



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, December 27, 2016

Electricity

Power Restoration Underway after High Winds Knock Out Power to Customers in Michigan, South Dakota December 26

Power restoration was underway on Tuesday after a storm producing high winds and freezing rain knocked out power to at least 67,319 customers in Michigan and South Dakota on Monday night with affects lasting into Tuesday. Wind gusts of up to 56 mph were reported, downing powerlines across the two states. As of 3:30 p.m. EST Tuesday, 20,119 customers remained without power. Consumers Energy said its crews were continuing to work into Tuesday night to finalize restoration efforts. The South Dakota Rural Electric Association (SDREA) said full restoration could take several days. The table below shows total affected customers and the latest reported outages by utility. The “Affected” column shows the total count of customers that lost power at one point or another over the course of the storm for each utility. These outages may not have occurred concurrently and are not the same as peak outages.

Michigan and South Dakota Customer Power Outages			
December 26–27, 2016			
Electric Utility	State	Affected	Latest Reported
Consumers Energy	MI	39,200	1,986
DTE Energy	MI	9,000	4,396
South Dakota Rural Electric Association	SD	19,119	13,737

Sources:

- <https://www.facebook.com/ConsumersEnergyMichigan/>
- <https://www.consumersenergy.com/outagemap#>
- <http://dteenergy.com/map/outage.html>
- <https://twitter.com/SDCoopPower>
- <https://outages.sdrea.coop/outages/maps>
- <http://www.kdlt.com/2016/12/26/thousands-without-power-across-south-dakota/>
- <http://www.startribune.com/winter-storm-weakens-but-thousands-still-without-power/408376916/>

Power Fully Restored to 22,500 Xcel Energy Customers after Strong Winds in Colorado December 25

Xcel Energy on Sunday reported 22,500 customers on the west side of the Denver metropolitan area lost power due to high winds. Wind gusts of over 80 mph were reported, which toppled powerlines. Xcel reported power was fully restored to all affected customers by 11:30 a.m. EST, Tuesday.

- http://www.outagemap-xcelenergy.com/outagemap/?_ga=1.8675900.864510510.1482860989
- <https://www.facebook.com/XcelEnergyCO>

Strong Winds Knock Out Power to Over 16,000 Customers in Maine on December 25

Windy conditions across northern and eastern Maine on Sunday knocked out power to at least 12,000 Central Maine Power Co. customers and 4,800 Emera Maine customers. The vast majority of outages were restored by 7:00 p.m. EST, Sunday.

- <http://outagemap.cmpco.com/cmp/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/centralmainepower>
- http://apps.emeramaine.com/about/outages/Outage_Map.cfm
- <http://bangordailynews.com/2016/12/25/news/state/high-winds-leave-thousands-without-power-on-christmas-day/>

Freezing Rain Knocks Out Power to 17,000 Hydro Quebec Customers December 26

Hydro Quebec reported at least 17,000 customers without power on Monday due to freezing rain weighing down tree branches and downing powerlines. As of 3:30 p.m. EST Tuesday, 1,056 customers remained without power.
<http://poweroutages.hydroquebec.com/poweroutages/service-interruption-report/#map>
<http://nouvelles.hydroquebec.com/fr/pannes/hq/151/vents-pluie-verglacante-causent-pannes/>
<http://www.cp24.com/news/thousands-of-quebecers-without-power-after-freezing-rain-downs-power-lines-1.3218210>

Update: Energy Northwest's 1,107 MW Columbia Nuclear Unit in Washington Restarts December 24, Ramps Up to 85 Percent by December 26

The unit shut from 99 percent on December 18 due to an equipment malfunction at the Bonneville Power Administration's substation near the Columbia Generating Station, which is operated by Energy Northwest. Local media reported cold weather caused the loss of the 500 kV line connecting the nuclear plant's main output transformers to the substation. The power plant's operating crew successfully stabilized the plant and officials for Energy Northwest said it remained safe.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2016/>
<https://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2016/20161219en.html>

Reuters, 1:31 December 26, 2016

EDF Renewable Energy Announces Commercial Operation at Its 184 MW Kelly Creek Wind Project in Illinois

EDF Renewable Energy on Tuesday announced its Kelly Creek Wind Project in Illinois reached commercial operation. The facility, located 60 miles southwest of Chicago, is comprised of 92 wind turbines, which will generate electricity for the PJM wholesale market on a merchant basis. EDF Renewable Energy is one of the largest renewable energy developers in North America with 8 gigawatts of wind, solar, biomass, and biogas projects developed throughout the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

Reuters, 12:31 December 27, 2016

Regulators Approve Contracts to Supplement Biomass Plants in Maine December 25

The Maine Public Utilities Commission formally approved \$13.4 million in contracts to bail out struggling Re-Energy Holdings' biomass plants in Ashland and Fort Fairfield and shuttered West Enfield and Jonesboro biomass plants that were bought by Stored Solar. The Maine legislature this year passed a law to supplement the prices that the companies get for selling electricity on the regional grid for up to two years.

Reuters, 9:31 December 25, 2016

Petroleum

Update: PES Reports Unit Restart at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery December 20

Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES) reported the startup of the 331 ISOM unit at the Point Breeze section of its Philadelphia, Pennsylvania refinery on December 20, according to a filing with state pollution regulator made public last Friday. The unit was put into circulation on December 18 after emissions were reported due to a disruption in the feed supply for unit 868 on December 17.

