



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, December 04, 2015

## *Electricity*

---

### **Snow, High Winds Knock Out Power to 14,000 NSP Customers in Nova Scotia December 3**

High winds and heavy wet snow knocked out power to 14,000 Nova Scotia Power (NSP) customers in mainland Nova Scotia and Cape Breton on Thursday. A utility spokesperson said the vast majority of customer outages were caused by trees and tree branches coming down onto lines, as well some broken poles from the heavy, wet snow and the high wind. As of 3:30 p.m. EST Friday, 1,635 customers remained without power. Electricity should be restored to most customers by early afternoon.

<http://outagemap.nspower.ca/>

<https://twitter.com/nspowerinc>

<http://thechronicleherald.ca/novascotia/1325811-thousands-without-power-in-parts-of-mainland-n.s.-cape-breton>

### **Windstorm Knocks Out Power to Nearly 40,000 BC Hydro Customers in British Columbia December 3**

A strong windstorm knocked out power to nearly 40,000 BC Hydro customers in southern British Columbia on Thursday. Wind gusts of up to 68 mph were reported, felling trees and power lines. As of 3:30 p.m. EST Friday, 5,300 customers remained without power.

<https://www.bchydro.com/power-outages/app/outage-list.html>

<https://twitter.com/bchydro>

<http://globalnews.ca/news/2379341/update-thousands-left-without-power-at-peak-of-windstorm/>

### **Update: Restoration Nearly Complete to Remaining 2,000 OG&E Customers Without Power in Oklahoma December 4 after Winter Storm Hits November 27–28**

Oklahoma Gas & Electric (OG&E) on Friday was wrapping up restoration efforts to the 150,000 customers in Oklahoma who lost power last weekend due to a weather system containing freezing rain. As of 3:30 p.m. EST Friday, 2,013 customers remained without power. OG&E said restoration should be complete by tonight.

<https://oge.com/wps/portal/oge/outages/systemwatch/>

<https://twitter.com/OGandE>

### **Update: FPL's 510 MW Point Beach Nuclear Unit 1 in Wisconsin at Full Power by December 4**

On the morning of December 3 the unit had restarted and was operating at 79 percent. The unit shut from full power on November 29 due to a generator lockout after a voltage regulator malfunction.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20151130en.html>

### **Update: Entergy's 966 MW River Bend Nuclear Unit 1 in Louisiana Ramps Up to 67 Percent by December 4**

On the morning of December 3 the unit had restarted and was operating at 14 percent. The unit shut from full power on November 27 following the loss of a switchyard electrical breaker.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20151130en.html>

### **Dynegy's 335 MW El Segundo Gas-fired Unit 4 in California Returns to Service by December 3**

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began on December 2.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201512031515.html>

### **Sweetheart Lake Dam Project in Alaska Moves Closer to Permit – Local Media**

Federal regulators are seeking public feedback on Juneau's new hydroelectric dam project that aims to provide additional electrical reliability to meet the city's growing electric demand. Local media reported that members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission arrived in Juneau on Wednesday to hear public feedback on the Sweetheart Lake Hydroelectric Project draft environmental statement. The project includes a 111-foot-tall concrete dam with overland and undersea cables connecting a powerhouse to existing power transmission lines. Alaska Electric Light and Power has previously raised several concerns with the project, including its effect on rates and whether Juneau's electrical grid can support a new dam. The public comment period ends December 29.

Reuters, 8:16 December 4, 2015

### **Maine Supreme Court Rules against First Wind's Proposed 48 MW Wind Project**

The Maine Supreme Judicial Court upheld a ruling by the state's Board of Environmental Protection to reject First Wind's 48 MW project planned for Penobscot County. Advocacy groups had opposed the project due to its perceived effect on scenic views from nine nearby lakes. Chief Justice Leigh Saufley's decision highlighted a stipulation in the 2004 Wind Energy Act that stated that projects can't compromise views from scenic resources of state or national significance.

Reuters, 7:31 December 4, 2015

### **SunPower Starts Construction on 100 MW Boulder Solar Plant for NV Energy in Nevada**

SunPower Corp. on Thursday announced that construction commenced on Boulder Solar, a 100 MW solar power plant located in the Eldorado Valley of Boulder City, Nevada. NV Energy has contracted to buy the power generated at the plant under a 20-year power purchase agreement. Boulder Solar is expected to be operational in 2016.

