



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, January 21, 2009

Electricity

Winds Knock Out Power to 31,000 PGE Customers in Oregon over Weekend

Winds cut power to 31,000 Portland General Electric (PGE) customers in Oregon over the weekend, the utility reported. As of early Monday, only 6,000 customers were still in the dark.

<http://www.oregonlive.com/newsflash/index.ssf?base/news-29/12324041628440.xml&storylist=orlocal>

<http://www.kptv.com/news/18506863/detail.html>

Transmission Line Error Cuts Power to about 26,000 Customers in Florida January 20-21

A transmission line failure cut power to about 26,000 customers in Lake Worth and Palm Springs, Florida January 20-21. All customers were back online by 9:23 AM, local time.

http://www.palmbeachpost.com/hp/content/local_news/epaper/2009/01/21/01211wpower.html

http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/content/local_news/epaper/2009/01/21/01211wpower.html?cxtype=rss&cxsvc=7&cxcat=76

Cable Fault Cuts Electricity to 35,000 Enmax Customers in Calgary, Canada January 16

A faulted cable forced shut a substation, cutting power to 35,000 Enmax customers in Calgary on January 16. The outage lasted less than one hour.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/Life/Lunch+time+outage+cuts+power+thousands/1189877/story.html>

http://www.660news.com/news/local/article.jsp?content=20090117_175837_41624

Transformer Explodes at Xcel Energy's Fort St. Vrain Power Plant in Colorado

A transformer exploded and caught fire during testing for a new, but unfinished, 130 MW power unit at Xcel Energy's Fort St. Vrain power plant on January 16, sources reported. Firefighters extinguished the blaze within one hour. It was not clear from multiple sources how the event might impact Xcel's plans for the unit.

http://www.timescall.com/news_story.asp?ID=13871

<http://www.greeleytribune.com/article/20090117/NEWS/901169850/1002/NONE&parentprofile=1001&title=Transformer%20catches%20fire%20at%20Fort%20St.%20Vrain%20Power%20Plant%3B%20no%20one%20injured>

PSEG Shuts, Restarts 1,170 Hope Creek Nuclear Power Plant in New Jersey over Weekend

Operators shut the unit early January 17 after a cooling system valve failure. Workers resolved the issue and returned the unit to full power by January 20, according to a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) report.

http://www.nj.com/south/index.ssf/2009/01/hope_creek_nuclear_reactor_bac.html

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Exelon's 1,093 MW Peach Bottom Nuke Unit 3 in Pennsylvania Shut January 21

Exelon shut the unit to replace the main power transformer, a company spokeswoman said. Another spokeswoman did not specify when the unit might return to service. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of January 20 the unit was operating at 75 percent.

Bloomberg News, 11:50 January 21, 2009

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Update: Energy Northwest's 1,107 MW Columbia Nuke Unit in Washington at Full Power by January 20

The company slowed the unit to 65 percent power by January 16 to perform work on a feed water pump.
Reuters, 07:21 January 20, 2009

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Update: Entergy's 943 MW Arkansas Nuclear One Unit 2 in Arkansas Resumes Full Power by January 20

Exelon shut the unit on January 14 to perform feed water heater repairs. It returned to 10 percent capacity by January 16, and ramped up to full power by yesterday morning.

Reuters, 07:18 January 20, 2009

Bloomberg News, 10:22 January 20, 2009

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Luminant's 793 Monticello Coal-fired Unit 3 in Texas Shuts, Restarts January 16

The unit tripped after a breaker overload led to the loss of a control center, and forced shut the unit's oil pumps and air preheaters. Workers restarted the unit in about three hours.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=118993>

Duke Energy's 510 MW Moss Landing Gas-fired Unit 2 in California Ramps up by January 19

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit ramped up from an unplanned curtailment of 260 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200901191515.html>

Edison Mission Energy's 590 MW Sunrise Gas-fired Power Project in California Ramps up by January 18

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit ramped up from an unplanned curtailment of 310 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200901181515.html>

PG&E's 406 MW Hetch Hetchy Aggregate Hydro Unit in California Returns to Full Power by January 20

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit ramped up from an unplanned curtailment of 246 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200901191515.html>

ATCO's 378 MW Sheerness Coal-fired Unit 1 in Alberta Shut January 20

Reuters, 8:04 January 21, 2009

TransAlta's 353 MW Sundance Coal-fired Unit 5 in Alberta Shut January 16

Reuters, 19:59 January 16, 2009

Enmax's 250 MW Calgary Gas-fired Unit in Alberta Shut January 19

Reuters, 8:34 January 20, 2009

Bruce Power Shuts 750 MW Bruce Nuke Unit 3 in Ontario January 19

Bruce Power stalled the unit to perform work on the heat transport system, it said in a release.

