



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, December 16, 2015

Electricity

Winter Storm Knocks Out Power to Over 10,000 NB Power Customers in New Brunswick December 15

Heavy snow and high winds bringing blizzard conditions knocked out power to over 10,000 NB Power customers in New Brunswick Tuesday night. The utility said it anticipates the majority of customers to have power restored by tonight, although the continuing weather conditions were slowing progress. As of 3:00 p.m. EST Wednesday, 2,027 customers remained without power.

https://twitter.com/nb_power

<http://www.nbpower.com/Open/Outages.aspx>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/kalin-mitchell-weather-new-brunswick-1.3365473>

Update: No Restart Timetable for Entergy's 979 MW Indian Point Nuclear Unit 3 in New York, Governor Orders Investigation December 16

Entergy said there was no timetable yet for powering up its Indian Point unit 3, which automatically shut Monday night due to a disturbance on the non-nuclear side of the plant related to a high voltage transmission line. Governor Andrew Cuomo ordered the state's Department of Public Service to investigate the latest unexpected incident at the facility, which supplies about one-quarter of the power used in New York City and Westchester County. The Indian Point 2 reactor was shut down for three days earlier this month due to a tripped circuit breaker. An Entergy spokesperson said the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspectors were on site to review operator actions and equipment response to the shutdown. He added that operators responded as trained, and equipment operated as designed following the shutdown. Both of the plant's reactors are now operating past the end of their original licensing period. Entergy is seeking to relicense their operations, while Cuomo and others are pushing for the plant to be shut down.

<http://www.lohud.com/story/news/local/indian-point/2015/12/15/indian-point-reactor-shutdown/77372728/>

TVA's 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 2 in Alabama Reduced to 84 Percent by December 16

On the morning of December 15 the unit was operating at full power.

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

Entergy's 836 MW Arkansas Nuclear Unit 1 in Arkansas Shut December 15

The unit shut from 65 percent due to loss of feed to one steam generator.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20151216en.html>

AES's 498 MW Alamosa Gas-fired Unit 5 in California Shut by December 15

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201512151515.html>

AES's 495 MW Alamosa Gas-fired Unit 6 in California Shut by December 15

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201512151515.html>

Alta Wind's 102 MW Unit 4 in California Shut by December 15

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201512151515.html>

PCWA's 177 MW Colgate Hydro Unit 1 in California Shut by December 15

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201512151515.html>

BlueWave, MS Solar Solutions to Develop 25 MW Community Solar Portfolio in Massachusetts

BlueWave and MS Solar Solutions Corp, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Morgan Stanley, on December 7 announced they will develop, co-invest, and jointly own a Community Solar portfolio of more than 25 MW in Massachusetts scheduled for completion in 2016. The relationship with Morgan Stanley represents BlueWave's first major financing for its Community Solar product, a product it plans to launch elsewhere in the U.S. in 2016.

<http://bluewave-capital.com/2015/12/bluewave-secures-100-million-from-morgan-stanley-to-fund-community-solar-in-massachusetts/>

New York, New England ISOs Streamline Energy Exchange between Regions

The New York Independent System Operator (ISO) and ISO New England Inc. on Tuesday implemented the Coordinated Transaction Scheduling (CTS) interregional market system that will streamline electric energy transactions and improve the flow of power between the two markets. CTS makes more efficient use of the transmission lines by enabling market participants to access the lowest-cost source of power between the two regions. Enhancements include increasing the frequency of scheduling energy transactions over the transmission network between regions, software changes so the two ISOs can better coordinate selection of the most economic transactions, and the elimination of several fees that impede efficient trade between New York and New England. With these changes, higher-cost generation can be displaced by lower-cost generation, wherever the lower-cost supply is located.

http://www.nyiso.com/public/webdocs/media_room/press_releases/2015/FINAL_2%20ISONE_NYISO_Coordinate%20Transaction_Go%20Live_121615.pdf

Duke Energy Proposing On-Site Coal Ash Landfill at Its Retired W.S. Lee Station in South Carolina

Duke Energy Carolinas started the permitting process to safely manage coal ash at its retired W.S. Lee Station in Belton, South Carolina, by constructing a fully lined on-site landfill. It will be located on existing plant property and will provide a permanent storage solution for approximately 2.2 million tons of coal ash remaining at the site. Duke Energy announced in 2014 its intention to excavate coal ash from two ash basins and a structural fill area on the property. The landfill will feature multiple layers of synthetic and natural barriers. Coal ash will be stored dry in the landfill with a protective capping system installed on top—effectively containing the ash and separating it from surrounding soil and groundwater. The W.S. Lee Steam Station officially retired as a coal plant in 2014, with units 1 and 2 being decommissioned, and unit 3 converted to burn natural gas.

