



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, December 17, 2009

Electricity

Transmission Line Failure Knocks Out Power to more than 30,000 Customers in North Carolina December 17

A transmission line failure forced offline multiple substations and knocked out power to an estimated 17,710 Duke Energy customers and 14,000 Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative customers in North Carolina on December 17, multiple sources reported. The affected 100 kV line—owned by Duke Energy—went down for unknown reasons early on December 17. About 1,000 Blue Ridge Electric customers and fewer than 200 Duke Energy customers remained without power, as of latest reports.

<http://www.duke-energy.com/outages/stats/>

http://www2.wspa.com/spa/news/local/article/widespread_power_outages_in_greenville_and_pickens_counties_friday_morning/30982/

<http://www.wyff4.com/news/21990470/detail.html>

SCE&G's 966 MW Summer Nuke Unit in South Carolina Shut by December 17

Operators shut the unit due to “a failure of the steam dump system,” the company said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 16 the unit was operating at 81 percent.

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

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Update: FPL's 1,155 MW Seabrook Nuke Unit 1 in New Hampshire Ramped Up to 9 Percent by December 17

The company shut the unit to replace a vibrating turbine rotor by December 7, a previous news source said. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 16 the unit was not operating.

http://news.bostonherald.com/business/general/view/20091207seabrook_nuclear_plant_shut_down_for_repair/srv=home&position=recent

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Luminant to Shut 591 MW Sandow Coal-fired Unit 4 in Texas December 17-18

The company expected to shut the unit for preheater repairs from December 17-18, it said in a filing with state regulators.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=133325>

Update: Appalachian Power Receives 30-Year License Extension to Operate 636 MW Smith Mountain Hydroelectric Power Facility in Virginia December 15

Appalachian Power received a 30-year license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to operate its existing 636 MW Smith Mountain Pumped Storage Project in Virginia on December 15, it said in a release. The facility opened in 1964. Its current, 50-year license expires on March 31, 2010.

<https://www.appalachianpower.com/info/news/viewRelease.aspx?releaseID=789>

Power4Georgians Plans 850 MW Ben Hill Coal-fired Power Plant in Georgia

Power4Georgians aims to construct an 850 MW coal-fired power plant in Ben Hill County, Georgia, but at least one company official says the project is far from certain, according to a news source. The facility would be in addition to the company's previously-announced plans to construct the 850 MW "Plant Washington" coal-fired facility in Washington County, Georgia.

<http://power4georgians.com/generation.aspx#WaCtyPwr>

<http://www.gpb.org/news/2009/12/16/coal-plant-proposed-in-s-ga>

Petroleum

Snag Delays Unit Startup at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery December 16

"Instrumentation problems" postponed the startup of a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas refinery on December 16, the company said in a filing with state regulators. The filing did not say when the unit went offline.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=133342>

Fire Slashes Production by 120,000-to-150,000 b/d at Suncor Energy's Oil Sands Upgrader in Fort McMurray, Alberta December 15

The blaze affected one of two on-site upgraders, but was extinguished within one hour, Suncor Energy said in a release. The company expected repairs to take two to four weeks, and force offline some 120,000-to-150,000 b/d of production. It did not, however, expect the downtime to affect its 2009 production outlook of 290,000-to-305,000 b/d.

<http://www.suncor.com/en/newsroom/2418.aspx?id=3311>

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKN1716449320091217>

Petrobras-led Group Eyes 2013 Start-Date for Planned 120,000 b/d Guara Oilfield Offshore Brazil

Petrobras, Repsol, and BG Group plan to produce 120,000 b/d of oil at the Guara field offshore Brazil, beginning in 2013, a news source said.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=84246

Natural Gas

Update: El Paso Operates Natural Gas Pipeline at Sharply-Reduced Pressure after November 5 Explosion in Texas—Aims to Relocate Affected Segment

El Paso Natural Gas Company planned to change out and re-route its natural gas pipeline through Bushland, Texas after an explosion along the line in early November, it said on December 15. The company would likely have had to replace the line in the near future—regardless of the explosion—due to population growth and associated regulations. El Paso continued to operate the line at significantly reduced pressure, as of latest reports, despite regulatory approval to run it at 80 percent. The company cited local "discomfort" in its decision to curtail the line. The explosion occurred due to "an upward force on the branch connection that put pressure on a small area on the carrier pipe that contained a 'lamination,'" El Paso said. The incident was not the result of corrosion, weld problems, a leak or a rupture, it said. It was not clear what led to the "upward force."

