



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, December 19, 2011

Electricity

Numerous Reactor Shutdowns Prompt Special NRC Inspections of TVA's 2,274 MW Sequoyah Nuclear Plant in Tennessee

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued a "white" safety finding to the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Sequoyah nuclear plant near Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee—the first level of safety concerns that triggers federal inspections—according to news reports late last week. The NRC notified the plant of its finding in a letter in November, according to reports, after the plant's Unit 1 reactor had its fourth unplanned scram in less than a year. NRC guidelines permit only three unplanned shutdowns in 7,000 operating hours. A fifth shutdown has occurred at the plant since the NRC issued the finding in November, a TVA spokesman told reporters. The spokesman said there is no indication the scrams are related, but the company will investigate the root causes.

<http://timesfreepress.com/news/2011/dec/15/nrc-flags-sequoyah-plant-over-shutdowns/>

Update: Both Units Restart at Duke Energy's 2,258 MW Catawba Nuclear Power Plant in South Carolina December 17–18, Ramp Up to Full Power by December 19

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that Units 1 and 2, each 1,129 MW, had shut by December 16. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Update: Constellation's 1,120 MW Nine Mile Point Nuclear Unit 2 in New York at Full Power by December 19

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 18 the unit was operating at 88 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Update: Entergy's 730 MW Palisades Nuclear Unit in Michigan Ramped Up to 98 Percent by December 17

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that the unit restarted and ramped up to 22 percent by the morning of December 16.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Update: Entergy's 966 MW River Bend Nuclear Unit 1 in Louisiana Ramped Up to 92 Percent by December 17

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 16 the unit was operating at 63 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Update: San Miguel Restarts 410 MW San Miguel Coal-Fired Unit in Texas December 16

Operators restarted the unit Friday after repairing a tube leak at the overfire air port, which caused the unit to trip last Wednesday.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162856>

Update: AES's 175 MW Alamitos Gas-Fired Unit 2 in California Returns to Service by December 16

The unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201112161515.html>

PG&E's 154 MW Kerkhoff Hydro Unit 1 in California Reduced by December 16

The unit entered an unplanned curtailment of 114 MW.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201112161515.html>

Update: DATC to Continue Development of 500 kV Zephyr Power Transmission Project to Deliver 3,000 MW of Wind-Generated Power from Wyoming to California, U.S. Southwest

Duke-American Transmission Co. (DATC) has acquired the Zephyr Power Transmission Project and will continue the design and development of the proposed 950-mile transmission line that would deliver wind energy generated in eastern Wyoming to California and the southwestern United States. DATC acquired the Zephyr Power Transmission Project from a subsidiary of Pathfinder Renewable Wind Energy LLC. Pathfinder is developing a wind power project on more than 100,000 acres near Chugwater, Wyoming and has committed to use at least 2,100 MW of the Zephyr project's 3,000 MW capacity. The Zephyr project would originate in Chugwater and terminate in the Eldorado Valley just south of Las Vegas, Nevada. The 500 kV high-voltage direct current project will include an AC/DC converter station at each terminus. In 2012, DATC will continue its studies, begin environmental analysis, and design routing and siting before seeking regulatory approvals. If approved, the transmission line would be in service in 2020.

<http://www.datc.com/news-releases/datc-project-to-deliver-wyoming-wind-power-to-california-and-southwestern-united-states/>

Update: Pattern Energy Receives Key FERC Approvals for 3,000 MW Southern Cross Transmission Project to Deliver Wind-Generated Power from Texas to U.S. Southeast

Pattern Energy Group LP today announced that its Southern Cross transmission project has obtained two key regulatory orders from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Pattern is developing the Southern Cross project to add a high voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission tie of up to 3,000 MW between the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) and the transmission grid deep in the southeastern United States by 2016.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/patterns-southern-cross-transmission-project-receives-key-ferc-approvals-135852828.html>

Petroleum

Delayed Coker Snag Leads to Flaring at Valero's 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery December 18

Valero Energy Corp. reported that operations on a delayed coking unit (DCU) were normal despite a snag on Sunday afternoon at its refinery in Port Arthur, Texas, according to a spokesman Monday. The company said that the DCU blew a water seal, which caused a release of wet gas through a flare, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were trying to secure the release at the time of the filing.

