



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, December 24, 2008

## **Electricity**

---

### **Update: PGE Reports Outages Increase to 56,000 as Ice-Laden Tree Limbs Continue to Fall in Oregon December 24**

As of this morning, Portland General Electric (PGE) estimated that there were some 47,000 customers remaining without power from the severe storm that struck the region late last week which originally left more than 260,000 customers without power. According to the latest information on the company Internet site, despite restoration of 21,000 customers since 5:00 a.m. this morning, the outages have climbed to 56,000 as "snow- and ice-laden tree limbs are causing new outages even as crews repair previous damage".

<http://www.portlandgeneral.com/default.aspx>

<http://www.ktvz.com/Global/story.asp?S=9576445>

### **Luminant's 750 MW Texas Martin Lake Coal-fired Unit 2 in Texas Shut Dec 24**

The unit shut to fix a boiler tube leak. It usually takes a few days for this repair to be complete.

Reuters, 10:50 December 24, 2008

### **Update: Ameren Continues to Ramp up 1,190 MW Callaway Nuclear Reactor in Missouri December 23 and 24**

The unit shut last week due to a failed condensate pump. It was operating at 7 percent power on the morning on December 23 and 42 percent power by this morning, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported.

Bloomberg News, 07:15 December 23, 2008

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

### **Update: Entergy's 653 MW Pilgrim Nuke Unit 1 in Massachusetts Ramped Up to 100 Percent by December 24**

The unit shut due to a snow storm on December 19, a spokesman said previously. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 22 the unit was operating at 1 percent and as of yesterday morning was ramped up to 23 percent.

Bloomberg News, 07:05 December 23, 2008

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

### **Entergy's 841 MW Arkansas Nuke Unit 1 in Arkansas Ramps up to 98 Percent Power by December 24**

The unit was not operating yesterday morning according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

### **SCE Ramps up 1,000 MW Big Creek Hydroelectric Power Plant in California by December 23**

Southern California Edison's (SCE) Big Creek hydroelectric power plant curtailed by 686 MW by December 22 was only curtailed by 315 MW by December 24 according to the California ISO.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/>

### **Elk Hills Power's 552 MW Elk Hills Combined Cycle Gas-fired Unit in California Ramps up to Full Capacity by December 23**

The California Independent System Operator reported the unit was experiencing an unplanned curtailment of 307 MW on the afternoon of December 22 which ended by the afternoon of December 23.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200812221515.html>

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200812231515.html>

### **Calpine's 376 MW Inland Empire Energy Center Gas-fired Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by December 23**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit was shutdown on the afternoon of December 22 and returned to full power by the afternoon of December 23.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200812221515.html>

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200812231515.html>

### **Reliant's 215 MW Mandalay Gas-fired Unit 1 in California Shuts by December 23**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit experienced an unplanned outage by December 23. The unit was fully operational on the afternoon of December 22.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200812221515.html>

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200812231515.html>

### **PPM Energy's 150 MW Shiloh 2 Wind-powered Unit in California Curtailed 125 MW by December 23**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit experienced an unplanned outage of 125 MW by December 23.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200812221515.html>

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200812231515.html>

### **Ontario Power Generation's Nanticoke Coal-fired Unit 2 Shuts by December 24**

The unit was shut for maintenance.

Bloomberg News, 11:10 December 24, 2008

### **Ontario Power Generation's Nanticoke Coal-fired Unit 8 Shuts by December 24**

The unit was shut for maintenance.

Bloomberg News, 11:10 December 24, 2008

### **Ontario Power Generation's Nanticoke Coal-fired Unit 3 Shuts and then Restarts December 23**

Bloomberg News, 11:10 December 24, 2008

## ***Petroleum***

---

### **Distillate Hydrotreater at Shell's 332,000 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery Loses Power December 23**

The loss of power caused the hydrotreater's gas compressor to shutdown. The refinery's cat cracking unit (CCU) was put into feed diversion as a result of the incident. A company spokesman reported the CCU was back online and the hydrotreater was in restart.

Reuters, 08:22 December 24, 2008

Bloomberg News, 09:45 December 24, 2008

### **Update: PDVSA's 360,000 b/d Isla Refinery on Curacao, Netherland Antilles Projected to Reach Full Capacity in Days**

A PDVSA company spokesman said the refinery is receiving a "substantial" supply of power and steam after a blackout caused the plant to shut down on Dec. 19. He estimated the refinery would be restarting by tomorrow.

Bloomberg News, 12:05 December 24, 2008

## EPA Backs Off on More Stringent Flaring Restrictions for Refiners

On Monday the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), posted its final regulations governing emissions from refiners and other industrial plants. The tougher restrictions, proposed by EPA in June 2008 for new or modernized refineries, were stripped out of the final rule

Bloomberg News, 21:30 December 23, 2008

[http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/article.aspx?subjectid=49&articleid=20081224\\_49\\_E3\\_TheUSE524206](http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/article.aspx?subjectid=49&articleid=20081224_49_E3_TheUSE524206)

<http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-AIR/2008/December/Day-22/a29976.pdf>

## Natural Gas

### Producer Nations Form Group to “Stabilize” Prices – Consumer Nations Fear Another OPEC-type Organization

At the start of the meeting, Russia’s Vladimir Putin said that the era of cheap natural gas prices has ended. The Forum of Gas Exporting Nations consists of Algeria, Bolivia, Venezuela, Nigeria, Egypt, Libya, Iran, Qatar, Trinidad and Tobago, Equatorial Guinea and Russia. Kazakhstan and Norway were granted observer status in the new organization. Including the two observer nations, the 13 countries account for nearly 70 percent of world natural gas reserves. Consuming nations worry the organization could try to act like the OPEC cartel and manipulate production to keep prices artificially high.