<http://www.elpaso.com/Bushlandinfo/>

<http://www.newschannel10.com/Global/story.asp?S=11690274>

Spectra Energy Restores 210,000 Dth of Compressor Capacity along Texas Eastern Natural Gas Pipeline in Pennsylvania by December 17

Spectra Energy restored 210,000 Dth of capacity at its Shermansdale, Pennsylvania compressor station, but about 170,000 Dth remained offline after an outage last week, the company said on its website. It was not clear if the shutdown had any further impact on the associated 6.7 Bcf/d, 9,200-mile, Gulf Coast-to-Northeast Texas Eastern natural gas pipeline system.

<http://infopost.spectraenergy.com/infopost/NoticeDetail.asp?strKey1=20475&type=CRI&pipe=TE>

Reuters, 11:28 December 17, 2009

Natural Gas Prices Jump Almost 7 Percent as Cold Weather Triggers Record Supply Cut December 17

Natural gas prices for January delivery rose 35.8 cents today after the Energy Information Administration (EIA) said domestic gas inventories slid by 207 Bcf during the week ended December 11, a news source said. The 207 Bcf figure marked the largest-such withdrawal for the affected period, one analyst said. Still, storage totals remained well above the five-year average.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=9359243>

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/natural_gas/ngs/ngs.html

Other News

Advanced Energy Industries Opens 250 MW/Year Solar Photovoltaic Inverter Manufacturing Facility in Colorado

The facility is expandable to 1 GW/year, according to the company.

http://www.advanced-energy.com/en/news_2009_12_16.html

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices December 17, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	71.86	69.98	41.42
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	5.57	5.27	5.75

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

American Capital Energy Plans 20 MW Solar Photovoltaic Power Facility in Nevada—Facility to Enter Service by End of 2011

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Public-Utilities-Commission-bw-1768499943.html?x=0&.v=1>

Fotowatio Subsidiary Plans to Open 26 MW Solar Photovoltaic Power Plant in Nevada by End of 2011

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Public-Utilities-Commission-bw-1768499943.html?x=0&.v=1>

Energenic Plans 11 MW Landfill Gas-fired Power Project at Apex Regional Landfill in Nevada—Site to Begin Production by 2011's End

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Public-Utilities-Commission-bw-1768499943.html?x=0&.v=1>

Biomass Gas & Electric Plans to Gassify Biomass to Power 47 MW “Northwest Florida Renewable Energy Center” — Expects to Break Ground in Second Quarter of 2010, Open Facility 18-to-24 Months Later

http://www.biomassmagazine.com/article.jsp?article_id=3337

Thieves Take Copper from Five Clarksville Department of Electricity Substations in Tennessee by December 15

<http://www.newschannel5.com/Global/story.asp?S=11683006>

Companies Store More Oil at Sea as Global Supply Outpaces Demand—Floating Oil and Product Storage, Oil in Transit Jumps by 41 Million Barrels in November 2009

<http://www.energyintel.com/#latest>

Brazilian Subsalt Region May Contain 50-to-80 Billion Boe—National Petroleum Agency

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=84246

City Council Okays DKRW Energy's Planned 11,000-to-35,000 b/d Coal-to-Diesel-and-Naphtha Medicine Bow Project in Wyoming by December 17

<http://www.dkrwadvancedfuels.com/fw/main/Overview-46.html>

<http://www.localnews8.com/Global/story.asp?S=11692851>

FERC Accepts Magnum Gas Storage, LLC Application for Planned 42 Bcf Natural Gas Storage Facility and Associated 36-inch, 61.5-mile Pipeline in Utah by December 16

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/magnum-gas-storage-application-accepted-by-ferc-for-construction-of-a-high-deliverability-salt-cavern-storage-facility-in-central-utah-79417282.html>

Boardwalk Pipeline Receives PHMSA Approval to Operate 42-inch East Texas, Southeast Expansion, and Gulf Crossing Natural Gas Pipelines in U.S. Gulf Coast Region at Full Design Pressure

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=193443&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1366603>

Update: FERC Okays Fort Chicago Energy Partners and Energy Projects Development's Planned 1 Bcf/d Jordan Cove LNG Terminal in Oregon—FERC Also Approves Williams, PG&E and Fort Chicago's Proposed, Associated 234-mile Oregon-to-California Pipeline

DJN, 11:34 December 17, 2009

Links

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

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>

Please direct comments and questions to: ead@oe.netl.doe.gov