



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, December 15, 2015

Electricity

Update: Nearly 4,000 Customers Remain without Power in Oregon December 15 after Snowstorm Hits December 12–13

Power restoration was continuing to 25,000 Pacific Power and 9,000 Midstate Electric customers in southern Oregon after a snowstorm hit Saturday night and into Sunday. Pacific Power said it expected power to be restored by Tuesday. As of 3:30 p.m. EST, 3,523 Pacific Power and 448 Midstate Electric customers remained without power.

<https://www.pacificpower.net/ed/po/ooi.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/pacificpower>

<https://ebill.midstateelectric.coop/oms/outageMap>

<https://twitter.com/Midstatecoop>

<http://registerguard.com/rg/news/local/33855901-75/utility-crews-make-progress-against-power-outages-in-southern-central-oregon.html.csp>

Central Hudson Reports Over 10,000 Customers without Power in New York after Tree Falls on Transmission Line December 15

More than 10,000 Central Hudson customers in Ulster and Orange counties were without power Tuesday morning after a tree fell on a transmission line. Central Hudson expected to have power restored to most customers by 11 a.m. EST. As of 3:30 p.m. EST Tuesday, 39 customers remained without power.

<http://stormcentral.cenhud.com/default.aspx>

<http://www.recordonline.com/article/20151215/NEWS/151219649>

Entergy's 979 MW Indian Point Nuclear Unit 3 in New York Shut December 14

Entergy Corp said unit 3 at its Indian Point nuclear power plant automatically shut from full power on Monday after an electrical disturbance on the non-nuclear side of the plant. The company did not provide any timeframe for restarting the unit.

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

Reuters, 7:58 December 15, 2015

Update: TVA's 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 3 in Alabama Ramps Up to 94 Percent by December 15

On the morning of December 14 the unit was operating at 75 percent, reduced from 95 percent on December 13.

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

Entergy's 836 MW Arkansas Nuclear Unit 1 in Arkansas Reduced to 65 Percent by December 15

On the morning of December 14 the unit was operating at full power.

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

Duke Energy to Build Two Solar Projects Totaling 75 MW in North Carolina

Duke Energy today announced plans to build the 60 MW Monroe Solar Facility in Union County and the 15.4 MW Mocksville Solar Facility in Davie County, North Carolina. If approved by the North Carolina Utilities Commission, both projects will begin construction in March, with completion targeted for the end of 2016.

<http://news.duke-energy.com/releases/duke-energy-to-build-two-major-solar-projects-in-north-carolina-totalling-75-megawatts>

Petroleum

HollyFrontier Cuts Production Rates at Its 138,000 b/d El Dorado, Kansas Refinery

December 14 – Source

HollyFrontier cut crude unit rates at its El Dorado, Kansas refinery by 40,000 b/d after a hole was discovered in a sulfur recovery unit (SRU), according to a source familiar with the plant's operations. The SRU was shut for repairs, resulting in the production cuts within the crude unit, the source said, adding it's currently unknown how long the shutdown will last. The company notified state officials of a unit upset on December 12.

Reuters, 16:40 December 14, 2015

Flaring Due to Malfunction Reported at Valero's 335,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery

December 11 – Sources

A Friday malfunction that triggered flaring at Valero Energy Corp's Port Arthur, Texas refinery was due to a pressure drop on a line supplying the 45,000 b/d hydrocracking unit (HCU) 942, sources familiar with plant operations said on Monday. The pressure drop on a charge line to the hydrocracker, one of two at the refinery, was corrected by Saturday, according to a report by energy industry intelligence service Genscape.

Reuters, 19:06 December 14, 2015

Flint Hills Reports Hydrotreater Unit Shut at Its 293,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas

Refinery December 14

Flint Hills Resources on Monday reported flames were discovered coming from the Hydrotreater Diesel (DHT-D) heater stack at its Corpus Christi East refinery. The DHT-D unit was shut down.

Reuters, 19:20 December 14, 2015

Valero Starting Up New Crude Topping Unit at Its 205,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas

Valero Energy Corp was starting up the first of two new crude topping units at a pair of its Texas refineries to increase light crude processing capability, a company spokesman said on Monday. The 70,000 b/d unit at the company's Corpus Christi refinery will not increase overall capacity, but will increase ability to run lighter crudes. A second 90,000 b/d topping unit remains on track to start up at Valero's 100,000 b/d Houston refinery in the first half of 2016.

Reuters, 15:32 December 14, 2015

Natural Gas

Update: SoCalGas Begins Drilling Relief Wells in Order to Plug Methane Leak at its 86 Bcf Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Field in California

Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) on Friday began drilling the first of two relief wells to stem the flow of methane gas, after a leak was discovered on October 23 from a 40-year old well at its 86 Bcf Aliso Canyon storage field in Los Angeles County. Since October, there have been no indications that the leak is impacting storage withdrawals in other sections of the reservoir, nor any concerns about loss of storage resources for the winter season. SoCalGas plans to pump fluids and cement through the relief wells into the leaking well to stop the flow and permanently seal it but drilling and completion efforts could take at least three months. Authorities estimate the rupture in the well is emitting 100,000 pounds of methane gas into the air per hour. The company has been working with multiple engineering firms and county health officials to continually monitor the air in the area, as more than 1,800 families have sought relocation due to odors in the affected area.

<http://sempra.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=19080&item=137099>

<https://www.alisoupdates.com/main>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Iraq Basra Crude Exports to Rise to 3.4 Million b/d in January – Trade Sources

Iraq plans to export about 3.4 million b/d of Basra crude from its southern oil terminals in January, up 17.2 percent from the previous month, trade sources said on Monday. The rise in January exports is driven by Basra Light as exports of the lighter grade could hit 2.61 million b/d, up about 23 percent from the previous month. Basra Heavy crude exports in January would be at 750,000 b/d, steady from the previous month, the sources said.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=50320

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
December 15, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	37.27	37.41	56.80
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	1.69	2.03	3.58

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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