



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, January 31, 2013

## Major Developments

### Update: More Than 193,000 Customers Remain Without Power from the Gulf Coast to Maine after Rain, High Winds January 31

Rain and high winds pummeled the U.S. Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions Wednesday night and early Thursday, knocking out power to 406,705 customers at the peak of the storms. As of 3:00 p.m. EST Thursday, 193,160 customers remained without power, with utilities serving customers in New England reporting the highest numbers. High wind advisories remain in effect until late Thursday night for most states in that region, according to the U.S. National Weather Service and media reports. Most utilities were not reporting restoration estimates Thursday, although Bangor Hydro Electric Company did say in a press release that it hoped to restore its affected customers by Friday.

Reuters, 10:41 January 31, 2013

<http://www.cmpco.com/OurCompany/News/2013/news130131a.html>

<http://www.bhe.com/about-us/outages-and-restorations/current-outage-reports.aspx>

<http://bangordailynews.com/slideshow/high-winds-knock-out-power-to-more-than-3000-across-maine/>

Gulf Coast to Maine Customer Power Outages			
January 30–31, 2012			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Connecticut Light & Power	CT	70,800	33,610
United Illuminating	CT	13,000	5,174
Delmarva	DE, MD	2,500	1,363
Georgia Power	GA	32,000	1,900
National Grid (Massachusetts)	MA	25,300	5,362
NSTAR	MA	3,700	1,190
Bangor Hydro Electric Company	ME	22,591	18,091
Central Maine	ME	43,187	41,621
Entergy Mississippi	MS	7,100	1,146
Duke Energy Carolinas	NC, SC	16,249	5,538
Public Service of New Hampshire	NH	14,960	14,960
FirstEnergy (New Jersey)	NJ	26,700	9,611
PSE&G	NJ	7,300	5,000
Consolidated Edison	NY	6,400	1,806
Long Island Power Authority	NY	34,100	9,477
National Grid (New York)	NY	7,018	7,018
NYSEG	NY	11,000	6,943
FirstEnergy (Pennsylvania)	PA	13,100	8,428
PPL Electric Utilities	PA	5,100	1,762
National Grid (Rhode Island)	RI	24,300	2,296
Dominion	VA, NC	15,000	6,582
Appalachian Power (AEP)	VA, WV, TN	5,300	4,282
<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>406,705</b>	<b>193,160</b>

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

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/01/31/utilities-storm-poweroutages-idUKL1N0B05X520130131>

<http://www.cl-p.com/outage/OutageMap.aspx>

<http://www.uinet.com/wps/portal/uinet>

<http://www.delmarva.com/home/emergency/maps/stormcenter/>

<https://twitter.com/GeorgiaPower>

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/stormcenter.nationalgridus.com/external/sc\\_ma.html](https://s3.amazonaws.com/stormcenter.nationalgridus.com/external/sc_ma.html)

<http://outagemap.nstar.com/outage/OutageMap.aspx>  
[http://apps.bhe.com/about/outages/Outage\\_Map.cfm](http://apps.bhe.com/about/outages/Outage_Map.cfm)  
<http://outagemap.cmpco.com/maine/?style=maine#>  
<http://viewoutage.entergy.com/ms.aspx>  
<http://www.duke-energy.com/north-carolina/outages/current.asp>  
<http://www.psnh.com/outage/>  
<http://outages.firstenergycorp.com/nj.html>  
[http://www.pseg.com/home/customer\\_service/outage\\_info/outagemap.jsp](http://www.pseg.com/home/customer_service/outage_info/outagemap.jsp)  
[http://apps.coned.com/stormcenter\\_external/default.html](http://apps.coned.com/stormcenter_external/default.html)  
<http://www.lipower.org/stormcenter/outagemap.html>  
<https://www1.nationalgridus.com/PowerOutageMap-NY-RES>  
<http://www.nyseg.com/Outages/outageinformation.html>  
<http://outages.firstenergycorp.com/pa.html>  
<https://www.pplelectric.com/my-account/outage-center/outage-map.aspx>  
<https://www1.nationalgridus.com/PowerOutageMap-RI-RES>  
<https://www.dom.com/storm-center/dominion-electric-outage-summary.jsp>  
<https://www.appalachianpower.com/outages/>

