



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, August 18, 2010

Electricity

Exelon's 855 MW Quad Cities Nuclear Unit 2 in Illinois Shut August 17

Operators shut the unit on August 17 due to a "recirculation pump trip" the company said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that on the morning of August 17 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20100818en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Exelon's 802 MW Three Mile Island Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania at Full Power by August 18

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 17 the unit was operating at 56 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Dominion's 1,130 MW Millstone Nuclear Unit 3 in Connecticut Ramped Up to 92 Percent by August 18

Dominion shut the unit on August 13 "to repair a small leak in the residual heat removal system connected to the reactor coolant system" it said in a previous filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that on the morning of August 17 the unit was operating at 17 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20100816en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Entergy's 813 MW FitzPatrick Nuclear Unit in New York Ramped Up to 72 Percent by August 18

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 17 the unit was operating at 37 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: AES's 498 MW Alamos Gas-Fired Unit 5 in California Ramps Up by August 17

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned curtailment of 248 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201008171515.html>

NRC Reports "Yellow" Safety Violation at Duke Energy's 2,538 MW Oconee Nuclear Power Plant in South Carolina

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reported a "yellow" violation – the second most-severe of four safety classifications – at Duke Energy's Oconee nuclear power plant in South Carolina, citing issues connected to the facility's standby shutdown systems. The NRC also reported a "white" finding – a less severe issue indicating "moderate" safety significance – related to the same shutdown systems.

<http://www.independentmail.com/news/2010/aug/16/nrc-issues-inspection-findings-october-2009-refuel/>

<http://www.wyff4.com/r/24646538/detail.html>

<http://www.duke-energy.com/power-plants/nuclear/oconee.asp>

Transformer Fire Forces Shut Unit at 2,530 MW Cumberland Coal-Fired Power Plant in Tennessee August 16

A transformer fire forced shut one of two units at the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) 2,530 MW Cumberland coal-fired power plant in Tennessee, a company spokesman said. No one was injured, but the unit was expected to remain offline for several days.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20100818/NEWS01/100818005/TVA-transformer-disabled-by-fire-at-key-power-plant>

<http://www.tva.gov/sites/cumberland.htm>

Powers Energy of America Plans 100 MW Solar Power Facility near Schneider, Indiana

Powers Energy of America could break ground on the first 5 MW phase in the fall of 2010, its president said by August 18. The company could open the remaining capacity within five years.

http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/2c8f7b42dd9549dca002775764903bf7/IN--Lake_County-Solar/

Petroleum

Update: Reports Cast Doubt on Government's Account of Spilled Oil in Gulf of Mexico

Two reports cast doubt yesterday on the government's account of the remaining oil in the Gulf of Mexico, claiming that official estimates were too optimistic. The studies questioned both the amount of oil that remained in the Gulf and the potential for that oil to cause environmental damage. The first study, from the University of Georgia, claimed that as much as 79 percent of the spilled oil remained in the water not including the oil captured and sent to the surface vessels. "The idea that 75 percent of the oil is gone and is of no further concern to the environment is just absolutely incorrect" according to one of the researchers. The researchers also said their figures did not factor in the oil that drifted into coastal wetlands, claiming such oil was "a particularly difficult form to quantify, since much of it has settled in tidal creek and bay bottoms or has been buried in sand marsh and creek bottom sediments." The second study, from the University of South Florida, found evidence to suggest that toxic levels of oil had drifted further east than previously thought.

<http://www.countercurrents.org/walsh180810.htm>

Reuters, 16:17 August 17, 2010

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-17/scientists-say-79-of-spilled-oil-may-remain-challenging-administration.html>

BP Shuts Indiana-to-Illinois Products Pipeline in Bid to Locate Leak by August 18

BP shut its Indiana-to-Illinois White Oak oil products pipeline after residents said they smelled gasoline near the line in Hammond, Indiana, a company spokesman said on August 18. Subsequent tests "confirmed that there was no significant loss of pressure" indicating that there was no major leak along the line, according to the spokesman. The spokesman confirmed that a "finished hydrocarbon substance" had been located in the area, but the company was still working to determine the source of the leak, as of latest reports. The affected line delivers products from BP's 405,000 b/d Whiting, Indiana refinery to terminals in Chicago and Manhattan, Illinois. It was not clear if the shutdown had any impact to Whiting's production.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100818-709488.html>

Hovensa Shuts Unit on Pipe Leak at 500,000 b/d St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands Refinery August 18

Hovensa shut an unidentified unit after a pipe leak at its 500,000 b/d St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, according to a filing. It was not clear if the incident had any impact to production.

DJN, 12:09 August 18, 2010

Valero Shuts Unit at 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery August 17-18

Valero shut a naphtha hydrotreater to fix a "leaking heat exchanger" on August 17-18 at its 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery, according to a company spokesman and a regulatory filing. The company did not expect the incident to have a "material impact to production," the spokesman said.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143666>

Reuters, 10:10 August 18, 2010

ConocoPhillips Reports Compressor Snag at 306,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery August 14

A "wet gas compressor failure" led to a SO2 release at ConocoPhillips' 306,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois refinery on August 14, the company said in a filing with state regulators. It was not clear if the incident had any impact to production.

<http://tier2.iema.state.il.us/FOIAHazmatSearch/HazmatDetails.aspx?RptNum=H-2010-0894>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-16/conocophillips-reports-equipment-failure-at-refinery-update2-.html>

<http://tier2.iema.state.il.us/FOIAHazmatSearch/HazmatDetails.aspx?RptNum=H-2010-0894>

ConocoPhillips Cuts Rates to Repair Leak at 185,000 b/d Trainer, Pennsylvania Refinery

ConocoPhillips reduced its 185,000 b/d Trainer, Pennsylvania refinery to repair a leak related to a crude unit, a source familiar with the situation said by August 17. The incident started a few days ago, according to the source.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-08-17/conocophillips-said-to-reduce-rates-at-pennsylvania-refinery.html>

Process Upset Triggers Emissions at Shell's 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery August 17

A process upset caused emissions at Shell's 166,000 b/d Martinez, California refinery on August 17, according to a regulatory filing. It was not clear if the incident had any impact to production.

