



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, December 27, 2010

Major Developments

Winter Storms Cut Power to More than 345,000 Customers across U.S. East Coast and Canada December 26-27

Winter storms blasted the U.S. East Coast and Canada on December 26-27, disrupting post-holiday traffic and knocking out power to more than 345,000 customers across multiple states and Canadian provinces, multiple news and company sources reported. Some 132,593 customers remained without power, as of latest reports. The storms affected customers in other states along the Eastern seaboard, but the following table lists only the states where 10,000 or more customers lost electricity, based on available sources.

U.S. East Coast Customer Power Outages December 26 – 27, 2010			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Progress Energy	NC/SC	80,000	5,927
Duke Energy	NC/SC	34,000	1,776
South River EMC	NC	5,000	650
Greenville Utilities	NC	1,500	0
NSTAR	MA	45,000	17,000
National Grid	MA	30,000	27,649
Connecticut Light & Power	CT	33,712	27,342
United Illuminating	CT	8,000	696
LIPA	NY	12,000	5,215
Consolidated Edison	NY	10,000	3,495
NYSEG	NY	8,500	8,500
Orange & Rockland	NY	2,850	80
Jersey Central Power and Light	NJ	8,600	8,600
Atlantic City Electric	NJ	4,000	1,038
PSEG	NJ	1,300	1,300
Nova Scotia Power	NS	40,000	6,778
NB Power	NB	15,700	9,047
Maritime Electric	PEI	7,500	7,500
TOTAL *		347,662	132,593

*Total outages only represent electric utilities listed in this table.

Sources:

<http://www.cnn.com/2010/TRAVEL/12/27/airlines.weather/index.html?hpt=T1>

Progress Energy: <http://progress-energy.com/aboutus/news/article.asp?id=25342> , <http://progress-energy.com/shared/outages/car/default.aspx>

Duke Energy: <http://www.duke-energy.com/north-carolina/outages/current.asp#> , <http://www.charlotteobserver.com/2010/12/26/1934474/christmas-snow-blankets-parts.html>

South River Electric: <http://www.sremc.com/news/newsdetail.aspx?itemID=88> , <http://www.sremc.com/news/newsdetail.aspx?itemID=92> ,

<http://www.fayobserver.com/articles/2010/12/26/1058479?sac=Home>

Greenville Utilities: <http://www2.wnct.com/news/2010/dec/27/scattered-power-outages-reported-around-nc-followi-ar-647956/>

NSTAR: <http://www.nstaronline.com/residential/> ,

http://www.boston.com/news/local/breaking_news/2010/12/nearly_50000_wi.html

National Grid: <http://www1.nationalgridus.com/masselectric/stormcenter/> , <http://newsblog.projo.com/2010/12/storm-leaves-about-2300-ri-res.html>

Connecticut Light & Power: <http://www.cl-p.com/outage/outagemap.aspx> ,
<http://www.cnn.com/2010/TRAVEL/12/27/airlines.weather/index.html?hpt=T1>
United Illuminating: http://www.uinet.com/wps/PA_TownOutages/faces/jsp/TownOutageGraphPrint.jsp ,
<http://www.nhregister.com/articles/2010/12/27/news/doc4d18bf8096536117732262.txt>
LIPA: <http://www.lipower.org/stormcenter/outagemap.html> ,
<http://www.newsday.com/news/new-york/nearly-19k-without-power-in-nyc-due-to-storm-1.2571308>
Consolidated Edison: <http://www.coned.com/newsroom/news/pr20101227.asp> ,
<http://apps.coned.com/weboutageinfo/stormcenter/default.aspx>
NYSEG: <http://www.nyseg.com/OurCompany/News/2010/122710brewster.html>
Orange & Rockland: <http://www.oru.com/advisories/?id=477> , http://wp1.coned.com/or_stormcenter/default.aspx
Jersey Central Power and Light: http://www.firstenergycorp.com/outages/outages.do?state_code=NJ ,
<http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2010/12/27/storm-leaves-10000-in-nj-without-power/>
Atlantic City Electric: <http://www.atlanticcityelectric.com/home/emergency/maps/stormcenter/default.aspx> ,
<http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2010/12/27/storm-leaves-10000-in-nj-without-power/>
PSEG: http://www.pseg.com/home/customer_service/outage_info/outagemap.jsp ,
<http://newyork.cbslocal.com/2010/12/27/storm-leaves-10000-in-nj-without-power/>
Nova Scotia Power: <http://www.nspower.ca/en/home/residential/outageinformation/liveoutagemap.aspx> ,
<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/new-brunswick/story/2010/12/27/nb-maritimes-storm.html>
NB Power: <http://www.nbpower.com/Open/Outages.aspx> , <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/new-brunswick/story/2010/12/27/nb-maritimes-storm.html>
Maritime Electric: <http://www.cbc.ca/canada/new-brunswick/story/2010/12/27/nb-maritimes-storm.html>

Electricity

Citing Reliability Concerns, Southwest Power Pool Directs Louisiana Utilities to Cut about 202 MW of Demand from Electric Transmission System December 27

Citing "extremely high loading on electric transmission facilities in the area," the Southwest Power Pool, Inc. (SPP) told utilities in south central Louisiana to cut electric demand along the local high-voltage transmission system by approximately 202 MW. The directive led CLECO to cut power to as many as 10,000 customers, and forced four other utilities – Lafayette Utilities System (LUS), Entergy, Louisiana Energy and Power Authority, and Louisiana Generating LLC – to cut power to unspecified numbers of customers, according to a local news source. CLECO said by late-morning that the system had stabilized. Both CLECO and LUS had restored service to the affected customers, as of latest reports.

