



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, January 20, 2010

Major Developments

Storms Knock Out Power to More than 325,000 Customers in California January 18-20

Storms battered California for a third straight day on January 20, causing new outages as utilities worked to restore customers downed in earlier days, company and news sources said. The storms cut power, in total, to more than 866,000 Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) customers and 317,924 Southern California Edison (SCE) customers, but to no more than 165,000 PG&E customers and 53,397 SCE customers at one time, according to sources. A tornado warning was in effect for Los Angeles on January 19, and officials evacuated some homes in mudslide-prone areas. A power failure briefly disrupted operations at the Fresno Yosemite International Airport on January 19. The following table lists peak and current outage figures, based on latest available data.

California Customer Power Outages January 18-20, 2010			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Pacific Gas & Electric	CA	165,000	165,000
San Diego Gas & Electric	CA	70,000	65
Southern California Edison	CA	53,397	11,609
Sacramento Municipal Utility District	CA	29,464	22,883
LADWP	CA	10,000	6,800
TOTAL*		327,861	206,357

*Total outages only represent electric utilities listed in this table.

Sources:

PG&E: <http://www.pge.com/about/newsroom/>

SDG&E: <http://www.sdge.com/outages/outageDetailsLists.shtm> , <http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local-beat/More-Rain-on-the-Way-82156092.html>

SCE: <http://www.sce.com/feature/outages.htm?from=homepage> , <http://www.scp.org/news/2010/01/18/la-county-fire-dept-adds-100-firefighters-help-pos/>

SMUD: <http://www.smud.org/en/power/Pages/index.aspx> , <http://www.fox40.com/news/headlines/ktxl-news-poweroutages0120.0.4441844.story>

LADWP: http://laist.com/2010/01/18/power_outages.php , http://laist.com/2010/01/19/gale_harris.php

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/01/20/us/AP-US-California-Storms.html>

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h6f6w0UAeeOUX7txbOvoNGqeyNLO>

http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2010-01-20-fresno-airport-power-rain_N.htm

Electricity

Citing Storms, PG&E Reduces Both Units at 2,174 MW Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant in California by January 20

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) reduced the units because it expected stormy seas to impact the site's intake water system, a spokeswoman said. The 1,087 MW Unit 1 was operating at 24 percent power, and the 1,087 MW Unit 2 was running at 32 percent by power, as of this morning, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that on the morning of January 19 the units were operating at full power.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSNN1910428420100120?type=marketsNews>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Floods Render Inaccessible Emergency Operations Facility for SCE's 2,254 MW San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant in California January 18

Southern California Edison (SCE) was unable to access the Emergency Operations Facility (EOF) "after a day of rain" made the site "inaccessible to passenger vehicles," the company told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Should an emergency occur, SCE said it would direct responders to its alternate EOF in Irvine, California.
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20100119en.html>

Ice, Downed Tree Limbs Cut Power to more than 28,000 Customers in Iowa January 20

The outages affected 19,967 MidAmerican Energy customers and 8,090 Alliant Energy customers, the companies reported. MidAmerican Energy said ice and fallen tree limbs were mostly to blame. The company, however, also said transformers had malfunctioned in Des Moines and western Iowa.

<http://www.midamericanenergy.com/storm/OutageWatch/MECOutageWatch.aspx>

<http://www.alliantenergy.com/UtilityServices/StormOutageCenter/ElectricalOutageSummary/index.htm>

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100120/NEWS/100120014/-1/ENT05/Power-outages-East-side-of-Des-Moines-hit-hardest-in-metro-area>

BPA Plans 500-kV, 40-mile Transmission Line in Washington

The line would connect two substations—one existing and another planned. The company could break ground in the spring of 2011, a news source said.

http://www.seattlepi.com/local/6420ap_wa_bpa_transmission_line.html

Update: STP's 1,251 MW South Texas Nuke Unit 1 in Texas at Full Power by January 20

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of January 19 the unit was operating at 73 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: TVA's 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuke Unit 2 in Alabama at Full Power by January 20

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of January 19 the unit was operating at 86 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Mountainview Power Company's 525 MW Mountainview Gas-fired Unit 4 in California Returns to Service by January 19

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201001191515.html>

Update: Ace Cogeneration's 118 MW Ace Cogeneration Coal-fired Unit in California Returns to Service by January 19

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201001191515.html>

Update: PSO to Restart 720 MW Uklaunion Coal-fired Unit 1 in Texas January 20-21

Public Service Co. of Oklahoma (PSO) expected to shut the unit "for boiler tube leak repairs" from January 15-16, the company said in a previous filing with state regulators.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=134447>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=134441>