## ***Electricity***

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### **Minnesota Power to Convert 110 MW Coal-Fired Laskin Power Plant to Burn Natural Gas to Comply with EPA Standards; Announces Plans to Reduce Emissions at Other Facilities**

Minnesota Power, a division of ALLETE, on Wednesday outlined its EnergyForward resource strategy to further diversify the company's generation mix and reduce emissions at its existing power plants in an effort to comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Mercury Air Toxics Standard and the Minnesota Mercury Emission Reduction Act. The plan calls for converting the company's 110 MW Laskin Energy Center in Hoyt Lakes to a natural gas peaking facility in 2015; environmental upgrades at its 558 MW Clay Boswell Energy Center Unit 4 in Itasca County; retiring one of three coal-fired units at its 225 MW Taconite Harbor facility in Schroeder while maintaining Units 1 and 2, which both comply with current and pending environmental regulations; and upgrades to increase efficiency at its Thomson and Fond du Lac hydroelectric stations. These plans are subject to review and approval by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Minnesota Power will file its next Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) with the commission on March 1, and the company expects the commission to make a decision on the IRP by the end of the year.

[http://www.mnpower.com/Content/Documents/Company/PressReleases/2013/2013130\\_NewsRelease.pdf](http://www.mnpower.com/Content/Documents/Company/PressReleases/2013/2013130_NewsRelease.pdf)

### **Update: FirstEnergy's 1,235 MW Perry Nuclear Unit 1 in Ohio Reduced to 68 Percent by January 31**

Perry 1 is returning from an outage that began January 22, when an automatic Reactor Protection System actuation occurred due to a low reactor water level signal after a fuse blew due to cold temperatures in the nearby turbine building, cutting power to the feedwater pumps. Operators restarted the reactor by January 27 and ramped it up to 92 percent by January 30, before reducing it to 68 percent by January 31.

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

### **Update: Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuclear Unit 1 in Mississippi Ramped Up to 94 Percent by January 31**

Grand Gulf 1 is returning from an outage that began January 14, when the reactor scrambled at full power due to what appeared to be a turbine/generator trip. Operators restarted the reactor by January 29.

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

### **Calpine's 593 MW Metcalf Natural Gas-Fired Unit in California Returns to Service by January 30**

The unit returned from an unplanned curtailment of 308 MW that began by January 21.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201301301515.html>

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201301211515.html>

## **Update: First Solar Acquires 50 MW Macho Springs Solar Project Under Construction in New Mexico**

First Solar, Inc. and Element Power Solar today announced that First Solar has acquired the 50 MW Macho Springs Solar project that Element Power Solar has been developing in Luna County, New Mexico. The photovoltaic solar project is expected to be completed in 2014. El Paso Electric will purchase all the power generated by the facility under an agreement that is subject to regulatory approvals, which are expected in the first half of 2013.

<http://investor.firstsolar.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=737081>

## ***Petroleum***

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### **Update: Barge Traffic on Mississippi River Resumes on Limited Basis at Vicksburg January 31**

The U.S. Coast Guard on Thursday morning began permitting limited commercial traffic to transit through a 16-mile stretch of the Mississippi River near Vicksburg, Mississippi that has been shut since early Sunday morning, when two tank barges collided with the Vicksburg Railroad river bridge. A tank carrying approximately 80,000 gallons of light crude oil was damaged in the collision. As of this morning, about 7,650 gallons of “oil-water mixture” had been recovered with skimming vessels, and crews were still on the scene, the Coast Guard said. Limited commercial traffic was being granted northbound at night and southbound during the day in between mile marker 425 and mile marker 441 near Vicksburg. Officials are allowing transit on a conditional basis, and cautioned that any setback during recovery operations would prompt them to again shut down traffic. As of Thursday morning, 19 northbound vessels hauling 280 barges and 31 southbound vessels with 521 barges were awaiting passage, the Coast Guard said.

