



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, June 13, 2012

Electricity

Storms Cut Power to 88,000 CenterPoint and Entergy Customers in Texas June 12

A severe rain storm cut power to about 88,000 utility customers in the Houston area late on Tuesday, according to utility websites. At the height of the storm, CenterPoint Energy reported about 75,000 customers without power and Entergy Texas reported more than 13,000 outages. As of 3:45 PM ET today, CenterPoint Energy was reporting 12,460 customers remained without power, and Entergy Texas was reporting 5,357 customers remained without power.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/13/utilities-storm-texas-idUSL1E8HD0OR20120613?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43>
<http://gis.centerpointenergy.com/outagetracker/index.html>
<http://viewoutage.entergy.com/tx.aspx>

Severe Storms Cut Power to 50,000 Entergy Customers in Mississippi June 11

Severe storms with strong winds cut power to approximately 50,000 customers statewide on Monday. By Tuesday afternoon, Entergy Mississippi was reporting more than 18,000 remained without power, with nearly 9,000 outages in the Jackson metropolitan area. As of 3:45 PM ET today, Entergy Mississippi was reporting 2,409 customers remained without power in the utility's service area.

<http://www.examiner.com/article/heavy-rain-drenches-parts-of-mississippi-thousands-remain-without-power>
<http://viewoutage.entergy.com/ms.aspx>

Entergy Shuts 730 MW Palisades Nuclear Unit in Michigan June 12 Due to Tank Leak

Entergy Corp. reported its Palisades nuclear unit shut down Tuesday afternoon after water was discovered leaking from the Safety Injection Refueling Water tank, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Operators believe the tank is leaking from several locations, at a rate of approximately 31.4 gallons per day, but they have not yet determined the exact location of the leak. Operators are collecting the refueling water, which has minor tritium contamination, in a reservoir and pumping it into a holding tank.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2012/20120613en.html>

Energy Northwest's 1,107 MW Columbia Generating Station Nuclear Unit in Washington Reduced to 85 Percent by June 13

On the morning of June 12 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Update: Nebraska Public Power District's 764 MW Cooper Nuclear Unit in Nebraska Ramped Up to 80 Percent by June 13

On the morning of June 12 the unit was operating at 50 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Update: Entergy's 510 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Unit in Vermont Ramped Up to 82 Percent by June 13

On the morning of June 12 the unit was operating at 41 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Lightning Strike Shuts Luminant's 793 MW Monticello Coal-Fired Unit 3 in Texas June 12

Luminant reported lightning struck the switchyard at its Monticello plant early Tuesday morning, causing a breaker contact to open, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This caused Unit 3 to trip, resulting in an episode of opacity. Operators restarted the unit later that morning.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=169596>

Equipment Malfunction Shuts NRG's 580 MW Natural Gas-Fired Unit in Texas June 11

NRG Energy Inc. reported Unit 4 at the W. A. Parish coal- and natural gas-fired power plant in Texas tripped Monday afternoon following a combustion control system malfunction, which led to emissions, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=169572>

Update: Sycamore Cogeneration's 360 MW Sycamore Natural Gas-Fired Unit in California Returns to Service by June 12

The unit returned from an unplanned curtailment of 125 MW.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201206121515.html>

Cabrillo Power's 104 MW Encina Gas-Fired Unit 2 in California Shut by June 12

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201206121515.html>

Copper Thieves Cause Explosion at Electrical Substation in Massachusetts May 30; Knock Out Power to 2,700 Utility Customers

http://articles.boston.com/2012-06-09/news/32143450_1_electrical-substation-power-outage-explosion

Petroleum

Production Unaffected by Brief Fire at ExxonMobil's 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery June 11

ExxonMobil Corp. said production at its Torrance refinery was unimpaired after a brief fire Monday afternoon. Officials said that vacuum gasoil was found leaking from a transmission line where the fire started, but an investigation into the cause of the fire was still underway. The transmission line is not associated with any specific unit, the official said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/12/refinery-operations-exxon-torrance-idUSL1E8HCFCPC20120612?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43>

Update: Delta Set to Close on Trainer, Pennsylvania Refinery Deal by June 22; Begin Maintenance Overhaul in Early July – Sources

