



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, August 03, 2010

Electricity

Update: TVA Cuts Output to 50 Percent at 3,391 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant in Alabama

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) again reduced production at its 3,391 MW Browns Ferry nuclear power plant in Alabama by August 3, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reported. Operators have curbed output multiple times in recent days as high heat has led to concerns that the facility might violate state rules forbidding downstream river temperatures from surpassing 90 degrees. All three units – the 1,155 MW Unit 1, the 1,118 MW Unit 2, and the 1,118 MW Unit 3 – were running at half power this morning, the NRC said. On the morning of August 2, Unit 1 was operating at 69 percent, Unit 2 was operating at 70 percent, and Unit 3 was operating at 70 percent, according to the NRC.

http://www.decaturdaily.com/detail/65259.html?content_source=&category_id=&search_filter=&event_mode=&event_ts_from=&list_type=&order_by=&order_sort=&content_class=&sub_type=stories&town_id

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Delta Energy Center's 880 MW Delta Energy Center Gas-Fired Unit in California Shut by August 2

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage by August 2.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201008021515.html>

Update: AES's 498 MW Alamitos Gas-Fired Unit 5 in California Returns to Service by August 2

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201008021515.html>

Seminole Electric Cooperative Plans up to 1,000 MW Gas-Fired Power Plant in Gilchrist County, Florida

Seminole Electric Cooperative aims to construct the facility on property it already owns in Gilchrist County, Florida.

<http://www.gainesville.com/article/20100802/ARTICLES/8021009/1002>

Update: Luminant to Mothball 818 MW Tradinghouse Creek Gas-Fired Power Plant in Texas at End of September 2010

http://www.luminant.com/plants/pdf/Tradinghouse_Facts.pdf

<http://www.kxxv.com/global/story.asp?s=12846771>

Update: NRG Energy to Reduce Spending on Nuclear Power Expansion Plans in Texas

NRG Energy Inc. expects to sharply reduce spending on its proposed 2,660 MW nuclear power expansion in Texas, it said by August 2, as it awaits word on whether the project will receive a federal loan guarantee. The company plans to spend just \$1.5 million per month on the project, compared to \$7.5 million in July 2010. Its Chief Executive, however, said he was still confident that the project would receive the guarantee. NRG Energy plans to install two units – a combined 2,660 MW of power capacity – at its existing South Texas Project in Matagorda County, Texas.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100802-707350.html>

http://www.nrgenergy.com/pdf/factsheet_stp.pdf

Ameren Eyes More Than \$3 Billion of Electric Transmission Projects in Missouri and Illinois

Ameren Corporation announced on August 2 the formation of a subsidiary dedicated to electric transmission infrastructure investment, and said it had identified more than \$3 billion of transmission investment opportunities that could be completed in Missouri and Illinois over the next 10 to 15 years.

<http://ameren.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=829>

U.S. Electric Grid Susceptible to Cyber Attack: Idaho National Laboratory

The U.S. electric grid is susceptible to cyber attacks, but many of the issues could be cheaply repaired, the Department of Energy's (DOE) Idaho National Laboratory said in a recent report. The lab analyzed the results of 24 Industrial Control Systems assessments conducted from 2003 through 2009. To read the report, click on the first link below

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/eprint/nstb.pdf>

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704905004575405741051458382.html>

Petroleum

Update: Leak Postpones Test ahead of "Static Kill" Procedure at Blown-Out Well in Gulf of Mexico August 2

A small hydraulic leak postponed an injectivity test at the blown-out MC252 well, pushing back responders' plans to launch the "static kill" procedure in the Gulf of Mexico, BP said on August 2. The company had repaired the leak and expected to perform the injectivity test on August 3, as of latest reports. Retired U.S. Coast Guard Admiral Thad Allen, the official in charge of the government's response, expected the static kill process to begin by this afternoon, August 3. The procedure could last for 33 to 61 hours, he said. Separately, U.S. scientists said that the well – prior to its temporary shutdown in mid-July – leaked an estimated 4.9 million barrels of oil. Responders captured about 800,000 barrels of that total. The well was leaking 62,000 b/d of oil at the start of the spill, and 53,000 b/d immediately prior to its closure, according to the scientists. The 4.9 million barrel total makes the incident the world's largest-ever accidental oil spill, according to Reuters.