<http://www.theadvertiser.com/article/20101227/NEWS01/101227006/UPDATED+10+05+a.m.+BREAKING+NEWS++Power+outage+ongoing++read+directive+given+to+local+utilities>
http://www.abbeywillenow.com/view/full_story/10790455/article-Cleco-begins-power-interruptions--10-000-without-service-in-one-region?instance=home_news_lead

Update: TVA's 1,125 MW Sequoyah Nuclear Unit 1 in Tennessee at Full Power by December 26

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) shut the unit on December 20 "due to a reported fire inside the Unit 1 main generator bus duct," the company said in a previous filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The fire was extinguished within minutes, according to the filing. The NRC reported that on the morning of December 25 the unit was operating at 73 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20101221en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

TVA's 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 3 in Alabama Shut December 26

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) shut the unit on December 26 "due to high vibration on the Unit 3 Generator Exciter inboard and outboard journal bearings," it said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that on the morning of December 26 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20101227en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

After Weekend Shutdown, Luminant to Restart 793 MW Martin Lake Coal-Fired Unit 1 in Texas December 27-28

The unit shut “due to low water wall outlet pressure” on December 26, but the company expected to resume operations on December 27-28, according to two filings with state regulators.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148785>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148793>

Update: Exelon's 619 MW Oyster Creek Nuclear Unit in New Jersey at Full Power by December 26

The company shut the unit on December 20 to work on a recirculation pump, a plant spokesman said previously. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 25 the unit was operating at 25 percent.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-21/u-s-nuclear-output-rises-as-hatch-unit-in-georgia-boosts-power.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Entergy's 653 MW Pilgrim Nuclear Unit 1 in Massachusetts Reduced to 50 Percent by December 27

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of December 26 the unit was operating at full power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

OPPD's 478 MW Fort Calhoun Nuclear Unit in Nebraska Shuts, Restarts December 23-27

The plant shut "due to an unknown cause" on December 23, Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The unit, however, returned to 40 percent power by December 26 and to 99 percent power by this morning, according to the NRC.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20101227en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Dynegy's 335 MW El Segundo Gas-Fired Unit 3 in California Reduced by December 25

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 295 MW by December 25.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201012251515.html>

Edison Mission Group Opens 150 MW Cedro Hill Wind Power Project in Texas by December 23

Edison Mission Group has begun commercial operation at its 150 MW Cedro Hill wind project in Bruni, Texas, the company said on December 23.

<http://www.edison.com/pressroom/pr.asp?bu=&year=0&id=7535>

Update: Great River Energy to Open 99 MW Spiritwood Coal-Fired Power Plant in North Dakota at Start of 2012

Great River Energy (GRE) plans to begin commercial operations at its once-delayed, proposed 99 MW Spiritwood coal-fired heat-and-power plant in North Dakota on January 1, 2012, a company official said by December 27. GRE had initially expected to open the facility during 2010, but economic conditions postponed that plan. The company, along with Inbicon A/S, aims to construct a 20 MMGal/Yr. cellulosic biofuel refinery alongside the power plant; that facility is slated to enter service in 2014-2015, according to a project website.

<http://www.jamestownsun.com/event/article/id/126176/>

<http://www.greatriverenergy.com/makeelectricity/newprojects/spiritwoodstation.html>

<http://www.dakotaspiritenergy.com/overview.asp>

Petroleum

Update: Hovensa Restarts 150,000 b/d FCC at 500,000 b/d St. Croix, U.S Virgin Islands Refinery December 24

Hovensa shut the 150,000 b/d gasoline-producing fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC) for unscheduled work on December 9.

Reuters, 18:45 December 26, 2010

Update: Valero Restarts Hydrocrackers at 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery by December 27

Valero restarted a 12,000 b/d hydrocracker at the east plant of its 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery, and a separate hydrocracker at the facility's east plant, the company said on December 27. The company shut the 12,000 b/d unit to fix a leak on December 22, and the other unit to perform piping repairs on December 17.