Reuters, 08:00 January 20, 2009

OPG Restarts 490 MW Nanticoke Coal-fired Unit 1 in Ontario by January 21

The unit went offline by January 20.

Reuters, 08:01 January 21, 2009

Reuters, 08:37 January 20, 2009

OPG's 490 MW Nanticoke Coal-fired Unit 3 in Ontario Shut by January 21

Reuters, 08:01 January 21, 2009

OPG's 155 MW Thunder Bay Coal-fired Unit in Ontario Shut by January 21

Bloomberg News, 08:12 January 21, 2009

Update: OPG Restarts 494 MW Lambton Coal-fired Unit 3 in Ontario January 17

The unit went offline by January 15.

Reuters, 08:08 January 20, 2009

Bloomberg News, 09:53 January 19, 2009

TransAlta Shuts 383 MW Keephills Coal-fired Unit 1 in Alberta January 20

Bloomberg News, 16:47 January 20, 2009

TransAlta Idles 353 MW Sundance Coal-fired Unit 3 in Alberta January 19

Bloomberg News, 17:46 January 19, 2009

Mississippi Power Plans 582 MW IGCC Power Plant in Kemper County, Mississippi

Mississippi Power filed for a certificate of public convenience and necessity with the state's Public Service Commission to build a 582 MW Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) power plant in Kemper County, Mississippi, the company said in a press release. Pending approval, the company expects to break ground in 2010 and open the facility by late 2013.

<http://southerncompany.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=1852>

NRC Plans Public Meeting with PSEG Nuclear to Discuss 2007-2008 "Yellow"

Performance Indicator at 1,170 MW Salem Nuke Unit 1 in New Jersey

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) will meet with representatives of PSEG Nuclear on January 21 to discuss a "yellow" performance indicator at PSEG's Salem Nuke Unit 1 in New Jersey in late 2007 and early 2008 that involved the availability and reliability of the facility's back-up power sources. The performance indicator returned to "green" in early 2008.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-003.i.html>

NRC Begins Special Inspection at Progress Energy's 1,790 MW Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant in North Carolina January 20

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Special Inspection Team will inspect and assess circumstances associated with a January 1 malfunction of a component on one of the plant's four emergency diesel generators, and the discovery of a similar condition on another.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-004.ii.html>

Petroleum

BP Restarts 240,000 b/d Crude Distillation Unit Pipestill 3A after Brief Upset at 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery

BP's 240,000 b/d crude distillation unit Pipestill 3A shut briefly on January 16, a source familiar with refinery operations said. The shutdown occurred after an upset in a vacuum tower, BP said in a filing with state regulators. Separately at Texas City, BP reported that the sulfur recovery unit experienced an increase sulfur load.

Bloomberg News, 14:58 January 18, 2009

Reuters, 18:37 January 16, 2009

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=119040>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=119041>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=119027>

Shell Restarts Units after Upset at 329,800 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery

Shell restarted a delayed coker, a gasoil hydrotreater and a kerosene hydrotreater after a piping leak forced shut a crude distillation unit at its 329,800 b/d Deer Park, Texas refinery, the company said. The shutdown occurred on January 18, and the affected units returned to normal service by January 19.

Bloomberg News, 10:59 January 20, 2009

Bloomberg News, 21:04 January 18, 2009

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/hotStocksNews/idUKN2040096120090120>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=119042>

Valero Shuts, Restarts Diesel Hydrotreater at 289,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery January 17-19

Valero shut the diesel hydrotreater on January 17 to fix a compressor. It restarted the unit on January 19, and expected to return it to full operations on January 20.