Luminant to Reduce 593 MW Big Brown Coal-fired Unit 1 in Texas January 19

The company expected to curtail the unit as it performed maintenance on electrostatic precipitators, it said in a filing with state regulators.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=134599>

Pressure Release Causes Explosion-Like Noise at Alabama Power Facility in Alabama by January 17

A valve release led to a loud noise at Alabama Power's Theodore Industrial Complex power plant, but there was no explosion and the incident posed no threat to the public, officials said.

http://www.wkrq.com/alabama/article/possible_fire_at_mitsubishi_plant/652732/Jan-17-2010_5-07-pm/

<http://www.fox10tv.com/dpp/news/Explosion-rumbling-heard-in-Theodore>

Air Force, Fotowatio Plan 500 MW Solar Power Facility at Edwards Air Force Base in California

Fotowatio Renewable expects to install a solar array across 3,288 acres of land on the Edwards Air Force Base in California, the United States Air Force said on January 19. The company plans to break ground in 2013.

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/greenspace/2010/01/solar-roundup-air-force-partners-with-fotowatio-pnm-pairs-with-first-solar-solarworld-donates-to-hai.html>

Westar Energy Plans 500 MW Ironwood Wind Farm in Kansas

The company plans to open the site's first phase—approximately 200 MW—by late 2011 or 2012, according to a news release. It expects the site to eventually produce up to 500 MW of power.

[http://www.westarenergy.com/corp_contentmgt.nsf/resources/2010-1-19/\\$File/2010-1-19.pdf?openelement](http://www.westarenergy.com/corp_contentmgt.nsf/resources/2010-1-19/$File/2010-1-19.pdf?openelement)

Shaw Power Group to Study Planned 400 MW Uprate at AEP's 2,155 MW Cook Nuclear Power Plant in Michigan

Shaw Power Group received a contract to study the project's feasibility, a news source said.

http://charlotte.bizjournals.com/charlotte/blog/power_city/2010/01/shaw_studies_upgrade_for_mich_nuke_plant.html

Energy Northwest Seeks 20-Year License Renewal for 1,200 MW Columbia Nuclear Power Plant in Washington

The company's existing operating license expires in December of 2023.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=9611661>

Dominion Virginia Power Customer Demand to Grow by 28 Percent over Decade—PJM

Electric demand will surge nearly 28 percent over the next 10 years across Dominion Virginia Power's service area, and more than 18 percent, combined, within PJM Interconnection's 13-state territory, the grid operator forecasts.

PJM expects Dominion's summer peak demand to climb by more than 5,600 MW from 2010 to 2020. Dominion, in turn, plans to spend \$4 billion over the next three years in its capital investment program. The company has already broken ground on a coal-fired plant in Wise County, Virginia and a gas-fired facility in Buckingham County, Virginia. The two sites, combined, will supply 1,175 MW of electricity by 2012.

<http://dom.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=834>

Petroleum

Lightning Causes Fire at ConocoPhillips' 147,000 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery by January 19—Police Department

ConocoPhillips did not confirm the cause, but did say that "atmospheric conditions"—rainstorms, thunder, and lightning—may have triggered the incident. Refinery and fire fighters extinguished the blaze, according to a news source. There was no impact to production, a company spokesman said.

Bloomberg News, 10:16 January 19, 2010

Reuters, 20:31 January 19, 2010

BP to Restart Ultracracker at 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery January 20-27

The unit shut due to a feed pump malfunction on January 18, the company said in a previous filing with state regulators. The incident triggered flaring.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=134648>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=134628>

http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100119-717113.html?mod=WSJ_World_MIDDLEHeadlinesEurope

Third-Party Issues to Impact Unit at Valero's 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery by January 20

Issues with a third-party supplier were expected to affect the light ends unit No. 4, the company said in a filing with state regulators. There, was, however, "no material impact to production," a spokesman said.

Bloomberg News, 10:21 January 20, 2010

Reuters, 08:57 January 20, 2010

Total Sends Workers Home after Gas Leak at 174,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery January 20

Total sent some contract workers home after a fuel gas leak, a spokeswoman said. The plant was running as normal, and there was no threat to the public or employees, she said.

<http://www.kfdm.com/news/total-36259-workers-avery.html>

Venezuela Seeks to Produce 1.2 Million b/d from Carabobo Oilfields by 2014

The nation plans to hold an auction on January 28 for seven Carabobo oil blocks, and announce the results on February 10, a news source said.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=86065

Natural Gas

Nothing to report.