<http://www.bp.com/genericarticle.do?categoryId=2012968&contentId=7064115>

<http://www.bp.com/extendedsectiongenericarticle.do?categoryId=9034427&contentId=7063885>

<http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doc/2931/842479/>

<http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/doc/2931/840851/>

Reuters, 10:49 August 3, 2010

Reuters, 15:01 August 2, 2010

Reuters, 11:38 August 3, 2010

Update: Cleanup Continues after July 26 Leak along Enbridge's 190,000 b/d, 30-Inch, Indiana-to-Ontario Lakehead System Line 6B

Enbridge's 190,000 b/d, 30-inch, Indiana-to-Ontario Lakehead System Line 6B remained shut on August 3, some eight days after it spilled an estimated 19,500 barrels (the Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that the total could exceed 23,800 barrels) of oil into a creek near the company's Marshall, Michigan pump station. Enbridge said it was working with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) to establish a return-to-service plan, but it had not set a restart date, as of late on August 2. The prospect of an extended shutdown continued to threaten operations at several Canadian and U.S. Midwest refineries. As of latest reports, however, there had been only minor disruptions. BP and Husky Energy slightly curbed rates at their 127,500 b/d Toledo, Ohio refinery, and Shell reported "minor" issues – but no impact to production – at its 75,000 b/d Sarnia, Ontario refinery, according to Reuters. Separately, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reported significant progress in the clean-up, but warned that the work would continue for months. The cause of the spill remained unclear, as of latest reports. Officials with the National Transportation Safety Board, however, said that Enbridge had shut the line for planned work just prior to the leak. Two minutes after the company shut the line, an alarm sounded at its Alberta, Canada control center, showing that pressure had dipped at its Marshall, Michigan pump station. It was not clear if the shutdown was related to the subsequent rupture.

<http://response.enbridgeus.com/response/main.aspx?id=12896>

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hbazNv8HPBELUpCXxcRQmCxaO3DgD9HB1D9G0>

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hbazNv8HPBELUpCXxcRQmCxaO3DgD9HBL2400>

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2010/08/low-pressure_alarm_sounded_on.html

Reuters, 12:54 August 3, 2010

Motiva Shutting FCC at 285,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery August 2-4

Motiva began shutting a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC) on August 2-4 after “a leak in the spent catalyst slide valve,” the company said in a filing with state regulators. It was not clear when the unit might return to service.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143034>

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100803-700091.html>

BP Shuts Compressor at 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery August 2-3

BP shut the J-475 compressor on August 2-3 for “maintenance,” it said in a filing with state regulators. The shutdown triggered flaring, but it was not clear if there was any impact to production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143026>

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFWEN824020100802>

Update: Murphy Resumes Normal Operations after Power Outage at 34,300 b/d Superior, Wisconsin Refinery by August 2

Murphy Oil resumed normal operations by August 2 at its 34,300 b/d Superior, Wisconsin refinery, the company said. A power outage forced shut processing units late last week.

Reuters, 13:06 August 2, 2010

Update: PdVSA Restarts 60,000 b/d Cat Cracker at 146,000 b/d El Palito, Venezuela Refinery August 3

PdVSA restarted a 60,000 b/d catalytic cracker on August 3 at its 146,000 b/d El Palito, Venezuela refinery, a company official said. A power failure knocked offline the entire refinery in July, but operators experienced problems with the cat cracker’s steam generator as they attempted to return the unit to service.

Reuters, 12:05 August 3, 2010

CNPC, Niger to Jointly-Produce Oil from Estimated 325 Million Barrel Agadem Block in Niger

The site is expected to begin production in three years.

Reuters, 10:40 August 3, 2010

Natural Gas

Update: TransCanada and ExxonMobil Complete Open Season for Natural Gas Pipeline Projects from Alaska July 30

TransCanada Corporation and ExxonMobil Corporation closed the initial open season for two proposed natural gas pipelines from the North Slope, Alaska, the partners said on their website. The project “received bids from potential shippers,” and the companies expect “to assess and negotiate the issues and conditions that are incorporated within the bids.” The companies launched two, coordinated open seasons on April 30 - one in Alaska and another in Canada - for two proposed natural gas pipelines. The open season included two options: the companies would either construct an approximately 1,700-mile pipeline from the North Slope, Alaska to Alberta, Canada, or they would build an approximately 800-mile pipeline from the North Slope to Valdez, Alaska. Under the second proposal, unidentified companies would convert the natural gas into liquefied natural gas (LNG) in Valdez, and then deliver the LNG to North America and elsewhere.

http://www.transcanada.com/news/2010_news/20100429.html

http://www.thealaskapipelineproject.com/open_season

Other News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices August 3, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	82.14	77.34	71.88
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.94	4.65	3.34