Delta Air Lines is on schedule to close on its purchase of Phillips 66's idled 185,000 b/d Trainer refinery by June 22, sources familiar with the transaction said on Tuesday. The company announced in early May an agreement with Phillips 66 to acquire the refinery near Philadelphia by the end of June; the facility has been idle since September 2011. Delta hopes to have workers return to the plant the week of June 25 and begin a plant-wide turnaround lasting 40–50 days beginning after July 4, the sources said. Delta will reconfigure parts of the refinery to maximize its production of jet fuel, which it hopes to achieve during the third quarter this year.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/13/us-refinery-operations-delta-trainer-idUSBRE85B1ML20120613>

Update: Plains Plugs Leaking Rangeland Pipeline in Alberta as Cleanup, Restoration Activities Continue

Plains Midstream Canada, a unit of Plains All American Pipeline, L.P., has not yet determined the cause of the June 7 release from its 83,000 b/d Rangeland crude oil pipeline into Jackson Creek near Sundre, Alberta, a company official said on Tuesday. Workers plugged the section of pipe that leaked underneath the river, and the company will remove any oil remaining in that portion of the line as it focuses on cleanup efforts. The Rangeland pipeline is a system consisting of approximately 1,500 km of gathering and trunk lines carrying mostly conventional light crude oil southeast from Edmonton to Carway, Alberta, where it supplies the Glacier Pipeline system in Montana.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/06/12/plains-spill-idUSL1E8HCCL920120612?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43>

Unspecified Process Upset Leads to Emissions at Phillips 66's 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery June 12

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=169633>

Operations Unaffected by Small Fire near Loading Dock at Total's 232,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery June 13

Total Petrochemicals said a small fire that ignited near a loading dock at its Port Arthur refinery early Wednesday morning was doused in 15 minutes and had no apparent effect on operations, according to a spokesman. Upon inspection, it appears a leaking fuel line caused a bulldozer in the loading dock area to ignite.

Reuters, 09:36 June 13, 2012

Unspecified Unit Upset Causes Emissions at Phillips 66's 239,400 b/d Westlake, Louisiana Refinery June 13

Phillips 66 reported an unspecified unit upset at its Westlake refinery Tuesday afternoon led to emissions of sulfur dioxide, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The upset was corrected, which stopped the release, the filing said.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1014329

Natural Gas

Update: Federal Court Upholds FERC Approval of CNYOG's MARC 1 Natural Gas Pipeline in Northern Pennsylvania

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York on Tuesday ruled that the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) properly approved Central New York Oil & Gas's (CNYOG) proposed 39-mile MARC 1 natural gas pipeline, which the company intends to construct in northern Pennsylvania's Endless Mountains. Environmental groups and landowners have opposed the project, citing environmental concerns and a lack of adequate compensation. CNYOG, a subsidiary of Inergy LP, has said MARC 1 will provide key infrastructure in developing the Marcellus Shale. The company intends for the pipeline to connect to major interstate pipelines and its own natural gas storage facility in southern New York.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2012-06/D9VBMU300.htm>

Other News

Update: IDEM Issues Draft Water Permit for Indiana Gasification's Proposed Coal-Gasification Plant in Indiana

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has issued a public notice of its draft Clean Water Act permit for Indiana Gasification's (IG) coal-gasification plant, which IG intends to build in Rockport, Indiana. The plant would convert approximately 3.85 million tons per year of Illinois Basin coal into 47 trillion Btu per year (roughly 126 MMcf/d) of substitute natural gas and 5.5 million tons per year of liquefied carbon dioxide. The project is still pending environmental permits from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and IDEM. Upon approval, construction is expected to begin in 2013.

<http://www.in.gov/idem/5338.htm>

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/idem-draft-water-permit-another-step-forward-for-indiana-gasification-2012-06-11>

NRC Issues Annual Report on Abnormal Occurrences for FY2011

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has released its annual report on abnormal occurrences for fiscal year 2011, citing one abnormal occurrence at a U.S. nuclear power plant. An accident or event is considered an abnormal occurrence if it involves a major reduction in the degree of protection of public health and safety. The single abnormal occurrence at an NRC-licensed nuclear power reactor occurred on October 23, 2010, at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant in Alabama, when a low-pressure coolant injection flow control valve on Unit 1 failed. This increased the likelihood of core damage in event of a major fire, the NRC said. The commission's report also discusses the Japanese event at Fukushima Dai'ichi nuclear plant, flooding at Fort Calhoun plant in Nebraska, and the August 2011 earthquake near the North Anna plant in Virginia.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr0090/v34/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2012/12-072.pdf>

International News

Nothing to report

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
June 13, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	82.99	85.86	97.30
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.17	2.39	4.75

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 and 1:00 PM Eastern Time every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://www.eia.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM Eastern Time 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 PM Eastern Time. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at:

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

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