



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

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, December 13, 2010

## Electricity

### Winter Storms Knock Out Power to Almost 150,000 Customers in the U.S. Midwest

Most customers have had their power restored, but 32,000 DTE Energy customers remain without power in the Detroit area in Michigan as of latest reports.

U.S. Midwest Customer Power Outages December 12 – December 13			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Current
MidAmerican Energy	IA	1,940	4
Unknown Iowa Utilities	IA	3,060	0 <sup>a</sup>
Alliant Energy	IA/MN	2,000	50
DTE Energy	MI	68,000	32,000
Lansing Board of Water and Light	MI	15,000	0
Consumers Energy	MI	5,003	0
We Energies	WI	39,000	18 <sup>b</sup>
Alliant	WI	5,800+	19
Wisconsin Public Service	WI	5,300	54
Water Works & Lighting Commission	WI	2,000	0
<b>TOTAL *</b>		<b>147,103+</b>	<b>32,145</b>

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

<sup>a</sup>, estimated to be restored.

<sup>b</sup>, Current Outage for We Energies estimated from company Web site's outage map.

Sources:

MidAmerican Energy: <http://www.midamericanenergy.com/storm/OutageWatch/MECOutageWatch.aspx>,  
[http://wcfcourier.com/news/local/article\\_21e7297c-06af-11e0-9f22-001cc4c002e0.html](http://wcfcourier.com/news/local/article_21e7297c-06af-11e0-9f22-001cc4c002e0.html)

Unknown Iowa Utilities:

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101213/NEWS/12130314/1001/NEWS/Roads-reopen-but-wind-still-bites>

Alliant Energy: <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20101213/NEWS/12130314/1001/NEWS/Roads-reopen-but-wind-still-bites>

DTE Energy: <http://www.dteenergy.com/map/outage.html>,  
[http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2010/12/metro\\_detroit\\_winter\\_storm\\_wra.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/detroit/index.ssf/2010/12/metro_detroit_winter_storm_wra.html),

Lansing Board of Water and Light:

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20101212/NEWS01/12120581/Power-restored-to-15-000-in-the-Lansing-area-scattered-outages-reported>

Consumers Energy:

[http://www.ogemawherald.com/detail/87535.html?content\\_source=&category\\_id=1&search\\_filter=&list\\_type=&order\\_by=&order\\_sort=&content\\_class=1&sub\\_type=&town\\_id=7](http://www.ogemawherald.com/detail/87535.html?content_source=&category_id=1&search_filter=&list_type=&order_by=&order_sort=&content_class=1&sub_type=&town_id=7)

We Energies: <http://www.we-energies.com/outagemapext/>, <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/chi-ap-wi-winterstorm-power.0.6647039.story>

Alliant: <http://www.alliantenergy.com/UtilityServices/StormOutageCenter/ElectricalOutageSummary/index.htm>,  
<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/111747944.html>

Wisconsin Public Service: <http://www.wisconsinpublicservice.com/outagesummary/view/outagegrid.aspx>,  
<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/111747944.html>

Water Works & Lighting Commission:

<http://www.wisconsinrapidtribune.com/article/20101213/WRT0101/101213108/1982/WRT04/Early-morning-power-outage-is-explained>

## **Wind Storm Knocks Out Power to 10,800 Alabama Power Customers in Alabama December 12**

The customers lost power after high winds toppled trees onto power lines across the state.

<http://www.dailymet.com/article/20101212/APN/1012122086?Title=Ala-winds-leave-thousands-without-power>

## **FirstEnergy's 821 MW Beaver Valley Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Reduced to 82 Percent by December 11, at Full Power by December 13**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 10 the unit was operating at full power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

## **Progress Energy's 811 MW Brunswick Nuclear Unit 2 in North Carolina Reduced to 67 Percent by December 11, at Full Power by December 13 – Reduction Unrelated to Tritium Leak Discovered December 9**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reported that on the morning of December 10 the unit was operating at full power. In a separate report with the NRC, plant operators identified elevated levels of tritium in water samples on December 9. An investigation revealed that a leaking pipe within the plant grounds is the likely source of the tritium. The leak has not impacted drinking water or the plant's operation.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20101213en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

## **Southern's 856 MW Hatch Nuclear Unit 1 in Georgia Reduced to 40 Percent by December 12, Ramped Up to 58 Percent by December 13**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 11 the unit was operating at full power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

## **Exelon's 1,111 MW La Salle Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois Reduced to 76 Percent by December 12, at Full Power by December 13**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 11 the unit was operating at full power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

## **Exelon's 850 MW Dresden Nuclear Unit 2 in Illinois Reduced to 66 Percent by December 11, at Full Power by December 12**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 10 the unit was operating at full power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

## **Dominion's 871 MW Millstone Nuclear Unit 2 in Connecticut Reduced to 55 Percent by December 12**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 11 the unit was operating at full power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Update: Exelon's 619 MW Oyster Creek Nuclear Unit in New Jersey Ramped Up to 42 Percent by December 12 Following a Turbine Shutdown to Replace a Faulty Transformer**

A new transformer installed on December 3 turned out to be faulty, necessitating its replacement. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 11 the unit was operating at 25 percent.

