



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, June 18, 2012

Electricity

NRG Restarts 956 MW Limestone Coal-Fired Unit 2 in Texas June 17 after Boiler Tube Repairs

NRG Texas reported it was returning Unit 2 to service after making repairs to fix a boiler water wall tube leak, according to filings with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators shut the unit for repairs Friday night and began restart procedures on Sunday, the filings said.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=169789>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=169827>

Update: PPL's 1,111 MW Susquehanna Nuclear Unit 2 in Pennsylvania Ramped Up to 92 Percent by June 18

Susquehanna Unit 2 is returning from an outage that began May 30, when PPL shut the unit to inspect its turbine blades, which were flagged after discovering cracks on some Unit 1 turbine blades. The inspection did not reveal any similar cracks, but PPL installed additional diagnostic equipment on the turbine to validate the suspected causes currently under review.

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

Update: Progress Energy's 872 MW Brunswick Nuclear Unit 1 in North Carolina Ramped Up to 62 Percent by June 18

On the morning of June 17 the unit was operating at 48 percent.

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

Update: Entergy's 813 MW FitzPatrick Nuclear Unit in New York Ramped Up to 99 Percent by June 16

On the morning of June 15 the unit was operating at 50 percent.

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

TVA's 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 2 in Alabama Reduced to 75 Percent by June 16

On the morning of June 15 the unit was operating at full power.

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

Calpine's 751 MW Pastoria Gas-Fired Unit in California Shut by June 17

The unit entered an outage due to planned and unplanned causes.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201206171515.html>

Dynegy's 754 MW Moss Landing Gas-Fired Unit 6 in California Returns to Service by June 17

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began by June 16.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201206161515.html>

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201206171515.html>

PCWA's 218 MW Middle Fork and Ralston Hydro Unit in California Reduced by June 17

The unit entered an unplanned curtailment of 107 MW.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201206171515.html>

GenOn's 215 MW Mandalay Gas-Fired Unit 1 in California Shut by June 17

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201206171515.html>

Update: Constellation's 118 MW Ace Cogeneration Coal-fired Unit in California Returns to Service by June 15

The unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201206151515.html>

Cabrillo Power's 104 MW Encina Gas-Fired Unit 2 in California Shut by June 17

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201206171515.html>

Petroleum

Phillips 66 Resuming Normal Operations at Its 239,400 b/d Westlake, Louisiana Refinery after Power Outage June 16

Phillips 66 is in process of resuming routine operations at its Westlake refinery following a power outage over the weekend, a company spokesman said on Monday. Operators began restarting units on Sunday after a partial power outage on Saturday night knocked the units offline.

Reuters, 10:17 June 18, 2012

Sulfur Unit Trip Causes Emissions at HollyFrontier's 130,000 b/d El Dorado, Kansas Refinery June 18

HollyFrontier Corp. reported a sulfur unit trip at its El Dorado refinery Sunday afternoon led to a release of hydrogen sulfide from a flare stack, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators had secured the release at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1014850

ExxonMobil Reports Flaring at Its 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery June 17

ExxonMobil Corp. said operating conditions required flaring at its Beaumont refinery, according to a filing with the Southeast Texas Alerting Network said.

Reuters, 22:13 June 17, 2012

Update: Phillips 66 to Mitigate Water Tank Leak at Its 120,000 b/d Rodeo, California Refinery June 15

Phillips 66 reported that a sour water tank leak at its Rodeo refinery would be mitigated by 4:00 PM local time last Friday afternoon, according to a filing with the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services. The refinery reported the rupture Friday morning and said the incident caused a release of hydrogen sulfide into the atmosphere. A report Saturday indicated crews were continuing to pump hundreds of thousands of gallons of sour water from the ruptured tank that afternoon, as they continued the cleanup.

Reuters, 15:19 June 15, 2012

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_20874623/cleanup-at-phillips-66-refinery-rodeo-continues

Phillips Reports Ongoing Sulfur Dioxide Emissions from Unknown Source at Its 100,000 b/d Ferndale, Washington Refinery June 15

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1014730

Cumene Unit Shuts for Unspecified Reasons at Sunoco's 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery June 12

Sunoco Inc. reported a cumene unit shut down at the Girard Point section of its Philadelphia refinery June 12, according to a filing with Philadelphia pollution regulators.

Reuters, 10:06 June 18, 2012

Natural Gas

Apache Discovers an Estimated 48 Tcf of Natural Gas in a Liard Basin Shale Play, in Northeastern British Columbia

Apache Corp. announced Thursday it has validated a new shale play in the Liard Basin, in northeastern British Columbia, with an estimated 48 Tcf of recoverable natural gas across 430,000 acres. One of three test wells Apache drilled into its holdings in the Liard field using hydraulic fracturing delivered 21.3 MMcf/d of natural gas over its first 30 days of production. Its wells have already connected to pipelines in the region, but the company doesn't intend to rush to develop the field while gas prices remain low, a company executive said.