Reuters, 09:41 January 20, 2009

ConocoPhillips Restarts Hydrogen Unit at 76,000 b/d Rodeo, California Refinery January 17

ConocoPhillips restarted a hydrogen unit at its Rodeo, California refinery, beginning January 17, it said in a filing with state regulators. The company reported an unspecified unit shutdown on January 14. The restart resulted in flaring.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2052837920090120>

Bloomberg News, 11:29 January 18, 2009

Update: Alon Returns FCC to Full Rates at 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery January 16

Alon returned the fluid catalytic cracker (FCC) to full rates at its 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas refinery, the company said January 16. The unit had been operating at reduced rates since January 11 due to a tube leak.

Bloomberg News, 12:46 January 16, 2009

PdVSA Says it Halts Oil Deliveries to ConocoPhillips' 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery and the ExxonMobil/PdVSA Jointly-Run 192,760 b/d Chalmette, Louisiana Refinery

PdVSA announced it had stopped oil deliveries to ConocoPhillips' Sweeny refinery and ExxonMobil/PdVSA's jointly-run Chalmette refinery, but both affected companies said the facilities were operating normally. A ConocoPhillips' spokesman declined to answer specific questions on the company's potential response, citing an ongoing arbitration battle with Venezuela over expropriated oil assets.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/News/Articles/200901/Conoco_and_Exxon_PDVSA_supplied_Refiner_14696.aspx

Power Outage Shuts Husky Energy's 12,000 b/d Prince George, British Columbia Refinery January 16

Husky Energy returned the facility to "between 80 and 90 percent" by January 17, the refinery manager said. A power outage forced shut the refinery on January 16. The manager expected to resume normal service over the weekend.

Bloomberg News, 15:37 January 17, 2009

Enbridge Abandons Trailbreaker Oil Pipeline Expansion Plans

Citing economic conditions and insufficient interest, Enbridge canceled plans to deliver crude from Western Canada to the United States, sources reported. Under its "Trailblazer" project, Enbridge would have reversed two oil pipelines to enable crude shipments from western Canada through Ontario and Quebec to the United States.

Reuters, 23:02 January 17 2009

<http://www.bizjournals.com/houston/stories/2009/01/19/daily16.html>

Suncor Halts Construction on 200,000 b/d Voyageur Expansion in Alberta, Canada

Suncor shelved its "Voyageur" expansion project in Alberta, Canada, citing lagging commodity prices. The project—which would have added 200,000 b/d of oil sands production—called for increased thermal output at Suncor's existing Firebag project, and construction of a new upgrader.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/bondsNews/idUKBNG34703920090120?sp=true>

Iraq's South Oil Company Plans to Boost Oil Production by as Much as 400,000 b/d by End of 2010

Iraq's South Oil Company plans to increase its oil production by as much as 400,000 b/d—to a total 3.5 million b/d—by the end of 2010, a company official said. The expansion would involve up to 400 new wells.

Reuters, 11:56 January 21, 2009

DOE Awards Contracts for Acquisition of Oil from SPR

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) awarded contracts to purchase 10,683,000 barrels of crude for the Department's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), it said in a January 16 release. Deliveries will be made from February to April 2009. The awards made to Shell Trading and Vitol were the first direct purchases of crude oil for the SPR since 1994. The DOE also awarded contracts to two companies—Shell Trading and Glencore—using the royalty-in-kind transfer program with the Department of the Interior. Under those contracts, the companies will add approximately 6,157,000 barrels to the SPR inventory from May 2009 through January 2010.

<http://www.energy.gov/news/6867.htm>

Natural Gas

Sabine Pipe Line Declares Force Majeure on Compressor Outage January 21

Sabine declared force majeure on January 21 after an outage slowed compression capabilities by 20 percent, it said in a posting. The company expected to complete repairs within 24 hours, and did not anticipate any impact to firm transportation services. The Sabine-operated pipeline delivers natural gas 131 miles between Louisiana and Texas.

Reuters, 13:15 January 15, 2009

Bloomberg News, 17:52 January 20, 2009

Update: Williams Partners L.P. Returns Discovery Natural Gas Mainline to Service after Hurricane Ike—Line Delivering 150 MMcf/d of Natural Gas

Williams Partners L.P. repaired and returned to service the 30-inch mainline of the Discovery offshore-Louisiana natural gas gathering system, the company said in a release. The system had not been accepting natural gas since its September shutdown, prior to Hurricane Ike. The system sustained damage, Williams said, when an 18-inch lateral was severed from its connection to the 30-inch mainline. The affected 18-inch lateral remains offline, keeping shut about 30 MMcf/d of production. Williams expects to return that line to service by mid-February.

