



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday, May 25, 2006

Electricity

Power Outage Halts Trains and Strands Thousands of Commuters in Northeast Corridor Early May 25

Thousands of passengers on Amtrak and other trains (MARC, SEPTA, and New Jersey Transit) using Amtrak's Northeast Corridor were stranded during rush hour this morning when a major power outage stopped trains around 8 a.m. Service between Washington and New York was disrupted, leaving five trains stranded in tunnels (one in Baltimore; four in New York). Power was restored around 10:30 a.m., and Amtrak officials expect service to fully resume by this afternoon. Amtrak is investigating the cause of the power outage.

http://www.amtrak.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=Amtrak/am2Copy/Simple_Copy_Popup&c=am2Copy&id=1093554054200

<http://www.ny1.com/ny1/content/index.jsp?stid=1&aid=59725>

T-Storm Knocks Out Power to About 25,000 in Illinois May 24

More than 14,000 AmerenCILCO and nearly 10,000 ComEd customers lost power Wednesday when power lines were knocked down by a strong afternoon thunderstorm. As of 9 p.m. Wednesday evening, nearly 7,000 customers of AmerenCILCO were still without power.

http://www.pjstar.com/stories/052506/TRI_B9TNS45J.048.shtml

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-0605250289may25.1.3423706.story?track=rss>

Key 2,000 MW Wylie Ridge Transmission Line in West Virginia Shut May 24

The transmission line, which controls west-to-east power transfers and could lead to higher congestion in eastern PJM, is expected to restart May 27.

Reuters, 14:48 May 24, 2006

Reuters, 10:33 May 25, 2006

Update: NRC Finds Cause of Emergency Shutdown at Catawba Nuke in South Carolina on May 20

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) official reported that "inaccurate settings by Duke Energy workers on electrical relays" caused a break in power, which led to the automatic shutdown of both reactors at Duke Energy's Catawba Nuclear Plant near Rock Hill, South Carolina.

<http://www.charlotte.com/mld/observer/news/local/14652518.htm>

http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6719021

Entergy's 620 MW Vermont Yankee Nuke Unit Ramps Up to 75 Percent May 25

The company had reduced the unit to 57 percent when an automatic fire suppression system activated. The company is investigating the cause of the smoke and traders estimated the unit would return within a few days.

Reuters, 11:26 May 25, 2006

Update: NPPD's 756 MW Cooper Nuke Unit in Nebraska Exits Outage May 25

The unit, which ramped up to 20 percent today, was shut on May 22 due to a compressor failure.

Reuters, 07:34 May 25, 2006

PG&E's 404 MW Helms 2 Hydro Unit in California Shut May 24

Reuters, 09:58 May 25, 2006

Update: Dominion's 560 MW Kewaunee Nuke Unit in Wisconsin Ramps Up to 82 Percent May 25

On May 24, the unit was operating at 29 percent after exiting an outage. The unit was shut on April 26 due to a problem with the feedwater pump and main steam turbine.
Reuters, 07:23 May 25, 2006

OPG's 490 MW Nanticoke 2 Coal-fired Unit in Ontario Shut May 24

The unit shut for a short-term forced outage.
Reuters, 09:30 May 25, 2006

LS Power's 336 MW Morro Bay 4 Gas-fired Unit in California Shut May 24

Reuters, 09:58 May 25, 2006

NRG's 299 MW Encina 4 Gas-fired Unit in California Shut May 24

Reuters, 09:58 May 25, 2006

BP-ARCO's 217 MW Watson Gas-fired Unit in California Shut May 24

Reuters, 09:58 May 25, 2006

PGEC's Boardman Coal-fired Unit in Oregon Returns May 24

The unit was shut on October 22 to repair the turbine and generator.
Reuters 15:58, May 24, 2006

PPM to Construct Wind Projects Totaling 175 MW in Oregon and Colorado

PPM Energy announced today the construction of two wind projects: 100 megawatt Leaning Juniper Wind Project, near Arlington, Oregon, which is slated for commercial operation later this year; and 75 megawatt Twin Buttes Wind Power Project in southeastern Colorado. Completion of the Colorado project is scheduled by the end of 2007.
http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6720414
http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6720424

Petroleum

Murphy's Meraux Refinery in Louisiana to Resume Production in 10 Days

The 125,000 b/d refinery is the last on the U.S. Gulf Coast is still idle after being damaged in last year's hurricane season. The plant was flooded by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005 and has been inactive since. The refinery has been going through start-up since the first week of May.

Reuters, 11:59 May 25, 2006

Bloomberg, 11:42 May 25, 2006

FCC Unit Has Interruption at 100,000 b/d Pasadena Refinery in Texas May 24

Pasadena Refining Co. suffered a short-term interruption of feed to its fluidic catalytic cracking unit at 8:00 a.m. CDT on May 24.

Reuters, 09:11 May 25, 2006

Update: Ecuador Says It will NOT Take Over Occidental's Stake in Crude Export Pipeline

On May 24, the Energy Assurance Daily (EAD) reported that Ecuador had not yet decided whether to take control of Occidental Petroleum's 14.15 percent stake in the country's only privately-owned pipeline. A subsequent story carried by Reuters reported that Ecuador's energy minister had, in fact, decided NOT to take control of the pipeline. The OCP heavy crude pipeline carries an average of 150,000 b/d and has a capacity of 450,000 b/d.

http://today.reuters.com/investing/financeArticle.aspx?type=mergersNews&storyID=2006-05-24T213725Z_01_N24252422_RTRIDST_0_ENERGY-ECUADOR-OIL-UPDATE-2.XML

Esso Exploration Begins Construction on Deepwater Development in Angola

The Kizomba C deepwater field is expected to produce up to 200,000 b/d and is scheduled to startup in 2008. Angola produces 1.4 million b/d and supplied 3.2 percent of U.S. oil imports in 2005.

Reuters May 25, 2006

Natural Gas

U.S. Needs Alaska Pipeline and LNG Projects to Meet Strong Future Demand – FERC

A FERC official stated that a strong future demand for natural gas justifies the need for the current approved and proposed LNG terminals as well as the proposed major pipeline to transport gas from Alaska to the lower 48 states. According to government estimates, LNG could account for about 10 percent of total U.S. gas needs by 2010.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060524/us_nm/energy_summit_natgas_supplies_dc_1

Reuters, 15:49 May 24, 2006

Update: Operating Date for LNG Terminal in California Delayed Until 2011

Japan's Mitsubishi Corp., along with subsidiaries of ConocoPhillips, have delayed the start of commercial operations for its Long Beach, California, LNG terminal until 2011.

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Other News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
May 25, 2006			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	70.80	69.63	50.95
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	5.85	5.79	6.45

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Imperial Oil Scrambles for Alternate Gasoline Supplies; Warns Retailers about Possible Energy Shortages

<http://calsun.canoe.ca/Business/2006/05/24/1596018.html>

Refinery Expansions in U.S. Totaling 1.5 Million b/d Planned by 2010

Reuters, 16:10 May 24, 2006

Power Fully Restored for 21,000 PG&E Customers in California Who Lost Power May 23

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/05/24/MNGPAJ12BR9.DTL&feed=rss.news>

Progress Energy Completes Preparations for the 2006 Hurricane Season

<http://www.finanznachrichten.de/nachrichten-2006-05/artikel-6478823.asp>

Update: Exelon to Begin Cleanup of Tritium from Groundwater at Braidwood Generating Station

http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6722235

Fire Breaks Out in Waste Recovery Area of Power Plant in Iowa May 24

http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6720163

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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