



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, August 22, 2013

Electricity

FBI Investigating Sabotage of High-Tension Entergy Transmission Line in Arkansas August 21

Entergy Corp. officials reported a downed high-tension transmission line near Cabot, Arkansas, that was intentionally cut on Wednesday. It is believed that the person responsible climbed the 100 foot tower, severed the line, and removed several bolts at the base of the tower. No injuries resulted from this incident and no power outages were reported. The FBI, Cabot Police Department, and Lonoke County Sheriff's Office are investigating this incident and are seeking assistance from local members of the community.

<http://lonokenews.net/cabot-star-herald/news/local/power-line-sabotaged.html?i>

<http://www.thv11.com/news/article/276712/2/FBI-Downed-Cabot-power-line-cut-intentionally>

<http://www.arkansasmatters.com/story/fbi-investigating-cut-power-line-in-cabot/d/story/cS-m0MftlkiTmeatcE8FEg>

<http://www.sacbee.com/2013/08/22/5671609/fbi-investigating-after-power.html>

Entergy Issues Warning to Copper Thieves in Arkansas August 13

Entergy Arkansas reported that cases of copper theft have picked up in the last six months with more than 100 copper thefts reported in Columbia, Miller, Lafayette, Ouachita, and Nevada counties. Repairs already made have cost about \$1 million, and more are needed. To protect the reliability of the electrical system and to prevent the need for expensive repairs, the Columbia County Sheriff's office is asking for help from the public in identifying copper thieves. "Watch for suspicious activities, such as vehicles parked on the side of the road at night, especially near oil fields, or anyone walking down a road carrying wire, wire-cutting tools, or fiberglass extension sticks. If you see something or someone suspicious, call law enforcement immediately. If you have information on past thefts or ongoing issues, please call your local law enforcement agency," said the Columbia County sheriff. Entergy Arkansas says it intends to work with law enforcement to prosecute all copper theft cases to the fullest extent of the law.

http://www.entergy-arkansas.com/News_Room/newsrelease.aspx?NR_ID=2764

Ameren's 345 kV Illinois River Transmission Project Approved by Illinois Commerce Commission, Will Boost Reliability and Deliver Renewable Energy

Ameren Transmission Company of Illinois, a wholly owned subsidiary of Ameren Corporation, has received approval from the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) to build the majority of its nearly 400-mile, approximately \$1.1 billion Illinois Rivers transmission project. The project consists of a new 345 kV transmission line crossing the Mississippi River near Quincy, Illinois, and continuing east across Illinois to the Indiana border. Right-of-way acquisitions for the approved portions of the project are expected to begin immediately with a full range of construction activities in 2014, providing a significant boost to the Illinois economy over the next five years. The ICC agreed with and supported the need for this new line and granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity for seven of nine proposed segments on the route and three of nine proposed bulk substations. Ameren is moving forward on the approved portions of the project. The ICC noted the remaining two segments were not approved due to lack of time and evidence to determine the most cost-effective route. The project previously received approvals from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.

<http://ameren.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=1205>

Update: FPL's 510 MW Point Beach Nuclear Unit 1 in Wisconsin at Full Power by August 22

On the morning of August 21 the unit was operating at 78 percent, up from 22 percent on August 20, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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

AES's 498 MW Alamitos Natural Gas-fired Unit 5 in California Returns to Service by August 21

The unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201308211515.html>

AES's 495 MW Alamitos Natural Gas-fired Unit 6 in California Reduced by August 21

The unit entered an unplanned curtailment of 245 MW.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201308211515.html>

Panda Power Funds Begins Construction on 829 MW Natural Gas-fired Liberty Power Project in Bradford County, Pennsylvania August 22

Panda Power Funds announced that it has completed the acquisition and successful financing of Moxie Energy's planned 829 MW natural gas-fueled, combined-cycle "Liberty" generating station, located in Bradford County, Pennsylvania. When completed, the Liberty project will be the first new power plant in Pennsylvania specifically developed to take advantage of its proximity to the Marcellus Shale gas formation. Panda will immediately start construction on the 33-acre site and expects commercial operations to begin by early 2016. When completed, the generating station will be able to supply the power needs of up to 1 million homes in Pennsylvania.