Reuters, 15:06 December 23, 2016

Update: BP Plans Weekend Reformer Restart at Its 413,500 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery December 23 – Source

BP Plc planned to begin restarting a catalytic reformer at its Whiting, Indiana refinery last weekend, a source familiar with plant operations said last Friday. The 60,000 b/d reformer, which produces octane-boosting gasoline components from refining byproducts, was shut on December 20.

Reuters, 16:02 December 23, 2016

Flint Hills Reports SRU Upset, Emissions at Its 295,630 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery December 26

Flint Hills reported the tail gas unit associated with the no. 2 sulfur recovery unit (SRU) had an upset on December 26, according to a filing with a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The upset resulted in emissions from the unit's incinerator stack.

Reuters, 12:23 December 27, 2016

PBF Energy Reports Unplanned Flaring, Breakdown at Its 151,300 b/d Torrance, California Refinery December 24

PBF Energy reported unplanned flaring due to a breakdown at its Torrance, California refinery, according to a filing with the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Reuters, 3:55 December 24, 2016

Tesoro's Los Angeles, California Refinery Experiences Unplanned Unit Upset December 23

Tesoro Corp reported no injuries or offsite impacts after its Los Angeles, California refinery experienced an unplanned unit upset on December 23. The Los Angeles refinery includes both the 96,860 b/d Wilmington and 256,830 b/d Carson plants.

Reuters, 19:08 December 23, 2016

Fog Causes Temporary Ship Backlog at Houston Ship Channel in Texas December 23

A backlog of about 35 ships was waiting to enter the Houston Ship Channel last Friday following a temporary suspension of activity due to fog, a Houston Pilots Port Agent said. About 80 percent of the vessels with orders to enter the channel were tankers and there were about 30 ships with orders to leave the ship channel, he added.

Arrivals and sailing had been closed since December 22 due to fog, according to a Houston Pilots notice.

Reuters, 13:17 December 23, 2016

U.S. Oil Rig Count Increases By 13 to 523 December 23 – Baker Hughes

U.S. energy companies added 13 oil rigs during the week ending December 23, bringing the total count up to 523, the most since December 2015, but still below the 538 rigs seen a year ago, energy services firm Baker Hughes said on Friday.

Reuters, 13:02 December 23, 2016

Natural Gas

SoCalGas Reports Off-Gassing Due to Intense Rains at Its 86 Bcf Aliso Canyon Natural Gas Storage Facility in California December 24

Officials with Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) on Saturday said very slight and intermittent emissions of methane were observed seeping out of the soil near the plugged SS-25 well at its Aliso Canyon natural gas facility. The officials said this "off-gassing" of the soil coincides with recent intense rain events at the site and is not believed to pose a present or potential hazard to human health and safety or the environment. California's Air Resources Board has noted that some residual methane in the soil was expected to seep out of the ground around the leaking well once it had been controlled and sealed.

https://www.arb.ca.gov/research/aliso_canyon_natural_gas_leak.htm

<http://www.dailynews.com/business/20161226/socalgas-likens-new-methane-detected-at-aliso-canyon-to-wisping-vapors-of-a-single-table-candle>

Update: Destin Pipeline to Offer Additional Offshore Transportation Services December 28 after Enterprise's 1.5 Bcf Pascagoula Gas Processing Facility Restarts December 15

Destin Pipeline Co. said beginning gas day December 28, it would offer transportation service from three additional offshore receipt points to Enterprise's Pascagoula natural gas processing facility (PGP) in Mississippi, which restarted on December 15 following months of unplanned repairs. Destin said all flows from the three receipt points, known as VK989, MP281, and MP283, will be required to move to PGP until further notice. Destin began shipping natural gas from several offshore points to the processing facility on December 17, but its transportation system will remain in a state of force majeure until operations at the facility return to normal. The 225-mile Destin gas pipeline system can carry 1.2 Bcf/d from offshore producers to the Pascagoula plant, and then further north to interconnections with six major interstate gas transmission lines. The Pascagoula facility was shut on June 27 after two explosions damaged its processing trains, forced Destin to declare a force majeure event, and resulted in temporary offshore production platform shut-ins while operators adjusted transportation arrangements.

<https://bp.trellisenergy.com/ptms/public/infopost/viewNotices.do?noticeCategoryId=308201&tspId=1&proxyTspId=1&menuId=menu-info-posting-notices-critical>

Regency Reports AGI Compressor Shut at Its 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas December 24

Regency reported the acid gas injector (AGI) compressor was shut on low suction pressure and high scrubber level. The suction controller was placed in manual mode and the scrubbers were drained.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=249333>

U.S. Natural Gas Rig Count at 129 December 23 – Baker Hughes

The total number of rigs drilling for natural gas in the U.S. rose by 3 to 129 during the weekend ending December 23, data from oil services firm Baker Hughes showed last Friday.

Reuters, 13:00 December 23, 2016

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Venezuela to Reduce Crude Oil Production by 95,000 b/d Beginning January 1 to Meet OPEC Deal Output Cuts

Venezuela said on Tuesday it will cut 95,000 b/d of oil production starting on January 1 in fulfillment of the pact by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and several non-OPEC producers to lower production by almost 1.8 million b/d. The Energy Ministry said state oil company PDVSA and its subsidiaries will implement a reduction in the volumes of its main crude sale contracts, all in conformity with existing terms and conditions. Venezuela currently produces just over 2.4 million b/d of crude and condensates, according to ministry data.

Reuters, 10:32 December 27, 2016

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
December 27, 2016			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	52.72	52.17	37.52
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.59	3.52	1.62

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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