<http://www.tmcnet.com/usubmit/2008/12/23/3876114.htm>

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/24/business/worldbusiness/24gas.html?\\_r=2&ref=worldbusiness](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/24/business/worldbusiness/24gas.html?_r=2&ref=worldbusiness)

## Other News

### Iowa’s Office of Energy Independence Releases Second Annual Plan December 23

The plan calls for more use of biofuels, wind, and other renewables. Energy efficiency and conservation is stressed for the Iowa State government. To view a copy of the plan, click the following link:

[http://www.energy.iowa.gov/OEI/docs/OEI\\_REPORTFINAL2008.pdf](http://www.energy.iowa.gov/OEI/docs/OEI_REPORTFINAL2008.pdf)

## Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
December 24, 2008			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b>			
<b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b>	32.90	41.42	93.10
\$/Barrel			
<b>NATURAL GAS</b>			
<b>Henry Hub</b>	5.37	5.75	7.19
\$/Million Btu			

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

### Update: Indiana Michigan Power Reports 11,000 Customers Remain without Power in Fort Wayne, Indiana December 24

<http://www.indianamichiganpower.com/news/outages/viewstorm.asp?stormName=December%202008%20Ice%20Storm>

<http://www.journalgazette.net/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081224/LOCAL/812240255/1043/LOCAL07>

### Update: Ameren Reports 12,193 Customers Remain without Power in Illinois Tuesday Evening December 23

<https://www2.ameren.com/outagemap/default.aspx?state=IL>

**Update: Massachusetts DEP Approves Cape Wind's Chapter 91 Waterways Application for its Proposed 420 MW Offshore Wind farm, December 23**

<http://www.capewind.org/news937.htm>

<http://www.capewind.org/article24.htm>

**Wall Street Journal Blasts Ethanol Industry for Requesting Loans and Loan Guarantees from Federal Government**

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123008114168231965.html>

**Toshiba to build New Factory for Advanced Batteries for Use in Hybrid and Electric Cars**

<http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-as-japan-toshiba,1,6400024.story>

**Gas Main Break Prompts Shelter-in-place Advisory for Neighborhood in South San Francisco, California December 23**

[http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article\\_preview.php?eddate=&id=103074](http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?eddate=&id=103074)

**New Mexico Regulators Approve Major expansion of State's Solar Energy Program**

[http://www.abqjournal.com/abqnews/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=9838:more-solar&Itemid=43](http://www.abqjournal.com/abqnews/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9838:more-solar&Itemid=43)

**Phase-I of China's Largest Strategic Petroleum Reserve Recently Completed in China's Northwest**

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=71052](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=71052)

**Petroleum Industry Urges EPA to Further Study Implications of Allowing Higher Blends of Ethanol into Gasoline**

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/News/Articles/200812/NPRA\\_Consider\\_Implications\\_for\\_Mid\\_Leve\\_14383.aspx](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/News/Articles/200812/NPRA_Consider_Implications_for_Mid_Leve_14383.aspx)

**Update: Flying J's Plans for \$700 Million Expansion of Bakersfield Refinery Unaffected by Bankruptcy Declaration**

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/News/Articles/200812/Calif\\_Refinery\\_Expansion\\_To\\_Go\\_Forward\\_14386.aspx](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/News/Articles/200812/Calif_Refinery_Expansion_To_Go_Forward_14386.aspx)

**Kentucky Public Service Commission Gives East Kentucky Power Cooperative at Least Year of Protection from Creditors**

<http://www.kentucky.com/101/story/636313.html>

[http://psc.ky.gov/agencies/psc/press/122008/1223\\_r01.PDF](http://psc.ky.gov/agencies/psc/press/122008/1223_r01.PDF)

**Update: NRC Recertifies USEC's Gaseous Diffusion Plant Operations**

<http://www.usec.com/NewsRoom/NewsReleases/USECInc/2008/2008-12-23-NRC-Recertifies-USECs-Gaseous.htm>

**Update: PPL Bell Bend Submits Application to NRC for New Reactor at Bell Bend, Pennsylvania December 22**

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-230.html>

**PG&E to Ship in Cow Manure-based Biogas from Texas**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2354002720081223>

---

## **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](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**

---

*Energy Assurance Daily* provides a summary of public information concerning current energy issues. Published Monday through Friday to inform stakeholders of developments affecting energy systems, flows, and markets, it provides highlights of energy issues rather than a comprehensive coverage. *Energy Assurance Daily* is updated online Monday through Friday after 5:00 p.m. EST. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at:

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

Please direct comments and questions to: [ead@oe.netl.doe.gov](mailto:ead@oe.netl.doe.gov)