



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, August 15, 2012

Electricity

Severe Thunderstorms Cut Power to More Than 32,000 Oncor Customers in the Dallas-Fort Worth Area August 14–15

<http://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/More-Than-30000-Without-Power-166244236.html>

Xcel Shuts 522 MW Prairie Island Nuclear Unit 1 in Minnesota August 14 after Discovering Exhaust Leaks on Both Emergency Diesel Generators

Xcel Energy reported it was shutting Prairie Island Unit 1 Tuesday morning after determining both diesel generators were inoperable, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Late Monday night, operators discovered a small flame at the exhaust manifold of the D1 Emergency Diesel Generator. Operators shut the generator down. A subsequent investigation revealed a leaking gasket on the turbocharger. Early Tuesday morning, operators discovered a small fire on the exhaust manifold of the D2 Emergency Diesel Generator, as well. Operators shut the D2 generator down. With both generators inoperable, operators were required by technical specifications to shut the reactor Tuesday morning. The outage was not expected to be lengthy, Xcel said in a statement. Xcel's 522 MW Prairie Island Unit 2 continues to operate at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2012/20120815en.html>

http://www.xcelenergy.com/About_Us/Energy_News/News_Releases/Prairie_Island_Unit_1_and_Monticello_nuclear_plant_safely_shut_down_for_repairs

Update: Xcel Shuts 578 MW Monticello Nuclear Unit in Minnesota by August 14 to Repair Leaking Pipe in Containment Structure

Xcel Energy shut its Monticello nuclear unit Tuesday to repair a gasket on a pipe flange, the company said in a statement. The Monticello reactor had been operating at 10 percent power since the weekend, as workers investigated leakage to a collection point inside the plant's containment structure. All of the leakage was contained within the containment structure. The investigation identified a gasket on a pipe flange needed repairs, and the plant was shut down to complete the work. The outage was not expected to be lengthy, Xcel said in a statement.

http://www.xcelenergy.com/About_Us/Energy_News/News_Releases/Prairie_Island_Unit_1_and_Monticello_nuclear_plant_safely_shut_down_for_repairs

FPL Shuts 510 MW Point Beach Nuclear Unit 1 in Wisconsin August 14 to Prevent Automatic Trip Due to Electro-Hydraulic Control System Signal

Florida Power & Light (FPL) reported it shut Point Beach Unit 1 late Tuesday in anticipation of an auto turbine trip due to operators noticing the turbine governor valves closing in response to an Electro-Hydraulic Control System signal, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2012/20120815en.html>

CDWR's 933 MW Hyatt-Thermalito Hydro Unit in California Reduced by August 14

The unit was curtailed by 566 MW due to planned and unplanned causes.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201208141515.html>

AES's 225 MW Huntington Beach Natural Gas-Fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by August 14

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began by August 11. Prior to the outage, Unit 3 had been curtailed due to unplanned causes by 134 MW from August 9 to 10, and by 25 MW on August 8.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201208141515.html>

NRC Issues Violation at TVA's Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant After Determining Operators Would Not Be Able to Safely Shut the Plant; Increases Oversight of Units 2 and 3

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has issued a violation to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) for an inspection finding at the Browns Ferry nuclear power plant and will increase oversight of Units 2 and 3, according to a press release Tuesday. Browns Ferry Unit 1 is already subject to increased NRC oversight due to an inspection finding discovered in 2010. The "white" finding for all three units was based on an NRC inspection that found plant operators and staff would not have been able to satisfactorily perform newly implemented procedures for safe plant shutdown. The NRC identified procedural adherence deficiencies and determined that operators and staff were not adequately trained on the new procedures. A white finding has low to moderate safety significance. The 2010 inspection finding for Unit 1 was "red," meaning it has high safety significance.