Reuters, 13:51 June 15, 2012

<http://investor.apachecorp.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=683103>

Update: Southern Union Flares Inlet Gas Due to Continued Compressor Problems at Its 140 MMcf/d Keystone Gas Plant in Texas June 15

Southern Union Gas Services reported it was flaring inlet gas at its Keystone gas plant overnight Friday because its Emperor Compressor Station Units 3 and 4 were shut down, according to filings with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Southern reported last week that Units 3 and 4 shut down Thursday morning due to compressor problems. It reported also that Emperor Compressor Stations Units 2 and 20 were also down, for unspecified reasons.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=169822>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=169821>

Power Outage Shuts Plant, Leads to Flaring at ExxonMobil's 135 MMcf/d Salt Creek Gas Plant in Texas June 15

ExxonMobil reported that during nighttime operations last Friday, Salt Creek Gas Plant went down, routing its inlet gas to flare. An investigation indicated that an electrical storm rolling through the area had cut power to the plant and portions of the field, causing the plant to go down. Power was restored later that morning, allowing operators to resume normal operations at the plant.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=169804>

Enbridge Reports AGI Unit Shutdowns at Its Tilden Gas Plant in Texas June 16-17

Enbridge reported acid gas injector (AGI) units at its Tilden gas plant in Texas went down several times over the weekend, according to filings with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. On Saturday, AGI Unit 1 went down due to high scrubber level, and AGI Unit 2 went down due to high suction pressure. Operators replaced fuses and restarted the units shortly thereafter. On Sunday morning, AGI Units 1 and 2 went down due to power failure. Operators restarted the units later that morning.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=169838>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168528>

Butamax Expands Biobutanol Early Adopters Group with Four New Members; Group's Membership Increased to Seven Plants with Capacity of 500 MMGal/Yr.

Butamax Advanced Biofuels today announced four new facilities have joined the Butamax Early Adopters Group (EAG), a consortium of ethanol producers interested in biobutanol production. Biobutanol is a high performing drop-in biofuel that can be blended at high concentrations without the need for infrastructure changes, delivering twice the renewable energy content of current biofuel blends. Butamax recently announced its plans to collaborate with Fagen, Inc. to retrofit ethanol facilities to biobutanol production. The EAG was launched in December 2011 with founding member Highwater Ethanol of Lamberton, Minnesota. The four new members announced today are Platinum Ethanol LLC of Arthur, Iowa; Little Sioux Corn Processors of Marcus, Iowa; Granite Falls Energy LLC of Granite Falls, Minnesota; and Siouxland Ethanol of Jackson, Nebraska. Today's announcement brings the current EAG membership to seven plants, with ethanol production capacity of approximately half a billion gallons per year. <http://www.butamax.com/assets/pdf/butamax%20expands%20eag%20final%20june%2018%202012.pdf>

Study Finds Higher Earthquake Risk from Wastewater Injecting than Fracking

A recent study by the National Research Council examines the potential for technologies involved in shale gas recovery, carbon capture and storage (CCS), geothermal energy production, and conventional oil and gas development to cause earthquakes. The study, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, concludes that the factor most directly correlated with induced earthquakes is the total balance of fluid introduced or removed underground. Because oil and gas development, CCS, and geothermal energy production each involve net fluid injection or withdrawal, all have at least the potential to induce earthquakes that could be felt by people. However, technologies designed to maintain a balance between the amounts of fluid being injected and withdrawn, such as most geothermal and conventional oil and gas development, appear to produce fewer induced seismic events than technologies that do not maintain fluid balance.

<http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=13355>

U.S. Silica and BNSF Railway Partner to Significantly Increase Proppant Supply to Eagle Ford

U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc. today announced it will partner with BNSF Railway Company to build a new silica sand storage facility in San Antonio, Texas to support the oil and gas production industry in the Eagle Ford shale. The new 15,000-ton frac sand storage facility will be operational in early 2013. US Silica anticipates the company will make three to four shipments per month of approximately 10,000 tons of frac sand on 100 car-unit BNSF trains from its Ottawa, Illinois sand mine to meet the industry's need for proppant. The shipments will include three different grades of dry sand, as well as resin-coated proppants from US Silica's new facility in Rochelle, Illinois, which is expected to be fully operational in the first quarter of 2013.

<http://www.ussilica.com/news/u-s--silica-and-bnsf-railway-partner-to-significantly-increase-proppant-supply-to-eagle-ford->

International News

Japan to Restart First Nuclear Reactors since the Fukushima Dai'ichi Nuclear Disaster

Japan's government on Saturday approved bringing the first nuclear reactors back online since a nationwide shutdown began after the March 2011 Fukushima Dai'ichi nuclear disaster. The Kansai Electric Power Co. has been approved to restart two reactors in Ohi town. The utility said the generation will be necessary to help avert a power crunch in Osaka and other areas in the west during the peak demand period in mid July or early August.

<http://edmonton.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20120616/japan-nuclear-restart-reactors-120616/20120616?hub=EdmontonHome>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices June 18, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	83.29	83.60	92.05
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.44	2.20	4.54

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

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

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