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Dominion Reports 11,585 Customers without Power in Virginia August 1 – Fewer than 800 Remain in the Dark, as of Latest Reports

<http://www.dom.com/storm-center/dominion-electric-outage-summary.jsp>

Transformer Explosion Knocks Out Power to almost 11,000 Xcel Energy Customers in Minnesota August 3

http://www.startribune.com/local/stpaul/99851954.html?elr=KArksLckD8EQUoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPc:_Yyc:aUUr

Update: Duke Energy to Relocate Site of Proposed Electric Tie Station in North Carolina – Company Had Originally Planned to Construct Facility within View of Sacred Cherokee Site

<http://www.duke-energy.com/news/releases/2010080202.asp>

New York City Aims to Boost Solar Power Output to 45-70 MW by 2015, from 3.5 MW at Present

<http://www.metro.us/us/article/2010/08/03/04/1115-82/index.xml>

Duke Energy Plans 50 MW Expansion at Existing 340 MW Jocassee Pumped-Storage Hydroelectric Station Units 1 and 2 in South Carolina

<http://www.duke-energy.com/news/releases/2010080201.asp>

ACCIONA Energy Eyes early-2011 Start Date for 45 MW Lamèque Windpark in New Brunswick, Canada

<http://www.acciona.com/news/acciona-energy-will-invest-85m-euro-in-its-fourth-windpark-in-canada>

DOE Announces \$188 Million for Small Business Technology Commercialization - Awards to Support Areas Such as Smart Grid, Energy Efficient Buildings, Industrial Energy Use, Advanced Renewables, Cleaner Fossil Power, Carbon Cycle Measurement, and High Performance Computing

<http://www.energy.gov/news/9293.htm>

DOE Offers Conditional Commitment for Loan Guarantee of \$17.1 Million to Support Construction of AES' 20 MW Energy Storage System in New York

<http://www.energy.gov/news/9291.htm>

Update: CenterPoint Energy Says Independent Tests Verify Accuracy of its Smart Meters in Texas – State Regulators Had Requested Tests amid Consumer Concerns

<http://www.centerpointenergy.com/newsroom/newsreleases/a48c0c822c42a210VgnVCM10000026a10d0aRCRD/>

FBI Investigating Early-July Vandalism on Power Poles and Southern Illinois Power Cooperative-Owned Substation in Illinois

<http://www.carmitimes.com/topstories/x272787784/FBI-joins-probe-into-southern-Illinois-power-system-vandalism>

NRC Plans Public Meeting with AREVA NP, Inc. to Discuss Company's Plans to Decommission Fuel Manufacturing Facility in Lynchburg, Virginia August 5

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2010/10-057.ii.html>

Tropical Storm Colin Expected to Steer Clear of Oil Platforms in Gulf of Mexico

Reuters, 10:53 August 3, 2010

Citgo Reports Emissions at 429,500 b/d Lake Charles, Louisiana Refinery August 2

Reuters, 07:38 August 3, 2010

Pump Snag Triggers Flaring at Chevron's 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/MALHaz.nsf/f1841a103c102734882563e200760c4a/52037f85c1a8bbd088257773002b2a42?OpenDocument>

Pipeline Leak Forces BG Group to Shut Approximately 35,000 b/d of Oil Production, 205 MMcf/d of Natural Gas Output Offshore India July 20

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-08-02/bg-shuts-oil-gas-output-at-indian-fields-after-pipeline-leak.html>

Pump Snag at Waha Gas Plant in Texas August 2-3

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143047>

Valve Failure Triggers Shutdown of Tilden Gas Plant in Texas July 2

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143035>

Texstar Reports Rupture along 16-Inch Bigfoot Natural Gas Pipeline in Texas August 2 – Affected Segment Taken Offline

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143033>

Turbine Shuts, Restarts at Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas August 2

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143028>

Update: Williams Receives FERC Okay for Proposed 380,000 Dth/d Mobile Bay South II Expansion Project along Transco Natural Gas Pipeline in Alabama by August 2

<http://www.williamsjp.com/profiles/investor/ResLibraryView.asp?ResLibraryID=39677&GoTopage=1&Category=1800&BzID=1296>

Tugboat Sinks and Spills Unspecified Quantity of Diesel Fuel into Cheboygan Bay, Michigan August 1

<http://www.upnorthlive.com/news/story.aspx?id=491053>

Global Coal Output to Peak and Drop after 2011: University of Texas at Austin Researcher

http://www.utexas.edu/news/2010/07/26/engineering_patzek_coal/

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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