



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, May 6, 2015

Electricity

Update: Exelon's 802 MW Three Mile Island Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Shut by May 6

On the morning of May 5 the unit was operating at 54 percent, reduced from full power on May 3.
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

Update: TVA's 1,155 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 1 in Alabama at Full Power by May 6

On the morning of May 5 the unit was operating at 80 percent, reduced from full power on May 4.
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

Solar Partners' 123 MW Ivanpah Solar Unit 1 in California Shut by May 5

The unit entered an unplanned outage.
<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201505051515.html>

La Paloma Generating Company's 260 MW Gas-fired Unit 1 in California Shut by May 5

The unit entered an unplanned outage.
<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201505051515.html>

AES's 175 MW Redondo Gas-fired Unit 6 in California Shut by May 5

The unit entered an unplanned outage.
<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201505051515.html>

CDWR's 374 MW San Luis Hydro Unit in California Reduced by May 5

The unit entered an unplanned curtailment of 199 MW.
<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201505051515.html>

FirstEnergy Expanding Voltage Regulator Equipment, Adding 4 Transformers at Substation in Frederick, Maryland

FirstEnergy Corp. is expanding a transmission substation in Frederick, Maryland, to accommodate new voltage-regulating equipment designed to help reinforce the electric system, support load growth, and enhance service reliability in Potomac Edison's service area. The project includes the installation of specialized voltage-regulating equipment that responds to real-time electrical conditions, boosting or reducing voltage, as needed, to maintain consistent levels on the regional transmission network. The substation work includes the addition of new capacitor banks, circuit breakers, communications equipment, and a control building. In addition, four massive electrical transformers are being installed as part of this project. The work which is expected to be completed in October will benefit more than 125,000 Potomac Edison customers in Frederick city, eastern Frederick County, and western Montgomery County.
https://www.firstenergycorp.com/newsroom/news_releases/firstenergy-expands-transmission-substation-in-frederick-county-.html

Fire Breaks Out at U.S. Oil & Refining's 40,700 b/d Port of Tacoma, Washington Refinery

A crude oil fire broke out in a refinery stack at U.S. Oil and Refining's Port of Tacoma, Washington refinery on Wednesday morning. A company spokesperson said the blaze started around 10:00 a.m. EDT when one of the tubes that carries crude oil through a heat source that separates the oil began to leak. Operators quickly turned off the valve to stop the flow, but oil that was still in the tube caught fire, sending black smoke up the stack. No injuries were reported and the refinery crew decided not to extinguish the blaze, but let it burn off for safety reasons. Tacoma Fire Department crews responded to the scene and assisted with efforts to cool down the stack as the oil burned off. The fire was out within two hours, although some residual flames burned out the top of the stack for about 30 more minutes.

Reuters, 11:25 May 6, 2015

<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/Tacoma-refinery-fire-spewing-huge-column-of-black-smoke-302767521.html>

BNSF Oil Train Derails in North Dakota, All 10 Derailed Cars Ignited May 6

A BNSF unit train carrying crude oil derailed and caught fire in Wells County, North Dakota on Wednesday, forcing the evacuation of a small town just days after the U.S. and Canada announced reforms to improve the safety of such shipments. About 40 residents from the town of Heimdal were evacuated after 10 tank cars left the rails, fire officials and the state's emergency management agency said. It was reported that all 10 cars ignited, but there were no injuries, officials said. BNSF said the tank cars involved were unjacketed CPC-1232 models which have been targeted for phase-out within five years under federal safety rules announced last Friday. The rail line through Heimdal runs next to an intermittent waterway known as the Big Slough, which drains into the James River about 15 miles downstream near Bremen, North Dakota. There were preliminary indications that some oil from the derailed cars got into Big Slough, but it will be difficult to verify until the fire dies down and officials can get closer to the scene, the State Environmental Health Chief said. It was not immediately clear how state officials planned to respond to the fire.