<http://newsroom.pandafunds.com/press-release/panda-power-funds-finances-829-mw-pennsylvania-power-project>

Petroleum

Update: Pipe Work in 2014 Could Shut 325,000 b/d CDU for Three Months at Motiva's 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery

The main 325,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) at Motiva's Port Arthur refinery, VPS-5, could be shut for up to three months next year to replace a vibrating pipe, sources familiar with operations said. Fall of 2014 is likely the earliest the work could be done on the 16-inch pipe, which moves crude in the VPS-5. Excessive vibration on the pipe prevents the unit from running at capacity, according to the sources. VPS-5 has only reached its rated capacity one time and rarely run above 300,000 b/d. Most often it runs between 250,000 and 280,000 b/d and rates are not expected to go beyond that until the pipe is replaced, sources said. Plans to boost VPS-5's capacity by 20 percent through efficiency improvements were scrapped in March because of the vibrating pipe. Excessive vibration can cause leaks on the pipe, which had already been replaced once. The vibration problem surfaced shortly after VPS-5 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, 18:26 August 21, 2013

Update: Flint Hills Starts-Up FCCU at Its 260,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery August 22

Flint Hills Resources reported the start-up of a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at the West Plant of its Corpus Christi refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The FCCU was shut on Saturday after operations discovered a vapor release, according to the filing. Earlier, Flint Hills reported that it stopped the startup of a unit at the refinery, according to a filing with the National Response Center.

Reuters, 12:09 August 22, 2013

Motiva Reports Pump Fire at Its 235,000 b/d Convent, Louisiana Refinery August 19

Motiva Enterprises LLC reported a pump fire in a process unit at its refinery in Convent, according to a filing with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. The filing did not specify the unit where the pump fire occurred. Royal Dutch Shell Plc, which operates the refinery it co-owns with Saudi Aramco, said on Wednesday that the Convent refinery shut the unit after an operational issue that resulted in a fire. Onsite responders quickly extinguished the blaze and no one was hurt, a spokeswoman said.

Reuters, 17:53 August 21, 2013

Natural Gas

Force Majeure Outage to End Friday at Enterprise's 1.7 Bcf/d Meeker Gas Plant in Colorado

Enterprise Products Partners LP said on Wednesday, unit 1 at the Meeker natural gas processing plant in Colorado would return to normal operations on Friday following a force majeure outage that began in late June. The company said in a prior website posting that the unit was shut due to an inlet relief valve failure and subsequent collapse of a vent stack, causing damage to the unit.

Reuters, 15:38 August 21, 2013

Other News

Low-level Nuclear Alert Issued at Hanford Nuclear Site in Washington August 21

Hanford Nuclear Site issued an alert late Wednesday night for the lowest level emergency after radiation was detected during a transfer from a waste tank. The emergency was issued when higher than expected levels of radiation were found on a routine test of the C tank farm, indicating the "potential of a waste transfer leak." All operations were halted, and personnel were evacuated from the C tank farm area. Other affected facility personnel were instructed to take cover or shelter in place. The alert-level emergency was lifted at Thursday morning when additional radiological tests found no detectable levels of contamination and no indication of a leak or spill. Officials planned to investigate the incident further.

<http://q13fox.com/2013/08/22/hanford-issues-low-level-nuclear-alert/#axzz2ci9baAZj>

International News

Update: Force Majeure Lifted at Libya's Marsa al Brega Port; Es Sider, Zueitina, Ras Lanuf Ports Remain Closed August 22

The force majeure remains in place for Libya's Es Sider, Ras Lanuf and Zueitina ports, the Deputy Oil Minister said. Es Sider has been closed for nearly four weeks although some improvements were seen at other ports. Libya's state National Oil Corp. lifted the force majeure at Marsa al Brega port on Thursday. Local sources and agents said earlier this week that Brega had reopened but no oil had yet loaded. The Deputy Oil Minister told Reuters that Libya's oil output was around 680,000 b/d, up from estimates last week of 600,000-630,000 b/d.

Reuters, 11:51 August 22, 2013

Explosions in Iraq Shut Down Kirkuk-Ceyhan Oil Pipeline to Turkey August 21

Officials said bomb attacks in northern Iraq have damaged part of a pipeline exporting oil through the Turkish port of Ceyhan. A police officer and an oil official said Thursday that three bombs went off next to the pipeline, on Wednesday night, near Mosul. They said technical teams were repairing it but gave no indication when oil flow might resume.

http://thesouthern.com/news/world/middle-east/explosions-shut-down-oil-pipeline-in-iraq/article_33ccb8c3-9514-5195-9406-b650562647c4.html

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
August 22, 2013			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	104.25	107.43	96.76
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.51	3.41	2.80

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

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

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