



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, January 29, 2014

Electricity

Brayton Point Energy Reaffirms 2017 Closing of Its 1,538 MW Coal-fired Brayton Point Power Plant in Massachusetts

Brayton Point Energy said Monday it will retire its Brayton Point plant as planned in 2017 which could lead to higher electricity prices for consumers and possible power shortages. Brayton Point is one of three large New England plants shutting down over the next few years, which has raised concerns by ISO New England about meeting the demand for electricity. Last month, ISO New England determined that Brayton was needed to help meet demand and asked its owner to keep the plant running beyond 2017. In a statement, however, Brayton Point Energy said it does not make financial sense to do so. Rising competition from cheap natural gas, the cost of complying with increasing environmental regulation, and the plant's age factored into the decision, the company said.

<http://www.bostonglobe.com/business/2014/01/27/must-run-coal-plant-shut-down/O7YN3tbgFvxVEdxBgM8siM/story.html>

NTE Energy Plans to Build 500 MW Natural Gas-fired Combined Cycle Middletown Energy Center in Ohio

NTE Energy announced Tuesday that it plans to build and operate the Middletown Energy Center in Middletown, Ohio. The Middletown Energy Center will use a Mitsubishi Power Systems Americas M501JAC combustion turbine designed to capture head exhaust from the turbine and use it in a steam cycle, company officials said. The company has already started to file for permit applications. Construction is expected to begin in 2015 and the plant is expected to be fully operational in 2018.

<http://www.middletownenergycenter.com/>

<http://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/butler-county/middletown/florida-based-nte-energy-to-build-500-million-natural-gas-power-plant-in-middletown>

Update: FirstEnergy's 821 MW Beaver Valley Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Restarts, Ramps Up to 15 Percent by January 29

On the morning of January 28 the unit was not operating, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The unit shut January 6 due to a transformer failure.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/>

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/firstenergy-works-pennsylvania-beaver-valley-191139510.html>

Duke Energy Reports Break-in at Its Substation in Monroe, North Carolina January 26

Police responded to a report of a break-in at Duke Energy's substation in Monroe around 2 a.m. EST on Sunday. Police said they arrived to find the main gate open. It appeared someone cut the lock and entered the electrical substation area. Officers did not investigate inside of the fenced area because of safety concerns. They noticed scrap metal piled nearby although nothing else appeared to be missing.

<http://www.digtriad.com/news/article/314353/57/Police-Thieves-Break-Into-Duke-Energy-Substation->

Petroleum

Update: Clean-up Continues From 1,000 Gallon Crude Oil Spill at Monroe Energy's 185,000 b/d Trainer, Pennsylvania Refinery

The Coast Guard said about 1,000 gallons of crude oil spilled into the Delaware River from Monroe Energy's Trainer refinery in Pennsylvania on Monday. Monroe Energy reported the spill occurred when a pipe ruptured as crews were off-loading crude oil. The company said it took the necessary actions to minimize environmental impacts. Responders used skimmers and special vacuums to remove the oil from the water. A Coast Guard pollution response team was also on scene to verify safe and thorough cleanup operations.

Reuters, 00:58 January 28, 2014

Natural Gas

Blue Racer Midstream's 200 MMcf/d Natrium Natural Gas Plant in West Virginia Reopens After Fire, Will Double Capacity in Coming Months

The Blue Racer Midstream natural gas processing plant in Natrium, West Virginia, reopened Monday after a September 2013 fire damaged the plant and took it out of service. Blue Racer also said it plans to commission the plant's second phase in March, giving Natrium a total processing capacity of 400 MMcf/d.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/wva-natural-gas-plant-damaged-by-fire-reopens/2014/01/28/5>

<http://www.blueracermidstream.com/news/blue-racer-midstream-provides-update-company>

<http://www.cantonrep.com/article/20140127/NEWS/140129392/10283/NEWS>

DCP Midstream Reports Turbine Shut at Its 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas January 28

DCP Midstream reported the B turbine shut due to third stage suction temperature. This occurred when the fans were down and the recycle valve opened causing un-cooled gas to recycle back to suction. The plant operators cleared the shutdown and restarted the turbine and put it on-line.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=193535>

Other News

Four Andersons Inc. Ethanol Plants Running At Reduced Rates or Higher Costs Due to Gas Shortages in Midwest

The cold blast moving across the Midwest has caused localized shortages and price spikes for natural gas, the fuel used to power many ethanol plants. Andersons Inc.'s four ethanol plants, located in Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan, have all been affected by shortages of natural gas. The plants have avoided shutting down, but have had to run at reduced rates or at a higher cost for brief periods.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/01/29/usa-weather-crops-idUSL2N0L220120140129>

Ice Buildup Slows Barge Traffic on Mississippi and Illinois Rivers

The latest arctic outbreak has slowed barges on the Mississippi and Illinois rivers with the Coast Guard restricting traffic to one-way only along a 15-mile stretch of the river near Peoria, Illinois, because ice buildup narrowed the shipping channel. Also, the Army Corps of Engineers restricted the width of barge tows passing through some locks.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2014/01/29/usa-weather-crops-idUSL2N0L220120140129>

Islamist Rebels in Syria Claim Control of Oil and Gas Resources

Islamist rebels and extremist groups seized control of most of Syria's oil and gas resources and were using the proceeds to support their fights against one another as well as Syria's President Bashar al-Assad, American officials said. The Islamist rebel groups are providing fuel to the government in exchange for electricity and relief from airstrikes, according to opposition activists in Syria's oil regions. The Western-backed rebel groups do not appear to be involved in the oil trade, in large part because they have not taken over any oil fields. Syria's oil industry has taken a beating since the beginning of the conflict with production down to no more than 80,000 b/d at the end of 2013 from about 400,000 b/d in 2011. Violence has damaged pipelines and other infrastructure, aggravating energy shortages and leaving the country heavily dependent on imports from its allies. As the war has progressed, rebel groups have seized control of the oil and gas fields scattered across the country's north and east, while Kurdish militias have taken over areas near the border with Iraqi Kurdistan.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/29/world/middleeast/rebels-in-syria-claim-control-of-resources.html? r=1>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
January 29, 2014			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	96.79	94.99	97.69
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	5.18	4.64	3.25

Source: Reuters

Links

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

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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