<http://newsroom.sunpower.com/2015-12-03-SunPower-Starts-Construction-on-100-Megawatt-Boulder-Solar-Plant-for-NV-Energy>

### **New York to Develop Plan to Keep Upstate Nuclear Reactors in Service**

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo this week directed state energy regulators to develop a process to prevent the premature retirement of Upstate nuclear power plants. He made his announcement as part of a plan to enact a new clean energy standard mandating that 50 percent of all electricity consumed in the state by 2030 result from clean and renewable energy sources. During the transition to a cleaner energy future, the governor wants the Upstate nuclear reactors to remain in service. There are four nuclear reactors in Upstate New York— two at Exelon Corp's 1,937 MW Nine Mile Point, one at Exelon's 582 MW Ginna, and one at Entergy Corp's 852 MW FitzPatrick. Entergy had already said in November it would shut FitzPatrick in late 2016 or early 2017. Exelon last year warned it would close the Ginna after a power purchase agreement with Rochester Gas & Electric expires in March 2017.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-directs-department-public-service-begin-process-enact-clean-energy-standard>

Reuters, 9:13 December 4, 2015

### **Moxie Energy Proposes 1,029 MW Freedom Project Combined-Cycle Generating Station in Pennsylvania**

Moxie Energy, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Moxie Freedom LLC, is proposing to build a natural gas power plant in Salem Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. The power plant will be fueled by only clean-burning natural gas and will not require river water or any other large source of water typically used for cooling needs. Commercial operations are expected to begin in 2018. Once built, the plant is expected to supply the power needs of more than one million homes in the PJM region.

[http://www.moxieenergy.com/Freedom\\_Power\\_Generation\\_Plant.html](http://www.moxieenergy.com/Freedom_Power_Generation_Plant.html)

## ***Petroleum***

---

### **Update: Irving Oil Restarts FCCU at Its 300,000 b/d Saint John, New Brunswick Refinery December 3**

Irving Oil restarted a 70,000 b/d fluid catalytic cracker unit (FCCU) at its Saint John, New Brunswick, refinery on Thursday, the company's chief operating officer said. After a brief restart, the FCCU was shut down in the past week following a month of planned work, according to multiple reports. The 150,000 b/d crude unit, which also underwent maintenance, is expected to run at reduced rates until the FCCU returns to normal operations.

Reuters, 4:29 December 3, 2015

### **CDU Shut Due to Pump Fire at Flint Hills' 290,000 b/d Corpus Christi West, Texas Refinery December 4 – Filings**

Flint Hills Resources shut the largest crude distillation unit (CDU) on Friday in the West Plant of its Corpus Christi, Texas, refinery after a pump fire broke out, according to notices the refinery filed with environmental regulators on Friday. The fire was extinguished according to an updated message on a community alerting system. Energy industry intelligence service Genscape reported the shutdown of the 178,000 b/d CDU and an associated 83,000 b/d vacuum distillation unit at the Corpus Christi West Plant due to a fire.

Reuters, 11:57 December 4, 2015

### **Valero Reports Leak under Control at Its 100,000 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery December 4**

Valero Energy Corp on Friday reported an unspecified leak at its Houston, Texas refinery on Friday, according to a message on a community information phone line. The leak was under control and there was no impact to the community, according to information line.

Reuters, 10:31 December 4, 2015

### **Syncrude Canada Aims to Restart Coker Early Next Week at Its 326,000 b/d Project after Outage December 3 – Sources**

Syncrude Canada Ltd. is aiming to restart a coker unit early next week after an outage at its oil sands project in northern Alberta on Thursday, according to two sources. It was not immediately clear if production at Canada's largest synthetic crude project was affected. Syncrude is a mining and upgrading project, where mined oil sands bitumen is upgraded into refinery-ready synthetic crude.

Reuters, 9:29 December 4, 2015

### **Update: Tesoro Completes Unplanned Maintenance at Its 363,000 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery December 3**

Tesoro Corp said on Thursday it completed unplanned maintenance at its Wilmington, California refinery.

Reuters, 3:53 December 3, 2015

### **U.S. Crude Oil Exports in October Reached 500,000 b/d – U.S. Census Bureau**

U.S. crude oil exports increased by nearly 91,000 b/d in October, mostly due to a major increase to Canada, foreign trade data from the U.S. Census Bureau showed on Friday. Total U.S. exports were just over 500,000 b/d, according to the data. Exports to Canada were 449,000 b/d, while exports to Italy were 20,000 b/d. Meanwhile, some 17,000 b/d reached Spain, and exports to Switzerland were 14,000 b/d.