<http://www.williamspl.com/News.htm>

Other News

Update: Senate Confirms Steven Chu as U.S. Energy Secretary January 20

The United States Senate confirmed Steven Chu as energy secretary on January 20, one week after his confirmation hearing.

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/7618103.xml?p=Nuclear/News&sub=Nuclear>

<http://www.energy.gov/>

Fire at 40 MMGal/yr Badger State Ethanol Plant in Monroe, Wisconsin January 19

The fire started in a grain dryer, but spread into the grain handling ductwork and other equipment. Sources conflicted as to the extent of the damage: one news outlet said officials believed the damage was minor, and that the facility was still operating. In a second source, however, a fire official said the blaze had actually caused significant damage. Firefighters brought the fire under control in less than four hours. There were no injuries.

<http://www.badgerstateethanol.com/index.asp>

<http://ethanol-news.newslib.com/story/6938-30873/>

<http://ethanol-news.newslib.com/story/6938-30870/>

<http://ethanol-news.newslib.com/story/6938-30874/>

<http://www.channel3000.com/news/18515292/detail.html>

Range Fuels Receives U.S. Department of Agriculture Loan Guarantee for Planned 20 MMGal/year Cellulosic Ethanol Plant in Georgia

The U.S. Department of Agriculture awarded Range Fuels Inc. a conditional loan guarantee commitment for its proposed cellulosic ethanol plant in Georgia, the company said in a press release. Range Fuels expects to begin production in 2010. The facility should generate about 20 million gallons of ethanol/year, according to a news source.

<http://www.rangefuels.com/node/81>

<http://ethanol-news.newslib.com/story/6938-30875/>

Bankrupt VeraSun Says 12 Ethanol Plants Down

About three months after it filed for bankruptcy protection, VeraSun Energy Corp. said today that 12 of its 16 ethanol plants are in “hot idle”—able to operate, but not actually producing. VeraSun received bankruptcy court approval last week to put seven of its facilities up for sale.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/bondsNews/idUSN1554434120090120>

<http://ethanol-news.newslib.com/story/6938-30871/>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
January 21, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	41.30	36.23	90.01
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.86	5.70	8.10

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Update: Russia's Gazprom Resumes Natural Gas Deliveries to Europe after Two Week Shutdown—Gazprom and Ukraine's Naftogaz Sign 10 Year Gas Deal as Multiple European Union Countries Report Full Receipt of Gas by January 21

Bloomberg News, 08:59 January 21, 2009

<http://in.reuters.com/article/worldNews/idINIndia-37582520090121>

Transmission Line Failure Cuts Power to More than 15,000 Alliant Energy Customers in Iowa January 16—Utility Restores Power to Nearly all by Early Evening

<http://www.kcrg.com/news/local/37716439.html>

Transformer Trip Briefly Knocks Out Power to about 10,000 Fort Collins Utilities Customers in Colorado January 20

<http://www.coloradoan.com/article/20090121/NEWS01/901210314>

We Energies Reports about 10,000 Customers Without Power in Wisconsin January 20

<http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/2966986>

BLM Okays SDG&E's Planned 123-mile Sunrise Powerlink through Southern California

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_11510876

NRC Issues Safety Report for Proposed License Renewal of Entergy's 2,311 MW Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant in New York

Reuters, 15:01 January 16, 2009

RMT Completes Construction of 69 MW Michigan Wind 1 Power Project in Michigan

http://www.rmtinc.com/public/Press/PR_Wind_NobleThumb_Final.pdf

NACEL Energy Corporation Plans 20 MW Swisher County Wind Farm in Texas

<http://www.nacelenergy.com/news/index.html>

Illinois EPA Issues Preliminary Construction Permit Approval for Power Holdings' Planned Coal-to-Natural Gas Plant in Illinois

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-il-coalplant.0,1024418.story>