Reuters, 12:21 December 19, 2011

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=998433

ExxonMobil Reports Naphtha Line Leak at Its 572,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery December 17

ExxonMobil Corp. said on Monday that its operations at the Baytown refinery were not impacted from a leak in a naphtha line on a crude light ends unit. The company reported the leak on Saturday.

Reuters, 09:39 December 19, 2011

Sunoco Starts Boiler at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery December 11

Sunoco Inc. started up the No. 37 boiler in the Girard Point section of its Philadelphia refinery on December 11, Philadelphia pollution regulators said on Friday.

Reuters, 17:00 December 16, 2011

Exterran Reports Multiple Unit Shutdowns Due to Bad Fuel, Equipment Malfunctions at Its 50 MMcf/d Reinecke Gas Plant in Texas December 16–18

Exterran reported several unit shutdowns on December 16–17 at the plant due to fuel with high CO2 levels. Operators adjusted the CO2 levels in the fuel and restarted Units 70972, 70792, 74156, 71050, 77081, and 71850, according to multiple filings with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The company also reported that Unit 71050 shut down on December 17 due to high scrubber level; the product stabilizer had a blockage from ice. Operators warmed up the stabilizer and removed the hydrate blockage. On December 18 the same unit shut down on low oil compressor pressure. Operators sped up the RPMs and replaced the starter to restart the unit.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162886>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162879>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162881>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162882>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162884>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162885>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162888>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162887>

AGI Units Shut during Startup Procedures at Enbridge's Tilden Gas Plant in Texas December 18

Enbridge reported that its acid gas injector (AGI) No. 2 was offline Sunday due to low gas volumes. When volumes increased enough to require operators to restart AGI No. 2, the unit stumbled during the restarting sequence and both AGI Nos. 1 and 2 shut down. Operators reset and restarted the units, minimizing emissions by placing the units into service as soon as conditions permitted.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162871>

Amerada Hess Reports Membrane Separation Unit Malfunction at Its Seminole Gas Processing Plant in Texas December 17

Amerada Hess Corporation reported an unexpected failure of the membrane separation unit (MSU) DEPG solvent stripper overhead acid gas blower on Saturday, according to a filing with state regulators. DEPG, or Dimethyl Ethers of Polyethylene Glycol, is a solvent used for gas treatment. Operators are investigating the cause of the failure. The spare blower is down for repairs, as well. Operators made temporary adjustments to limit the amount of acid gas generated, which allowed most of the MSU DEPG stripper acid gas to flow to the sulfur recovery units and to flare.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162872>

Compressor Failure Leads to Flaring at Chevron's North Riley Central Battery in Texas December 16, Causes Midmar Gas Plant to Shut-In Production

Chevron Midcontinent LP reported emergency flaring due to a compressor failure on Friday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators repaired the problem within a couple of hours, according to the filing. The compressor failure caused Chevron to ask nearby Midmar gas plant to shut-in gas until it could repair the problem.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162867>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162861>

Copano Processing Starts Lean Oil Unit at Its 700 MMcf/d Houston Central Gas Plant in Texas December 17

Operators started up the lean oil unit, starting the refrigeration system and adjusting flows and temperatures as quickly as possible, according to a filing from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162868>

Other News

Nothing to report

Energy Prices

| U.S. Oil and Gas Prices December 19, 2011 | | | |
|--|-------|----------|----------|
| | Today | Week Ago | Year Ago |
| CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel | 93.70 | 97.73 | 87.93 |
| NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu | 3.01 | 3.29 | 4.19 |

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Kolskaya Oil Rig Sinks in Storm off Russian Coast with 67 People Onboard December 18; Dozens Feared Dead

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=113461

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=113452

Windstorm Cuts Power to Nearly 14,000 Southern California Edison Customers in California December 16–17

<http://altadena.patch.com/articles/676-without-power-in-altadena>

High Winds Knock Out Power to 19,000 DTE Energy Customers in Metropolitan Detroit, Michigan December 16

<http://www.detnews.com/article/20111216/METRO/112160413/-1/mobilescore/High-winds-knock-out-power-thousands-Metro-Detroit>

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 EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://www.eia.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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