Reuters, 15:27 August 17, 2010

Update: Petrobras to Begin Production in 2010 at Planned 80,000 b/d Cascade-Chinook Oilfields in Gulf of Mexico

Petrobras expects to begin production in 2010 at its planned 80,000 b/d Cascade and Chinook oilfields in the Gulf of Mexico, despite a government-imposed moratorium on deepwater drilling. The company said it drilled two development wells prior to the moratorium, and that those wells would not be impacted by the ban.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100817-709524.html>

Pipeline Attacks Cut Nigerian Bonny Crude Production by as Much as 100,000 b/d: Traders

Shell declared force majeure on exports of Nigerian Bonny Light crude, effective August 16, as traders said pipeline attacks, or sabotage, had curtailed Bonny oil production by up to 100,000 b/d. Shell said previously that it had halted some production after "suspected crude thieves" attempted to siphon oil from the Bonny pipeline system in Nigeria by August 12. It was the third alleged theft along the Bonny and Alakiri pipelines since the start of the month, according to Shell.

Reuters, 07:27 August 18, 2010

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jEw2mvCRcwUPpmTyeEeYVwkDNkQ>

Sudan Aims to Boost Oil Production to 650,000 b/d in 2011, from 480,000 b/d at Present: Energy Minister

Sudan aims to boost its oil output by 35 percent, from up to 480,000 b/d at present to 650,000 b/d in 2011, the country's Energy Minister said by August 18.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-08-18/sudan-targets-a-35-increase-in-oil-output-next-year.html>

Natural Gas

Rex Energy Corporation Plans 40 MMcf/d Sarsen Gas Plant in Pennsylvania

Rex Energy Corporation received a state air permit for its planned 40 MMcf/d cryogenic gas processing facility in Butler County, Pennsylvania, the company said on August 17. It has already broken ground on the plant, and expects to begin start-up operations in October 2010.

<http://ir.rexenergycorp.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=500014>

<http://www.downstreamtoday.com/News/ArticlePrint.aspx?aid=20127>

Other News

Update: Range Fuels Begins Methanol Production at Planned 60 MMGal/Yr. Cellulosic Biofuels Facility in Soperton, Georgia

Range Fuels, Inc. has begun producing cellulosic methanol from the initial phase of its planned 60 MMGal/Yr. cellulosic biofuels facility in Soperton, Georgia, it said on August 17. The company expects to begin construction next summer on the project to expand the plant's capacity to 60 MMGal/Yr.

<http://www.rangefuels.com/range-fuels-produces-cellulosic-methanol-from-first-commercial-cellulosic-biofuels-plant.html>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
August 18, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	74.67	78.24	68.55
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.28	4.43	3.11

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Three Substations Shut Down, Knock Out Power to about 13,000 TECO Customers in Florida August 18 – Company Restores Power to Most within Just Over an Hour

<http://www.tampabay.com/news/publicsafety/power-restored-to-majority-of-13000-in-temple-terrace-teco-says/1115993>

Storms Knock Out Power to at Least 11,000 SRP Customers in Arizona August 17

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/pinal/articles/2010/08/17/20100817monsoon-storms-metro-phoenix.html>

U.S. Geothermal Inc. Receives Construction Permit for 8.6 MW Phase I of Planned 35 MW San Emidio Geothermal Power Project in Nevada by August 18

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/US-Geothermal-Inc-iw-2251631878.html?x=0&.v=1>

Update: DOE Okays Funding for Pacific Northwest Smart Grid Demonstration Project – Project to Test Smart Grid Technology with up to 60,000 Customers across Five States

<http://portland.bizjournals.com/portland/stories/2010/08/16/daily10.html>

http://www.bpa.gov/energy/n/smart_grid/PN.cfm

After Weekend Power Failure Disrupted Subway Service in Boston, Massachusetts, MBTA to Replace Bad Circuit Breaker and Deploy Backup Generator at Control Center

<http://www.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view.bg?articleid=1275421>

NRC Seeks Public Input on Draft Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal at APS' Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant in Arizona – Agency Sees no Environmental Impacts to Preclude Renewal

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2010/10-142.html>

NRC Issues Final Environmental Impact Statement in Support of NPPD's 764 MW Cooper Nuclear Power Plant in Nebraska by August 16

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2010/10-140.html>

U.S. DOT Fines Enbridge \$2.4 Million for Safety Violations Relating to Fatal 2007 Incident along Lakehead Pipeline System in Clearbrook, Minnesota

<http://www.dot.gov/affairs/2010/phmsa0310.htm>

Gasoline Tanker Explodes, Killing at Least One Person along Interstate 77 near North Carolina-South Carolina Border by August 16

<http://www.wltx.com/news/story.aspx?storyid=94231&catid=2>

State Judge Issues Temporary Restraining Order, Blocking ConocoPhillips from Delivering Refinery Equipment along U.S. Highway 12 through Idaho

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9HHLG3N01.htm>

PdVSA Sees No Impact to Production after Explosion at 200,000 b/d Puerto La Cruz Refinery in Venezuela August 17

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9HHLGQJ81.htm>

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100818-706826.html>

Regen Gas Cooler Snag at Mallet CO2 Recovery Plant in Texas August 17-18

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143670>

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

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