



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, August 20, 2013

Electricity

Lightning Strikes Substation, Knocks Out Power to 120,000 SCE Customers in San Joaquin Valley, California August 19

Southern California Edison (SCE) crews worked through the night after lightning struck a major SCE substation in Visalia, California at around 7 p.m. PDT last night. The lightning strike caused a fire that was quickly put out, and knocked out power to about 120,000 SCE customers in Tulare and Kings counties. As of 1 p.m. PDT Tuesday, approximately 5,000 SCE customers remained without power.

<https://www.sce.com/wps/portal/home/outage-center/outage-map/outage-list-view/>

<http://newsroom.edison.com/releases/sce-crews-working-to-safely-restore-power-disrupted-by-storms>

<https://www.facebook.com/sce>

Emergency Preparedness Capabilities Lost During Process Computer Replacement at Indiana-Michigan Power's 1,060 MW DC Cook Nuclear Unit 1 in Michigan August 19

Indiana-Michigan Power reported its DC Cook nuclear unit plant process computer (PPC) was removed from service on Monday to support a planned replacement. The PPC, including the emergency response data system, was unavailable to the NRC operations center during that time. The planned replacement also affected the safety parameter display system, the real time data repository, and PPC data to emergency response facilities at the unit. Safety system annunciators and indications in the control room remained available. The scheduled replacement, returning of equipment to service and post maintenance testing is expected to be completed by Saturday, September 7, 2013.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130820en.html>

Stack Radiation Monitor Rendered Nonfunctional at Energy Northwest's 1,107 MW Columbia Nuclear Unit in Washington August 19

Energy Northwest reported the reactor building stack radiation monitor high range detector was declared nonfunctional due to increasing background noise at its Columbia unit. The reactor building stack radiation monitor intermediate range detector remained functional and showed no increase in effluent radioactivity. Initial investigation into the cause of the malfunction of the reactor building stack radiation monitor high range detector revealed that the condition also affected the reactor building stack radiation monitor intermediate range detector. Therefore, this monitor was also been declared non-functional. Compensatory measures remain in effect to provide emergency response capability for assessing and monitoring actual or potential offsite consequences of a radiological release through this pathway. Corrective actions are being pursued to restore the affected monitors to functional status.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130820en.html>

Entergy's 653 MW Pilgrim Nuclear Unit 1 in Massachusetts Reduced to 80 Percent by August 20

On the morning of August 19 the unit was operating at 98 percent, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

Update: RRI Energy's 320 MW Etiwanda Natural Gas-fired Unit in California Returns to Service by August 19

The unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201308191515.html>

Panda Power Funds to Build 859 MW Natural Gas-fired Mattawoman Power Plant in Brandywine, Maryland August 19

Panda Power Funds announced it intends to build, own, and operate the 859 MW combined-cycle Mattawoman power plant in an industrial-zoned area of Brandywine, Maryland. Once complete, the natural gas-fueled generating station will be able to supply the power needs of approximately 859,000 homes in the Maryland / Washington D.C. metropolitan area. The Mattawoman plant will be a “zero-liquid-discharge” plant, returning no waste water to a treatment facility and subsequently preventing the discharge of harmful nutrients into the Chesapeake Bay. Construction of the Mattawoman project will take approximately 30 months and is dependent upon financing, regulatory approvals, and other conditions.

<http://newsroom.pandafunds.com/press-release/panda-power-funds-build-859-mw-power-plant-brandywine>

Petroleum

Update: Output to be Halved for at Least Two Weeks After Fire at Motiva’s 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery

Royal Dutch Shell Plc, which owns the joint-venture Motiva refinery in Port Arthur with Saudi Aramco, reported more than half of the refinery’s output will be knocked out for at least two weeks due to a fire on Saturday. The fire was the second in a week and reduced rates and shut units at the plant. Sources familiar with work at the plant said on Monday the fire broke out in a hydrocracker unit next to the largest of the refinery’s three crude distillation units, known as VPS-5. The 325,000 b/d VPS-5 unit was placed on warm circulation on Sunday because of the hydrocracker shutdown. The fires come on top of a reoccurring vibration problem with a key pipe in the VPS-5 unit that is expected to keep it running well below capacity for more than a year. The vibration problem surfaced shortly after the CDU was restarted early this year following 7.5 months of work to repair damage caused by a chemical leak that happened shortly after the plant’s opening in late April 2012.

