



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, January 29, 2015

Electricity

Update: Dominion's 815 MW Surry Nuclear Unit 2 in Virginia at Full Power by January 29

On the morning of January 28 the unit was operating at 59 percent, reduced from full power by January 25.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

Progress Energy's 811 MW Brunswick Nuclear Unit 2 in North Carolina Reduced to 75 Percent by January 29

On the morning of January 28 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

Update: Exelon's 855 MW Quad Cities Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois at Full Power by January 29

On the morning of January 28 the unit was operating at 33 percent, reduced from full power by January 27.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

Emergency Shutdown of Entergy's 966 MW River Bend Nuclear Plant in Louisiana Prompts Special NRC Inspection

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) began a special inspection at Entergy's River Bend nuclear power plant in St. Francisville, Louisiana January 26 following an emergency shutdown December 25 due to the failure of an electrical circuit that affected the plant's feed water system. Inspectors will spend about one week at the reactor to evaluate a "root cause analysis" conducted by Entergy staff and review the licensee's corrective actions in an effort to understand the circumstances of the unplanned shutdown and determine if there are any generic implications.

http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/01/emergency_christmas_shutdown_o.html

Petroleum

Coker Shut for Repairs at Motiva's 600,250 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery January 28 – Sources

Motiva Enterprises is repairing piping on a 95,000 b/d coking unit at its Port Arthur, Texas, refinery, where production has been reduced due to planned work on other units, sources familiar with plant operations said on Wednesday. The coking unit, called delayed coking unit 2, was shut last week and is expected to be out of production for a total of four weeks, said the sources. Production at the Port Arthur refinery has been reduced while the 92,000 b/d fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU), 49,000 b/d reformer, 18,000 b/d alkylation unit, and a sulfur recovery unit are shut for planned work that began on January 12, according to the sources. Crude intake at the refinery is down at least 100,000 b/d while the work is underway. The refinery's largest crude distillation unit, the 325,000 b/d Pipestill 5, is taking in about 200,000 b/d of crude during the overhaul. The FCCU is expected to be shut for a period lasting at least seven weeks that began on January 12. The other units are also being worked on during the same period.

Reuters, 16:05 January 28, 2015

Valero Reports Process Unit Upset, Flaring at Its 330,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery January 28

Reuters, 12:16 January 28, 2015

Phillips 66 Plans to Start Fractionator at Its 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery in Second Half of 2015

Phillips 66 said on Thursday that it was planning to start up the 100,000 b/d fractionator at its Sweeny, Texas, refinery in the second half of 2015. Work on the fractionator is more than 50 percent complete, the company said. Reuters, 9:14 January 29, 2015

Valero Says Work Progressing on Crude Topping Units at Its 200,000 b/d Corpus Christi and 88,000 b/d Houston Refineries in Texas

Valero Energy Corp said on Thursday that work on two crude topping units at its Corpus Christi and Houston refineries in Texas were progressing as planned. When complete, the units are expected to reduce feedstock costs at both of these refineries, the company said.

Reuters, 8:49 January 29, 2015

Valero Says Refineries May Run Up to 99 Percent Capacity in First Quarter of 2015

Valero Energy Corp said on Thursday that its 14 refineries are expected to run up to 99 percent of combined capacity of 2.7 million b/d in the first quarter of 2015. The refineries may run as low as 95 percent of their capacity in the quarter. Valero's seven U.S. Gulf Coast refineries are planned to run between 97 percent and 100 percent of their combined capacity of 1.5 million b/d, company executives said. Valero's three U.S. Mid-Continent refineries are planned to run between 95 percent and 99 percent of combined crude oil processing capacity of 455,000 b/d. Valero's two non-U.S. refineries, located in Quebec and Wales, are expected to operate between 99 percent and 103 percent of their combined capacity of 455,000 b/d. The company's two California refineries are expected to run between 79 percent and 85 percent of their combined throughput of 305,000 b/d. Company executives said planned operating rates for refineries were down due to planned refinery unit overhauls set to start late in the first quarter.