[http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/12/oyster\\_creek\\_nuclear\\_plan\\_must.html](http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2010/12/oyster_creek_nuclear_plan_must.html)

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=12365227>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **TVA's 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 2 in Alabama Reduced to 60 Percent by December 11, at Full Power by December 12**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 10 the unit was operating at full power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Update: Wolf Creek Nuclear's 1,165 MW Wolf Creek Nuclear Unit 1 in Kansas at Full Power by December 12**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 11 the unit was operating at 72 percent. Operators began shutting the unit on December 6 because a snag prevented it from restarting an emergency diesel generator (EDG) within the required time frame.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Update: AES's 225 MW Huntington Beach Gas-Fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by December 10**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage by December 10.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201012101515.html>

### **Calpine's 593 MW Metcalf Gas-Fired Unit in California Reduced by December 11, Returns to Service by December 12**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned curtailment of 343 MW by December 11. The unit reported a return to service by December 12.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201012111515.html>

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201012121515.html>

### **Xcel's 540 MW Tolk Coal-Fired Unit 1 in Texas Ramps Up Following Tube Leak Repairs December 12**

The unit had been shut to perform tube leak repairs, clean parts of the boiler, and perform inspections.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147660>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-12/xcel-to-start-coal-fired-texas-unit-after-maintenance-work.html?cmpid=yahoo>

### **AEP's 528 MW Welsh Coal-Fired Unit 3 in Texas Shut December 11**

Reuters, 10:10 December 13, 2010

### **EPA Emissions Reductions Regulations Could Force Retirement of 30,000 to 70,000 MW of Coal-Fired Power Generation over Several Years: FBR Capital Markets**

According to the report by FBR Capital Markets, the exact amount retired will depend on the price of natural gas and the severity of the emissions reductions rules.

Reuters, 12:08 December 13, 2010

### **Tank Fire at Occidental Petroleum's Elk Hills, California Oil Field Leads to Evacuations December 13**

The fire was located in a tank associated with one of the company's wells, not in the well itself. It was extinguished later in the morning.

Reuters, 10:33 December 13, 2010

Reuters, 11:15 December 13, 2010

### **Emissions Reported at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery during Boiler Maintenance December 10**

In a filing with state regulators, Alon USA Energy reported emissions stemming from maintenance of the electrostatic precipitator (ESP) boiler.

Reuters, 17:53 December 10, 2010

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148360>

### **Update: Enbridge's 670,000 b/d Line 6A in Alberta Returns to Service December 12**

The line had been closed on December 7 for scheduled integrity tests.

Reuters, 09:59 December 13, 2010

### **New York Issues Hours-of-Service Exemption for Propane and Fuel Oil Deliveries December 8-20**

New York's Department of Transportation suspended hours-of-service regulations for the delivery of propane and fuel oil on December 8. The order lasts until December 20.

[http://www.npga.org/files/public/New\\_York\\_120810.pdf](http://www.npga.org/files/public/New_York_120810.pdf)

### **Update: Work on Gasoline-Making Fluid Catalytic Cracker at Valero's 144,000 b/d Benicia, California Refinery Taking Longer than Anticipated**

The unit went down on December 7 for repairs.

Reuters, 10:47 December 13, 2010

### **Cenovus Investing to Increase Production in Canada to 240,000 b/d by 2019**

Cenovus plans to invest up to about \$2.07 billion in oil projects and refinery operations in 2011. Up \$750 million will go towards the Foster Creek and Christina Lake projects, which are joint-ventures with ConocoPhillips, while \$190 million will go towards developing oil sands at Narrows Lake, Grand Rapids, and Telephone Lake. Cenovus plans to increase its production to 300,000 b/d by 2019, compared to about 60,000 b/d currently.

<http://www.alaskahighwaynews.ca/article/GB/20101209/CP07/312099933/-1/fortstjohn/cenovus-energy-to-invest-up-to-23-billion-in-2011-with-focus-on&template=cpArt>

### **Despite OECD Refinery Closures, World Still Faces Refinery Surplus: IEA Report, December 10**

The International Energy Agency (IEA) revised its forecast for global crude refining capacity upwards by 200,000 b/d, even as refineries are closed in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) region. IEA now predicts global capacity to increase by 9.2 MMb/d from 2009 to 2015.

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=24990](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=24990)

## **Natural Gas**

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### **Fire and Gas Release at CIG's Latigo Storage Field in Colorado December 12**

Colorado Interstate Gas Company (CIG) is responding to a fire and a release of natural gas at its Latigo Storage Field. The fire has not impacted deliveries to customers.