<http://news.duke-energy.com/releases/duke-energy-proposing-on-site-coal-ash-landfill-at-w-s-lee-station>
<https://www.duke-energy.com/power-plants/coal-fired/lee.asp>

Petroleum

Marathon Confirms Vapor Release at Its 120,000 b/d Detroit, Michigan Refinery December 15

Marathon Petroleum Corp on Tuesday reported an alarm sounded at its Detroit, Michigan refinery as a result of a vapor release. The company said the release was quickly stopped and there were no injuries or offsite impact. Reuters, 9:22 December 16, 2015

Shell Reports Unit Upset at Its 316,600 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery December 16

Royal Dutch Shell Plc reported a unit upset at its Deer Park, Texas refinery caused a flow of water into Patricks Bayou, according to a message from a community alerting system. Reuters, 5:07 December 16, 2015

Tesoro Reports Its 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery Operating at Reduced Rates December 15

Tesoro Corp on Tuesday said its Martinez, California, refinery experienced a loss of its primary steam generation unit which caused upsets in several process units, according to a filing with Contra Costa Health Services. The steam generation unit was put back online and the refinery was in stable condition at reduced rates. Reuters, 17:22 December 15, 2015

Kinder Morgan Files Final Argument for 590,000 b/d Trans Mountain Crude Oil Pipeline Expansion from Alberta to British Columbia December 15

Kinder Morgan Inc filed its final written argument for the Trans Mountain crude oil pipeline expansion project with Canadian regulators on Tuesday, in a bid to gain approval for shipping more oil sands crude to the Pacific Coast. The pipeline currently ships 300,000 b/d of crude from Edmonton, Alberta, to Burnaby, British Columbia. The proposed expansion will increase capacity to 890,000 b/d, providing more access to Asian markets. Lawyers for the pipeline will deliver their oral summary of the final argument to the National Energy Board in Calgary on Thursday. http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=50336

Diesel Tankers Turn Around in Mid-Atlantic as European Storage Fills

Tankers laden with diesel heading from the U.S. Gulf Coast to Europe are turning around in mid-ocean as European storage is nearly filled to the brim. At least three 37,000 metric ton tankers—Vendome Street, Atlantic Star, and Atlantic Titan—have turned around in the Atlantic Ocean in recent days and are now heading back west, according to Reuters ship tracking data. It is unclear if the tankers will discharge their diesel cargoes in the Gulf Coast or will await new orders, according to traders and shipping brokers. European diesel prices and refining margins have collapsed in recent days to six-year lows as the market has been overwhelmed by imports from huge refineries in the United States, Russia, Asia, and the Middle East. At the same time, unusually mild temperatures in Europe and North America further limited demand for diesel and heating oil. http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=50337

U.S. Crude Stocks Rise Unexpectedly as Inventory Builds – EIA

U.S. crude stocks rose last week, surprising analysts who expected a decline in the week, as gasoline and distillate inventories also increased, data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) showed on Wednesday. Crude inventories rose by 4.8 million barrels in the last week, compared with analysts' expectations for a decrease of 1.4 million barrels. Crude stocks at the Cushing, Oklahoma, delivery hub rose by 607,000 barrels, EIA said. Refinery utilization rates fell by 1.2 percentage points. Reuters, 10:34 December 16, 2015

Navigator Energy Tightens Tariff Language after Receipt of Contaminated Crude

Navigator Energy will tighten language in its Texas pipeline tariff pertaining to crude quality specifications after the receipt of contaminated crude prompted a complete shutdown of its Big Spring truck injection station. The revised tariff applies to shipments of crude from various points in West Texas to the Big Spring truck terminal near Midland. The Big Spring Gateway System services producers in the Permian Basin of West Texas. An expansion on the system, which will bring total throughput to 160,000 b/d, is expected to be complete by December 2015. Reuters, 12:12 December 16, 2015

Natural Gas

Graham County Utilities Reports Natural Gas Outage in Thatcher, Arizona December 16

Graham County Utilities Inc.'s on Wednesday morning reported the emergency shutdown of its natural gas lines in Thatcher, Arizona due to colder than average weather and increased demand. The utility's Assistant General Manager said that condensation due to an increase of natural gas through the lines at the regulator and meter stations likely froze over and caused a drop in pressure in the gas line. After the regulator stations were shut down, the co-op and those assisting it started going door-to-door to shut down individual meters. After all the meters are shut down, the utility will re-pressurize the system and turn the meters back on. The utility said the process to re-pressurize the lines and get the gas flowing again could take into the evening and maybe even into tomorrow. http://www.eacourier.com/news/natural-gas-outage-in-thatcher-could-last-until-thursday/article_77de49e8-a414-11e5-88e5-f7573ba4f6b2.html

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
December 16, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	36.51	37.11	55.92
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	1.64	1.98	3.66

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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