they were engaged with Algerian authorities and were working to gain more information.

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil\\_gas/a/123516/Amenas\\_Hostage\\_Crisis\\_45\\_Captives\\_Escape](http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/123516/Amenas_Hostage_Crisis_45_Captives_Escape)

## BP Working with Baghdad to Help Increase Production at Iraq's 280,000 b/d Kirkuk Oilfield

BP Plc on Wednesday confirmed reports that it is in the early stages of an agreement with Baghdad to arrest declining production at the Kirkuk oilfield, which straddles the border with the autonomous northern Kurdish region of Iraq. Kirkuk output has fallen to 280,000 b/d from 900,000 b/d in 2001 after years of injecting water and dumping unwanted crude and products into the field. Iraqi officials have said they would like BP to raise production capacity to around 600,000 b/d in five years. BP said it has made a proposal for short-term assistance, to help stop the field's decline and carry out surveys and assessments.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/17/energy-iraq-faceoff-idUSL6N0AM8TS20130117?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43>

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
January 18, 2013			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	95.33	93.94	98.97
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	3.43	3.14	2.36

Source: Reuters

## Links

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*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**

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

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