<http://ebb.cigco.com/ebbmastertpage/Notices/NoticesAutoTable.aspx?code=CIG&status=Notice&name=Critical%20Notices&sParam1=0088&sParam3=8232&sParam14=D&details=Y>

## **Pressure Drop in Gas Main Cuts Gas Supplies to 950 Columbia Gas Customers in Methuen, Massachusetts December 9-10**

As a result of the outage, all public schools in the city were set to be closed December 10. There were no reports of injuries, and the gas main was not damaged by the drop in pressure.

<http://www.eagletribune.com/local/x1312703789/Update-Gas-service-crews-may-have-to-break-into-homes>

## **Construction Set to Begin on 113 MMcf/d Compressors at Cabot's Lathrop Compressor Station in Texas after Receiving Its Air Quality Permit December 13**

Cabot Oil & Gas plans to have the three new compressors operational by mid-February 2011. They will jointly have a capacity of 105-to-120 MMcf/d.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/External.File?item=UGFyZW50SUQ9NzQwNzI8Q2hpbGRJRD0tMXxUeXBIPtM=&t=1>

## **Update: New York Halts Hydraulic Fracturing ("Fracking") Process of Drilling for Natural Gas December 11**

Governor David Paterson issued the moratorium, which will last until at least July 1, as an executive order. The order is designed to give the government time to investigate the effects of hydraulic fracturing on the state's water supply. On the same day, Governor Paterson also vetoed a bill that would have temporarily banned more conventional forms of drilling for natural gas as well.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/AP5564194365154543bc7e9e283d152270.html>

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/12/13/new.york.fracking.moratorium/>

## **Three Miles of West Wichita Gas Gathering's Pipeline Shut Following Vehicle Collision and Fire in Sylvia, Kansas December 11**

The collision damaged a 4-inch riser pipe which in turn connected to a 6-inch pipe. The damaged pipe is part of a 20-to-30 mile-long pipeline in Reno County.

<http://hutchnews.com/Localregional/pipeline-crash--2>

## **Other News**

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### **Mechel Bluestone's 3 Million Tonne/Year K2 Coal Processing Plant Enters Service in West Virginia December 13**

The plant will wash coal mined at the Keystone Operations. The plant is initially planned to process over 1 million tonnes of coal per year.

GNW, 08:01 December 13, 2010

## **Energy Prices**

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<b>U.S. Oil and Gas Prices</b> December 13, 2010			
	<b>Today</b>	<b>Week Ago</b>	<b>Year Ago</b>
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	88.42	88.87	69.91
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	4.55	4.23	5.02

Source: Reuters

**Unplanned Flaring Reported at ConocoPhillips' 139,000 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery December 10 – Flaring Not Caused by Equipment Failure**

Reuters, 15:32 December 10, 2010

**ExxonMobil Completes Expansion of World's Largest CO2 Capture Plant in LaBarge, Wyoming to 365 MMcf/d by December 10**

[http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/exxonmobil/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news\\_view&ndmConfigId=1001106&newsId=20101210005689&newsLang=en](http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/exxonmobil/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&ndmConfigId=1001106&newsId=20101210005689&newsLang=en)

**Tanker Explosion Kills One, Injures One at West Penn Energy Services Site in Plumcreek Township, Pennsylvania December 9**

[http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/valleynewsdispatch/lifestyles/s\\_713020.html#](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/valleynewsdispatch/lifestyles/s_713020.html#)

**Malaysia and Brunei End 2003 Border Dispute, Agree to Jointly Develop Two Oil Areas Offshore Borneo**

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=102104](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=102104)

**BP Delays Plans to Drill Offshore Libya until 2011 after Deciding to Switch Rigs Due to “Operational Reasons”**

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=102071](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=102071)

**Canadian Solar and SkyPower Plan Two Solar Parks Totaling 18.5 MW in Ontario**

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=196781&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1506768&highlight>

**DCP Reroutes VRU Sales to Flaring Due to High Oxygen Content in the Gas at Floyd Tank Battery in Texas December 10**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148375>

**High Discharge Temperature Causes Turbine to Go Down at Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas December 10**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148361>

**Expander Failure at Roberts Ranch Plant Causes High Discharge Pressure at West Credo Booster Station in Texas, Shutting #1 & 2 West Credo Units December 11**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148378>

**Expander Valve Control Problems Shut Recompessors, Amine Plant, and AGI Compressor at Waha Gas Plant in Texas December 11**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148383>

**High Water Pressure in the Injection System Shuts Acid Gas Compressor at Waha Gas Plant in Texas December 12**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148389>

**No. 1 Big Foot Compressor Shut after No. 1 Cylinder Discharge Temperature Alarm at Tilden Gas Plant in Texas December 12**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148384>

## Links

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***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](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.

### ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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

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