DJN, 11:42 December 27, 2010

Small Explosion Impacts Diesel Hydrotreater at Gary-Williams' 70,000 b/d Wynnewood, Oklahoma Refinery December 26

A small explosion led to a fire at Gary-Williams Energy Corporation's 70,000 b/d Wynnewood, Oklahoma refinery on December 26, but the fire caused only "minimal damage" and the facility stayed online, according to a local emergency management official. The incident impacted a diesel hydrotreater, but did not force any other units offline, he said. There were no injuries, and the blaze was extinguished in less than two hours.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN2722933520101227>

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hyKBdVyg9rfsPgoh4WuTe-i7VEyA?docId=d344bbcebdeb496c95a09fcc819a1933>

<http://www.gwec.com/default.asp>

Natural Gas

Nothing to report.

Other News

Coal-Carrying Freighter Runs Aground along Detroit River in Michigan December 24 – Vessel Freed December 26

The 579-foot coal-carrying McKee Sons freighter ran aground on December 24 as it attempted to dock at a DTE Energy power plant near Grosse Ile, Michigan, but the vessel was freed on December 26. The freighter, owned by Grand River Navigation, suffered no structural damage; it was hauling 11,900 tons of coal at the time of the incident.

<http://www.thestate.com/2010/12/26/1620595/stuck-freighter-free-in-mich-with.html#RSS=untracked>

Update: Aventine Opens 110 MMGal/Yr Ethanol Plant in Mount Vernon, Indiana

Aventine began operations on November 30, and is gradually ramping up the facility to full capacity; the plant was producing at approximately 55 percent of its capacity, as of December 25. The company broke ground in late 2007, but financial issues forced it to stop construction prior to completion.

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2010/dec/25/showing-signs-of-vitality/>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
December 27, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	90.47	88.68	76.23
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.08	4.10	5.55

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Update: Oglethorpe Power May Purchase Gas-Fired Power Plants Instead of Constructing 605 MW Gas-Fired Facility in Smarr, Georgia

<http://chronicle.augusta.com/latest-news/2010-12-23/utility-deal-leaves-750m-plant-proposal-doubt>

Update: Edison International Cancels Plans to Purchase Electricity from Tessera Solar's Proposed 663 MW Solar Power Plant in California – Decision Casts Doubt on Project's Future

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-12-23/edison-cancels-power-contract-at-tessera-california-solar-plant.html?cmpid=yhoo>

Turbine Failure Leads to Brief Shutdown of Sewerage & Water Board's Power Plant in Orleans Parish, Louisiana December 22

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2010/12/water_pressure_drop_caused_by.html

Electrical Transformer Explodes, Triggering Fire at San Diego Gas & Electric Substation in California December 22 – No Injuries Reported as Fire Extinguished December 23

<http://www.10news.com/news/26250727/detail.html>

U.S. Refinery Capacity Outpacing Domestic Demand, Deloitte LLP Says – Nation Has Approximately 148 Refineries, but Needs Just 125 to Meet Demand

http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/bus/stories/DN-refineries_27bus.ART.State.Edition1.7e5fc9.html

Update: After Mid-Week Fire, Crude Oil Flows Resume along Russia-to-Europe Druzhba Pipeline December 24 – Disruption Cut Deliveries by More than 360,000 b/d

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFLDE6BN0IY20101224>

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFLDE6BM0PX20101223>

Update: Explosives Likely to Blame for Damage to Japanese Oil Tanker along Strait of Hormuz in July 2010, Japanese Transport Ministry Says – Ministry Unable to Confirm Claims of Attack

Reuters, 07:59 December 27, 2010

Pemex Controls Leak along Gasoline Pipeline in Mexico by December 24 – Thieves Blamed for Rupture

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9KADCV80.htm>

Update: FERC Authorizes Sempra to Postpone Expansion until January 2012 at Cameron LNG Terminal in Louisiana – Company Had Sought Four-Year Extension

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/NaturalGas/6696124>

Electrical Trip Forces Shut Boiler, Solar Turbine, and AGIs at Tilden Gas Plant in Texas December 26 – Unit Restarted within Hours

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148787>

Power Outage Leads to Process Failure at Midkiff Gas Plant in Texas December 24 – Incident Leads to Emissions Events Multiple Compressor Stations, but Power Returns Later on December 24

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148766>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148768>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148769>

Power Outage at L&H Compressor Station Leads to Flaring at Waddell Compressor Station in Texas December 23-24 – Power Restored, Compressors Restarted by Early on December 24

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=148764>

Update: Alaska Regulators Authorize Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Cook Inlet Natural Gas Storage Alaska's Proposed Natural Gas Storage Facility on Kenai Peninsula by December 26

<http://www.adn.com/2010/12/25/1619831/commission-oks-certificate-for.html>

DOE Announces up to \$74 Million for Fuel Cell Research and Development December 22

<http://www.energy.gov/news/9923.htm>

Update: Sierra Club Drops Lawsuit Against Frontier Renewable Resources' Planned 40 MMGal/Yr Cellulosic Ethanol Plant in Kinross, Michigan – Despite Decision, Sierra Club Says it is Still Opposed to Project

http://www.ethanolproducer.com/article.jsp?article_id=7238

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>

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