Reuters, 10:34 December 4, 2015

## ***Natural Gas***

---

### **Update: Anadarko's 500 MMcf/d Ramsey Gas Plant in Texas Remains Shut-In December 4 after Explosion December 3**

Anadarko Petroleum Corporation on Friday said the fire that damaged its Ramsey gas plant near Orla, Texas on Thursday was still burning and will be allowed to burn itself out. The fire was contained to one area of the plant, according to a spokesperson. Surrounding high pressure gas lines going in and out of the plant were turned off so the pressure build-up would decrease and to prevent a secondary explosion from happening. The plant is owned by Western Gas Partners and operated by Anadarko. About 200 people were at the unit at the time of the accident and two reported minor injuries. Anadarko said it was cooperating with federal safety regulators to determine the cause of the accident. The company had no immediate damage estimate or information on when plant operations would resume.

<http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/Gas-Plant-Fire-in-West-Texas-Being-Allowed-to-Burn-Out-360585431.html>  
<http://www.allnewscenter.com/major-explosion-rocks-gas-refinery-in-texas/>

### **Transwestern Pipeline Reports NGL Spill in Texas Due to Explosion at Anadarko's Ramsey Gas Plant December 3**

Transwestern Pipeline reported damage to the meter run at its Loving County pipeline segment in Texas due to an explosion at the Anadarko Ramsey gas plant on Thursday. The company reported 361,746 gallons of NGLs were released into the atmosphere, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The NGLs in the pipeline are being released to the atmosphere in an attempt to remove a further explosion and or fire hazard. When the fire and explosion hazard has been removed, employees will enter the site and perform the necessary maintenance and construction activities to ensure that the meter run can be brought back into service. Reuters, 4:20 December 4, 2015

### **ANR Pipe Line Reduces Capacity for Its Southeast Mainline in Indiana and Ohio December 4**

ANR reported due to current operating conditions and ongoing unplanned compressor maintenance at the Portland Compressor Station in Indiana and Defiance Compressor Station in Ohio, along the Southeast Central Fuel Segment, capacities were reduced 295 MMcf/d, leaving 985 MMcf/d available December 4–11, and 125 MMcf/d, leaving 1,155 MMcf/d available December 12–March 31, 2016. Based on current nominations, it is anticipated that the above reductions will result in the curtailment of IT and Firm Secondary.

<http://anrebb.transcanada.com/>

---

## ***Other News***

### **Radiation from Japan's Fukushima Nuclear Disaster Spreads off U.S. Shores – Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution**

Radiation from Japan's 2011 nuclear disaster has spread off North American shores and contamination is increasing at previously identified sites, although levels are still too low to threaten human or ocean life, scientists said on Thursday. Tests of hundreds of samples of Pacific Ocean water confirmed that Japan's Fukushima nuclear power plant continues to leak radioactive isotopes more than four years after its meltdown, a marine radiochemist with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution said. Trace amounts of cesium-134 have been detected within several hundred miles of the Oregon, Washington, and California coasts in recent months, as well as offshore from Canada's Vancouver Island. In March 2011, a massive earthquake triggered a tsunami that struck the Fukushima nuclear plant, 130 miles northeast of Tokyo, causing triple nuclear meltdowns. Reuters, 5:18 December 3, 2015

---

## ***International News***

### **Japanese Regulator Investigates Fuel Container Strength at Fukushima Nuclear Plant**

Japan's nuclear regulatory body said Friday it launched an investigation into metallic spent fuel containers at Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant as they may not have sufficient strength. Members of the Nuclear Regulation Authority raised the issue Friday at a meeting to discuss nuclear safety problems. The body will examine whether the containers made by Kobe Steel Ltd. are safe for long-term use. The nuclear regulation watchdog said it will also launch a probe at Japan Atomic Power Co.'s Tokai No. 2 nuclear power plant in Ibaraki Prefecture as the same type of fuel container may be used there. The fuel storages meet strength criteria set by the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers. But the metal plates inside them may not be strong enough for use in storing nuclear spent fuel. TEPCO said it believes the strength of the containers meets the NRA's safety standards. Reuters, 7:01 December 4, 2015

## Energy Prices

---

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
December 4, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	39.95	40.78	66.32
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	2.09	2.11	3.63

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](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

---

*Energy Assurance Daily* provides a summary of public information concerning current energy issues. Published Monday through Friday to inform stakeholders of developments affecting energy systems, flows, and markets, it provides highlights of energy issues rather than a comprehensive coverage. *Energy Assurance Daily* is updated online Monday through Friday after 5:00 p.m. ET. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at:

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

Please direct comments and questions to: [ead@oe.netl.doe.gov](mailto:ead@oe.netl.doe.gov)