Reuters, 16:58 August 19, 2013

VDU Back to Normal After Upset at BP-Husky’s 125,600 b/d Toledo, Ohio Refinery August 20

BP-Husky Refining LLC reported a vacuum distillation unit (VDU) was back to normal operations after a malfunction at its refinery in Toledo, Ohio, according to sources familiar with operations at the refinery. BP-Husky Refining LLC is a partnership between BP Plc and Husky Energy Inc. The refinery had earlier reported vacuum pressure was lost in an unspecified unit, in a filing with regulators.

Reuters, 11:56 August 20, 2013

Phillips 66 Isolates, Secures Pipeline in Oklahoma After Gasoline Spill August 19

Phillips 66 Pipeline LLC reported it isolated a transmission line in Pawnee County, Oklahoma, following a leak of an unknown amount of gasoline, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The leak was secured, the filing said.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1057576

Natural Gas

Kitsault Energy Signed MOU to Partner with Asian Oil and Gas Major to Develop Natural Gas Infrastructure and LNG Export Terminal in Northwest Canada August 19

Kitsault Energy has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with an Asian Oil and Gas Major to partner for the development of northeast British Columbia and northwest Alberta natural gas (NG) fields, NG pipeline, liquefaction of NG (floating and land-based), dedicated energy export terminal, LNG transportation at Kitsault, and regasification, marketing, sales and distribution. Kitsault Energy will continue to work with other potential partners, for upstream, midstream, and downstream activities in Canada and Asia to expedite the planning, permitting, and approvals to establish a strong, positive, and mutually beneficial relationship with First Nations Governments.

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2013/8/prweb11039379.htm>

Power Loss Shuts Regency's 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas August 18

Regency Energy Partners LP reported that its Waha gas plant and acid gas injector (AGI) system went down on a total power loss. Attempts to bring the AGI compressor back online throughout the night were unsuccessful due to high scrubber levels caused by the plant upset conditions. Once power was restored and the plant brought back within normal operating parameters, the AGI compressor was also brought back online.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=186996>

Other News

Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force Releases Strategy

President Obama's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force, chaired by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Shaun Donovan, released a rebuilding strategy to serve as a model for communities across the nation facing greater risks from extreme weather and to continue helping the Sandy-affected region rebuild. The Rebuilding Strategy contains 69 policy recommendations, including improvements to the electrical grid and communication systems so they are less likely to fail in a storm and urged that the fuel supply chain be protected. It recommended that governments and residents be given the best scientific data available on current and future risks, including a Web-based tool that uses federal agency information to project how high sea levels will rise, up to 100 years in the future. "More than ever, it is critical that when we build for the future, we do so in a way that makes communities more resilient to emerging challenges such as rising sea levels, extreme heat and more frequent and intense storms," the report said.

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2013/HUDNo.13-125

Reuters, 17:09 August 19, 2013

Force Majeure Lifted, Operations Resume at Cumberland Coal Mine in Pennsylvania After Unplanned Outage August 15

Alpha Natural Resources, Inc. announced that subsidiary Cumberland Coal Resources LP has mitigated adverse geological conditions in the headgate area of its Cumberland underground longwall mine in Greene County, Pennsylvania. As a result, the company has resumed operations and lifted the force majeure related to the geological conditions that halted mining operations and coal shipments July 15. The company's president said that mining and coal shipments have resumed and mine personnel are gradually ramping up operations while continuing to monitor the headgate area geological status and all mine safety and operations conditions.

<http://alnr.client.shareholder.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=785556>

International News

Libya's Es Sider Port Authority Orders Oil Tankers to Leave; Brega Port Reopens August 19

The port authority of Libya's largest Es Sider terminal asked their customers to remove their tankers from the port late on Monday, trading and shipping sources said. Libya's state oil company declared force majeure on exports from four ports due to striking security guards on Monday. Meanwhile, the Marsa al Brega oil port was reopened Tuesday after protesters ended their blockade of the port, several Libyan industry sources said

Reuters, 5:24 August 20, 2013

Reuters, 7:24 August 20, 2013

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
August 20, 2013			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	106.72	105.94	95.82
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.46	3.34	2.70

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 & 1:00 PM ET every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

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

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

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

Please direct comments and questions to: ead@oe.netl.doe.gov