Reuters, 15:10 May 6, 2015

<http://www.fra.dot.gov/eLib/Details/L16357>

<https://www.piersystem.com/go/doc/7090/2502146/>

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/oil-train-derailment-prompts-evacuation-north-dakota-town-30842051>

Update: Striking Workers at LyondellBasell's 263,776 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery to Vote on Tentative Agreement

Striking workers at LyondellBasell's Houston, Texas refinery are scheduled to vote on a new contract proposal Wednesday and Thursday, said an official with the United Steelworkers (USW). Approval of the proposal could lead to the end of a three-month strike by more than 400 members of USW Local 13-227, an official said. In addition to Lyondell's Houston refinery, three other plants are on strike. Workers at BP Plc's Whiting, Indiana refinery are preparing to vote on a tentative agreement reached last week. Talks are continuing between workers and management at Marathon Petroleum Corp's Galveston Bay refinery in Texas City, Texas, and BP-Husky's joint-venture refinery in Toledo, Ohio. LyondellBasell has kept the Houston refinery in operation with temporary replacement workers since the strike began.

Reuters, 12:49 May 5, 2015

Plains, Marathon, BP Still Discussing Reversal of 1.2 Million b/d Capline Crude Oil Pipeline

Plains All American Pipeline said on Wednesday it was still discussing a possible reversal of the 1.2 million b/d Capline crude oil pipeline, but first needs to convince BP Plc, another owner of the system. The company said it is "of one mind" with Marathon Petroleum Corp, the third owner of the line, about how the reversal of the pipeline "makes sense," according to executives. Capline carries crude from the Gulf Coast to Midwest refineries.

Reuters, 12:51 May 6, 2015

U.S. Gulf Coast Crude Oil Stockpiles Drop for First Time since January – EIA

U.S. Gulf Coast crude stockpiles fell 997,000 barrels last week, dropping to 242.9 million barrels, the first decline since the week ending January 2, according to Energy Information Administration (EIA) data on Wednesday. U.S. net crude oil imports dropped to 6.1 million barrels per day, their lowest levels since 2001, when the EIA began collecting such data. The U.S. refinery utilization rate rose to 93 percent last week, the highest level for this time of year since 2005, EIA data showed.

Reuters, 11:19 May 6, 2015

DCP Midstream Reports SO2 Emissions Exceed Permitted Limits at Its 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas May 4

DCP Midstream reported inability to receive residue gas as the Goldsmith plant experienced excessive pressure on the residue flare line. After cutting the gas, turbine A began to go into surge control adding to the existing flare. Gas was cut from the field and operations made adjustments to the plant resulting in the flare event to end.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=213515>

Update: Sentencing Scheduled for 2012 Attack on Atmos Energy Natural Gas Pipeline in Texas

Sentencing was scheduled in federal court this morning for Anson Chi, the Plano, Texas man indicted last year on charges that he attempted to blow up an Atmos Energy natural-gas pipeline with a homemade explosive in 2012.

The device exploded early, severely injuring Chi and causing minor damage to the above-ground pipeline.

Anson Chi plead guilty last week in U.S. District Court to maliciously attempting to destroy the pipeline.

Reuters, 9:37 May 6, 2015

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Update: Libya's 100,000 b/d El Feel Oilfield Remains Closed Due to Strike – Field Engineer

Libya's western El Feel oilfield remained closed as a strike by security guards over salary payments continued, a field engineer said on Wednesday. Guards at the facility run by Libya's state oil firm NOC and Italy's ENI began the strike almost two week ago.

Reuters, 7:58 May 6, 2015

Oil Drilling Rig Fire Kills Two Workers in Algeria – National Wells Services Company

Two local workers died in a fire at an oil drilling rig in Algeria's Hassi Messaoud oilfield, said National Wells Services Company, the country's largest crude producer. The fire occurred on Tuesday and was extinguished quickly, the company told state news agency APS. It did not say whether the well contributes to output at Hassi Messaoud, which produces around 300,000 b/d of oil. The company said it happened during "a snubbing operation on the well."

Reuters, 5:47 May 6, 2015

Shell Declares Force Majeure on Nigeria's Forcados Crude Oil Exports

Shell declared force majeure on exports of Nigeria's Forcados crude oil stream, a spokesman for the company said on Wednesday. It declared force majeure on the evening on May 5 following "a series of leaks in the Trans Forcados pipeline that brings the oil to the export terminal. The pipeline itself is operated by the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company (NPDC). Several cargoes of Forcados for May loading were still on offer, with around 189,000 b/d scheduled for export in six cargoes. The June export program, with a total of 158,000 b/d, had not yet started trading, sources said.

Reuters, 11:25 May 6, 2015

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
May 6, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	60.88	58.50	100.52
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.76	2.53	4.72

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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