FirstEnergy Asks Federal Approval to Postpone Decision to Shut or Revamp R.E. Burger Coal-fired Power Plant in Ohio

<http://www.ohio.com/news/37785674.html>

Otoka Energy Plans Gasification Plant in Alberta—Facility Would Generate 25 MW of Electricity, Syngas and Liquid Fuels

http://www.biomassmagazine.com/article.jsp?article_id=2351

BP Reports Flaring During Restart of Jet Fuel Hydrotreater at 265,000 b/d Carson, California Refinery January 20

Reuters, 18:31 January 20, 2009

ConocoPhillips Reports Cat Plant Fault, Flaring at 238,000 b/d Linden, New Jersey Refinery January 20

Bloomberg News, 07:42 January 21, 2009

Valero Reports SRU Outages, Flaring at 182,200 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery January 17—No Impact to Production, Company Says

Bloomberg News, 09:32 January 20, 2009

ConocoPhillips Reports Process Upset, Flaring at 152,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery January 17

Bloomberg News, 11:31 January 18, 2009

Big West's 66,000 b/d Bakersfield, California Refinery Could Resume Normal Operations as Bankruptcy Judge Establishes Fund to Repay Debts

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/News/Articles/200901/Court_Releases_Money_To_Pay_Big_West_Deb_14719.aspx

Automated Control System Failure Triggers 582 Barrel Oil and Produced Water Spill at BP's Milne Point Field in North Slope, Alaska January 12

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/6091138.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>

Gunmen Assault Diesel-Carrying Tanker Offshore Nigeria, Kidnap Crewman January 21

Reuters, 11:23 January 21, 2009

Gunmen Attack Oil Vessels at Bonny Platform in Nigeria January 17

Reuters, 10:12 January 18, 2009

**Mexico Shuts and Reopens Cayo Arcas Oil Port in Gulf of Mexico January 16-17
Restarts Dos Bocas Port after Brief, Weather-Related Shutdown January 16**

Reuters, 17:30 January 17, 2009

Reuters, 17:30 January 16, 2009

U.S. Coast Guard, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and Ocean Marine Services Inc. Establish Command to Respond to Sunken 166-foot Oil Support Vessel Offshore Alaska

<http://coastguardnews.com/joint-response-to-sunken-oil-supply-vessel-at-granite-point-oil-platform/2009/01/15/>

OPEC Oil Output Dips 320,000 b/d in December, Month-on-Month, to Total 30.9 Million b/d—IEA

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/8291535.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>

U.S. 2008 Oil Imports Likely to Fall Under 10 Million b/d for First Time Since 2003, EIA Data Shows

<http://www.energyintel.com/#latest>

Sudan Eyes March 2009 Start Date for 50,000 b/d Qamari Oilfield

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=71878

Pump Shutdown, Flaring at Waha Gas Plant in Texas January 18-19

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=119083>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=119043>

Electrical Short Trips AGI Units at Tilden Gas Plant in Texas January 19

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=119044>

Compressor Communication Failures at Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas January 18-19—Associated Field Told to Shut-in Gas

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=119050>

Turbine Shutdown at Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas January 16

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=119028>

Norse Energy Says Previous Reserve Estimates for Marcellus Shale Natural Gas May be Low—Appalachia Formation Could Hold up to 60 Bcf/Square Mile, Compared to Earlier-Forecasted 30-to-50 Bcf/Square Mile

Reuters, 04:01 January 21, 2009

Update: FERC Upholds Decision to Allow Dominion's Expansion of LNG Terminal in Maryland

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Gas Well Explosion Injures One Employee in West Virginia January 19

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28742753/>

Update: Federal Judge Issues Temporary Restraining Order in BLM's Plans to Open Portions of Utah to Natural Gas Drilling

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Alberta's Energy Resources Conservation Board Okays Petro-Canada's Proposed, but Delayed, Oil Sands Processing Plant in Canada

http://ca.news.yahoo.com/s/reuters/090120/business/cbusiness_us_petrocanada_oilsands_1

Oil Sands Developer BA Energy Files for Bankruptcy Protection January 14 Company's Upgrader was Under Construction

<http://www.financialpost.com/money/your-money/story.html?id=1177442>

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>

Please direct comments and questions to: ead@oe.netl.doe.gov