Reuters, 10:51 January 29, 2015

Plains All American Supports Reversing 1.2 Million b/d Capline Pipeline to Move Crude Oil North to South

Plains All American LP supports reversing the Capline crude oil pipeline, the biggest in the mainland U.S., but all three owners must first approve such a change, the Chief Executive Officer said on Thursday. The pipeline is being studied for possible reversal by Plains, BP Plc., as well as co-owner and operator Marathon Petroleum Corp.

Shipping volumes on the pipeline, which now runs south to north from the U.S. Gulf Coast to Illinois, have fallen sharply in recent years as crude imports fell and U.S. and Canadian production increasingly flows south. Plains is building its 200,000 b/d Diamond Pipeline from the U.S. crude futures hub in Cushing, Oklahoma, to Valero Energy Corp's 180,000 b/d refinery in Memphis, Tennessee. Once it starts up in 2016, it will siphon much of the remaining Capline flows, possibly to the point where the south-to-north flow no longer makes economic sense, the CEO said.

Reuters, 10:14 January 29, 2015

Valero Delays Crude-by-Rail Plan at Its 132,000 b/d Benicia, California Refinery January 29

Valero Energy Corp said on Thursday that deliveries of up to 50,000 b/d of crude oil by rail cars to its Benicia refinery has been delayed until early 2016 to complete the permitting process the City of Benicia requires. This is the second delay for the project to build equipment to offload crude oil delivered by railroad to the refinery. Valero originally wanted the offloading to start in 2013 but had pushed the start date back to 2015 due to a lengthy permitting process. The City of Benicia has adopted a permitting process to allow opponents of the possible environmental impact of an offloading system to offer extensive comments, to which Valero is in the process of replying, company executives said.

Reuters, 1:31 January 29, 2015

Natural Gas

Regency Reports AGI Compressor Shut at Its 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas January 26

Regency reported the amine system booster pump was not producing adequate discharge pressure flow causing the amine system to fluctuate and become unstable. This process condition in turn caused the acid gas injector (AGI) compressor to shutdown. The amine system booster pumps were repaired and switched and the AGI compressor was reset and restarted.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=209457>

ExxonMobil Reports Unit Shut at Its 65 MMcf/d Dollarhide Gas Plant in Texas January 28

ExxonMobil reported the Wauk-3 unit shut down due to lug down (low RPM alarm). All available flowing wells were shut in to reduce and mitigate emissions.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=209460>

DCP Midstream Reports SRU Efficiency below Limit at Its 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas January 28

DCP Midstream reported the sulfur recovery unit (SRU) efficiency was below the permitted limit. Operations adjusted the SRU set points.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=209386>

Pennsylvania Governor Bans New Oil, Gas Leases on State Land

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf on Thursday signed an executive order reinstating a moratorium on new leases for oil and natural gas development in state parks and forests. The move restores the ban lifted by his predecessor, Tom Corbett. Drilling for gas in the Marcellus Shale in Pennsylvania has transformed the state into an energy powerhouse and contributed to economic prosperity through job creation and royalties over the past several years. Production of gas in the Marcellus region, the biggest and fastest growing U.S. shale gas field centered under Pennsylvania and West Virginia, was expected to reach about 16.6 bcf/d, up from just 2 bcf/d five years ago, according to federal data.

A little over 20 percent of the gas produced in the U.S. is expected to come from the Marcellus Shale in 2015, according to federal data.

Reuters, 10:45 January 29, 2015

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=708&PageID=224602&mode=2&contentid>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

South Sudan Oil Production Rises to 169,000 b/d – Oil Ministry

South Sudan's oil production has risen by about 9,000 b/d to 169,000 b/d from December last year, the petroleum minister said on Tuesday. Production has been cut by about a third since fighting broke out in December 2013, with many South Sudanese oil wells damaged and output in decline at functioning fields due to a shortage of spare parts. South Sudan officials last year said that former foe Sudan was planning to send equipment and engineers to boost output in Upper Nile State and Unity State, the two oil-producing regions. South Sudan relies almost exclusively on oil for government funds. Last year oil revenues were hit by a decline in output and falling oil prices on global markets.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/136951/Oil_Ministry_South_Sudan_Oil_Production_Rises_To_169000_Bpd#sthash.JGzxNA30.dpuf

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
January 29, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	43.47	45.90	96.79
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.89	2.94	5.18

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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