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1222/ML12227A480.pdf>

Petroleum

Update: Flash Fire Breaks Out in Hydrotreater During Turnaround Work at BP's 413,000 Whiting, Indiana Refinery August 14; Coker Damaged in July Fire to Run at Half Capacity for Several Weeks – Industry Report

A flash fire that broke out in the 105,000 b/d CFU hydrotreater at BP's Whiting refinery on Tuesday was quickly extinguished by onsite emergency responders and was not expected to affect other refinery operations, according to a spokeswoman. The hydrotreater had been shut over the weekend to begin a planned 6-week turnaround. Operators temporarily suspended work on the unit after the fire but still plan to complete the planned work by the end of September or early October, according to IIR Energy. The industry research group also reported that BP restarted the coker unit at its Whiting refinery over the weekend, but it will run at half capacity for the next several weeks as operators fix the coker drum, which was damaged in a fire July 23.

Reuters, 11:56 August 15, 2012

Reuters, 12:52 August 15, 2012

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/08/14/markets-cancrude-idINL2E8JGLB20120814>

Update: FCCU to Remain Indefinitely Shut for Repairs at Citgo's 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery – Company Official

Citgo Petroleum Corp. on Tuesday said the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Lemont refinery remains shuttered with no estimate for restart, according to a company official. Operators shut the unit July 28 for unplanned repairs following an equipment issue. The FCCU was initially expected to return to service within the week, according to reports at that time. On August 8, Citgo reported it was restarting the FCCU in a filing with state environmental regulators, but traders later said the restart was unsuccessful.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2012/08/14/citgo-illinois-refinery-fccu-remains-shuttered/>

Pressure Release Valve Upset Causes Hydrogen Sulfide Emissions at Shell's 156,400 b/d Martinez, California Refinery August 14

Royal Dutch Shell Plc. reported a failed pressure release valve resulted in the release of hydrogen sulfide at its Martinez refinery on Tuesday, according to a filing with the Contra Coast County Health Department. The leak began around 12:40 PM local time and was secured by 3:00 PM local time, officials said. Shell was investigating the exact cause of the odor and said operators at the refinery won't use the equipment that leaked until it's fixed. Operators had extinguished a brief fire on the hydrocracking unit Monday.

Reuters, 21:34 August 14, 2012

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_21311295/no-danger-at-martinez-shell-refinery-despite-reports

Petrobras Reports Emissions at Its 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery August 14

Petrobras reported heavy steam coming off unspecified equipment extinguished the west flare's flame at its Pasadena refinery Tuesday morning, causing emissions, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Issues with the pilot light's hardware caused a delay of relighting the west flare, prolonging emissions, the filing said.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=172318>

Calumet Specialty Products to Buy Montana Refining's 9,800 b/d Great Falls, Montana Refinery, Other Assets

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3075557/Latest-News/Calumet-to-buy-gasoline-middle-distillates-producer-Montana-Refining.html>

Natural Gas

AGI Compressor Repeatedly Shuts on High Discharge Pressure at Regency's 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas August 14

Regency Energy Partners reported the acid gas injector (AGI) compressor shut down four times Tuesday morning on fifth-stage discharge pressure, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators later concluded that natural gas supplied from undetermined third parties had high carbon dioxide content, causing the AGI compressor to shut on high discharge pressure.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=172319>

Other News

Arkansas and North Carolina Governors Ask EPA to Reduce Production Mandate for Ethanol as Continued Drought Impacts U.S. Livestock Producers

The governors of Arkansas and North Carolina on Tuesday asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to fully waive its production mandate for corn-based ethanol, in an effort to bring down prices for the grain that have surged during a severe drought that has reduced the yield potential of developing crops. The governors have argued the grain is needed to feed livestock. The EPA's Renewable Fuels Standard requires about 15 billion gallons of ethanol be blended into gasoline this year.

Reuters, 18:17 August 14, 2012

International News

FARC Bombs Oil Storage Facility, Electric Transmission Tower in Colombia August 14

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known as the FARC, on Tuesday bombed an oil storage facility belonging to state oil company Ecopetrol, as well as an electric transmission tower in Colombia's northeastern province of Norte de Santander, local authorities said. The blast at the oil depot caused only a minor spill. The explosives did not topple the transmission tower, so service was not interrupted, officials said.

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2012/08/14/colombian-rebels-bomb-oil-depot/>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
August 15, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	94.03	94.09	87.13
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.79	2.99	4.17

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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