<http://www.tradeonlytoday.com/home/523702-barge-traffic-resumes-on-mississippi-after-oil-spill>

<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/1694699/UPDATE-Coast-Guard-continues-response-to-crude-oil-spill-near-Vicksburg>

### **ExxonMobil Cuts FCCU Rates at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery to Minimum Levels Due to Alkylation Unit Leak January 30 – Sources**

ExxonMobil Corp. cut production on a 87,800 b/d fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Torrance refinery to minimal levels Wednesday after an alkylation unit developed a leak in a heat exchanger, sources familiar with refinery operations said. The refinery also reported unplanned flaring due to an unspecified breakdown at the refinery Wednesday afternoon, according to a filing with the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Reuters, 03:38 January 31, 2013

Reuters, 20:02 January 30, 2013

### **PBF Energy Extinguishes Fire at Its 125,600 b/d Toledo, Ohio Refinery by January 31; Declines to Say Whether Incident Impacted Operations**

PBF Energy Inc. reported it has extinguished a fire that erupted at its Toledo refinery around 11:50 p.m. EST Wednesday night, according to a spokeswoman. Operators were investigating the cause of the incident. The spokeswoman declined to say whether the incident has had an impact on operations.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-01-31/fire-at-u-s-toledo-refinery-has-been-put-out-pbf-energy-says.html>

### **Enterprise Says Lateral Pipeline Under Construction will Alleviate Bottlenecks at Endpoint of Its 400,000 b/d Seaway Pipeline in Texas**

Enterprise Products Partners LP is building a new lateral pipeline that will alleviate bottlenecks on the newly expanded Seaway Pipeline, executives told analysts on Thursday. The lateral extending from the end of the Seaway Pipeline at Jones Creek, Texas to the Houston Ship Channel is slated to be completed in the third or fourth quarter this year, they said.

Reuters, 10:35 January 31, 2013

### **Update: Cal/OSHA Fines Chevron for 25 Safety Violations Related to Fire at Chevron’s Richmond, California Refinery August 2012**

Oakland —The California Division of Occupational Safety & Health (Cal/OSHA) on Wednesday issued 25 citations against Chevron USA, with proposed penalties totaling nearly \$1 million, for state safety standard violations related to the August 6, 2012 fire at Chevron’s Richmond refinery. The citations include eleven “willful serious” and twelve “serious” violations, resulting in the highest penalties in Cal/OSHA’s history.

<http://www.dir.ca.gov/DIRNews/2013/IR2013-06.html>

**Update: U.S. District Court Accepts BP's Plea Resolving All Federal Criminal Charges Stemming from Deepwater Horizon Accident in U.S. Gulf of Mexico 2010; BP Now Facing Civil Litigation**

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/bp-4b-guilty-plea-wins-110804887.html>  
<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/next-bp-spill-saga-civil-080241775.html>

**Update: Hess Plans to Sell Port Reading Refinery, U.S. East Coast Terminal Network Won't Affect HOVENSA Facility on St. Croix – Spokeswoman**

<http://www.equities.com/news/headline-story?dt=2013-01-31&val=990075&cat=energy>

## **Natural Gas**

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**Update: New Regulations Allow Apache and Chevron to Proceed with 1.5 Bcf/d Kitimat LNG Project in British Columbia**

Canada's Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development on January 22 announced new regulations that will allow Apache Corporation and Chevron Canada Limited to move forward on their joint venture proposal to build the Kitimat LNG liquefied natural gas (LNG) facility on the Haisla First Nation's Bees Indian Reserve No. 6. The Kitimat LNG facility is being constructed on Haisla Nation reserve land at Bish Cove, approximately 400 miles north of Vancouver. The proposed two-train Kitimat LNG Project, currently progressing through front-end engineering and design, has a Canadian National Energy Board license to export 10 million tons per annum of LNG (about 1.5 Bcf/d). The Haisla Natural Gas Facility Regulations were created under the First Nations Commercial and Industrial Development Act (FNCIDA). FNCIDA was a First Nations-led initiative that allows the government to work with First Nations and provincial regulatory authorities to create regulations for complex commercial and industrial development projects on reserve.

<http://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1358881513395/1358881841305>

**Valve Mechanical Failure Causes Emissions at Enbridge's Tilden Gas Plant in Texas January 29**

Enbridge reported a mechanical failure on an inlet-pipeline valve upstream of its Tilden plant led to emissions on Tuesday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators rerouted all process gas to the flare to mitigate emissions during repairs. Emissions related to the incident continued for nearly 24 hours.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=178711>

## **Other News**

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Nothing to report

## **International News**

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Nothing to report

## **Energy Prices**

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices January 31, 2013			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	97.44	95.58	98.37
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	3.24	3.53	2.37

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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