Other News

Fog Stalls Ships along U.S. Gulf Coast January 20

Fog affected ships from Lake Charles, Louisiana to Corpus Christi, Texas, the U.S. Coast Guard said on January 20. Among the impacted ports were Houston, Corpus Christi, Beaumont and Port Arthur, according to a news source.

Forty ships were waiting to leave port, and another 28 were waiting to enter, as of latest reports.

Reuters, 10:58 January 20, 2010

Abengoa Bioenergy, Mid-Kansas Electric Company Plan 15 MMGal/Yr. Cellulosic Ethanol Facility and 75 MW Power Plant in Kansas

The facility will process corn stover, wheat straw and switchgrass, according to a news release. It should open in 2012.

<http://www.midkansaselectric.net/news/AbengoaMKECfinalstatement%20011910.pdf>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
January 20, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	77.30	79.94	34.61
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	5.51	5.57	5.27

Source: Reuters

U.S. Supreme Court Declines to Review 2009 Ruling that Stopped FERC from Widening Authority over Transmission Line Siting

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/story/markets/industries/utilities/supreme-court-wont-consider-power-line-case/>

Update: Tests Confirm Radioactive Material in Second Well at Entergy's 563 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Vermont by January 20

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/2nd-Vt-Yankee-well-tests-apf-2926052875.html?x=0&v=1>

Duke Energy Begins Demolishing Dam along Tuckasegee River in North Carolina January 18—Company Says Removal Will Boost Water Supplies to Other Power Facilities

<http://www.wtkr.com/news/sns-ap-nc--dillsborodam.0.581807.story>

First Solar Plans 22 MW Photovoltaic Solar Power Facilities in New Mexico—Company Expects to Complete Project by Late 2011

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/First-Solar-Enters-New-zacks-2555218953.html?x=0&v=1>

Update: NRC Okays TVA Request to Change Unfinished Bellefonte Nuke Units 1 and 2 in Alabama to “Deferred” Status

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2010/10-012.html>

Warning Siren is False Alarm at SCE's 2,254 MW San Onofre Nuclear Power Plant in California January 19

<http://www.kansascity.com/440/story/1693620.html>

Location of CL&P Substation at Issue after Plane Crashes into Associated Power Lines in Connecticut January 13

<http://www.rep-am.com/articles/2010/01/17/news/local/461289.txt>

NRC Inspectors Identify Two Green-Level Issues at Entergy's 670 MW Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in Massachusetts December 3—Findings of Low Significance and Already Corrected, NRC Says

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/plymouth/news/x1409378995/NRC-findings-reveal-low-significance-deficiencies>

Fire at B&B Hot Oil Services Inc. Building Partly at Fault for Propane Explosion in Dickinson, North Dakota January 15

<http://www.thedickinsonpress.com/event/article/id/31433/>

Canadian Oil Production to Rise 90,000 b/d in 2010, to Total 3.26 Million b/d—Higher Oil Sands Output Will Contribute to Increased Global Stockpiles, OPEC Says

<http://money.canoe.ca/money/business/canada/archives/2010/01/20100119-125254.html>

ExxonMobil Issues Shelter-in-Place Requests after Sulfur Plant Incident at 503,000 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana Refinery January 19

Bloomberg News, 12:25 January 20, 2010

Update: Marathon Stops Drilling after Ship Collision at Volund Oil Field in Norway's North Sea January 18

Bloomberg News, 06:51 January 20, 2010

Nearly 600 Tampa Bay, Florida Gas Stations Fail to Upgrade Single-Walled Fuel Storage Tanks, Despite New Year’s Deadline

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/water/hundreds-of-risky-fuel-tanks-go-unrepaired-despite-state-deadline/1066190>

Oil Tanker Supply to Exceed Worldwide Demand Growth in 2010—IEA

http://www.oil.com/index/article-display/2606508365/articles/oil-gas-journal/transportation-2/tankers/2010/01/iea_tanker_capacity.html

Newfield Exploration Produces Gross Operated 323 MMcf/d of Natural Gas in Woodford Shale, Oklahoma

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/newfield-achieves-record-production-in-woodford-shale-82093167.html>

Atlanta Gas Light to Extend Pipeline Facilities to Customers without Pipeline Access in Georgia—Company Expects to Complete First Construction Program by 2012

http://www.aglresources.com/pressroom/news_details.aspx?releaseID=1376645&earn=1

Coal Production to Decline almost 50 Percent Within 10 Years across West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee—Downstream Strategies of Morgantown

<http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-wv-coals-future.0.1935574.story>

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

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

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