ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, August 23, 2016

Electricity

FPL's 839 MW Saint Lucie Nuclear Unit 1 in Florida Trips Shut after Loss of Offsite Power August 21

Florida Power & Light (FPL) reported that its St. Lucie Unit 1 on August 21 experience a reactor trip and a loss of offsite power due to an inadvertent generator relay actuation. The trip occurred at 7:26 p.m. EDT while the unit was operating at 35 percent power. Offsite power to the switchyard remained available during the event, and at 8:36 p.m. EDT, restoration of offsite power to St. Lucie Unit 1 was completed. St. Lucie Unit 2 was unaffected and remains in Mode 1 at 100 percent power. Nevertheless, the incident is under investigation, the company said.
http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2016/20160823en.html

Energy Northwest's 1,107 MW Columbia Nuclear Unit in Washington at Full Power by August 23

On the morning of August 22 the unit was operating at 85 percent.
http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2016/

Delta Power's 240 MW Crockett Cogen Gas-Fired Unit in California Returns to Service by August 22

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began August 20.
http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201608221515.html
http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201608201515.html

RRI Energy's 215 MW Mandalay Gas-fired Unit 1 and 215 MW Mandalay Gas-fired Unit 2 in California Return to Service by August 22

The units returned from an unplanned outage that began August 20.
http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201608221515.html
http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201608201515.html

Smart Grid Technologies Have Reduced Outage Hours for Georgia Power Customers in 2016

Georgia Power announced on Monday that its investments in smart grid technologies have helped the company avoid more than 280,000 total hours, or 17 million minutes, of potential power outages for its customers so far this year. Enhanced distribution technologies, such as automatic fault location and isolation equipment, automatic switching devices, and advanced metering infrastructure are improving reliability by helping Georgia Power pinpoint the location of an issue, more efficiently dispatch crews, and reduce overall outage durations for customers. In addition to new smart grid technologies, Georgia Power has invested more than $1 billion over the past five years on equipment and facility improvements including cyber and physical security; modernization of grid protection and control systems; and replacement of aging infrastructure such as power poles, wires, and underground cables.
https://www.georgiapower.com/about-us/media-resources/newsroom.cshtml

FirstEnergy Completing Infrastructure Projects This Year to Enhance Mon Power Electric Service in West Virginia

FirstEnergy Corp. is continuing construction through the remainder of 2016 on distribution and transmission infrastructure projects in Mon Power's 34-county West Virginia service area. Projects completed, underway, or planned through the end of the year include: completing construction on a new 138 kV transmission line, which will be energized later this year and connects substations in Clarksburg and Waldo Run; constructing a new transmission substation for operation by year's end near Smithfield, WV in order to meet the electrical needs of a nearby gas processing facility expanding its operations; building a new substation and two new, three-mile power lines near Greenwood, WV to provide electrical service to a fracking water treatment plant to be constructed in Doddridge County; the addition of a second transformer to a substation near Cassville, WV; upgrading and replacing equipment on distribution circuits throughout the service territory; inspecting about 22,000 distribution poles; and replacing about 260 poles.
https://www.firstenergycorp.com/newsroom/news_releases/-238-million-in-infrastructure-projects-planned-in-mon-power-are.html

Cut Guy-wire Leaves 20,000 MEA Customers Briefly without Power August 22

Roughly 20,000 Matanuska Electric Association (MEA) customers in Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Alaska, lost power for about an hour Monday afternoon following a widespread outage caused by a cut guy-wire along the MEA transmission system. The utility first noted the outage just after 2:30 p.m. AKDT Monday. By 3:30 p.m. AKDT, the company said all customers had seen power restored.
http://www.adn.com/alaska-news/mat-su/2016/08/22/mea-reports-20000-people-without-power-in-mat-su-outage/

Los Alamos National Laboratory to Investigate Solar Weather Impacts to Power Grid

Next month the Los Alamos National Laboratory will launch a new investigation of how solar storms could compromise large swaths of the power grid. The three-year Los Alamos program will seek to determine what transformers, circuits, stations, and conduits could be affected by extreme solar weather events.
http://www.laboratoryequipment.com/news/2016/08/los-alamos-investigate-solar-dangers-power-grid

Petroleum

Energy Transfer Halts Construction on 570,000 b/d Dakota Access Pipeline amid Protests, Federal Court Hearing This Week

Energy Transfer Partners has agreed to halt construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline project in southern North Dakota until a federal court hearing this week in Washington, D.C. The temporary construction shutdown comes amid growing protests and increased tension over the pipeline, which is intended to cross the Missouri River near the Standing Rock Sioux reservation that straddles the North Dakota-South Dakota border. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe is suing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for its decision to grant permits at more than 200 water crossings in four states for the pipeline. The Dakota Access Pipeline Project is a new approximate 1,172-mile, 30-inch diameter pipeline that will connect the Bakken and Three Forks production areas in North Dakota to Patoka, Illinois. It will transport approximately 470,000 b/d with a capacity as high as 570,000 b/d or more. Depending upon regulatory approvals, the pipeline is projected to be in service by the fourth quarter of 2016.
http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/north-dakota-pipeline-construction-halted-court-date-41486731
http://www.daplpipelinefacts.com/

Update: Motiva Continues 40,000 b/d Hydrocracker Restart at Its 237,700 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery August 23 – Sources

Motiva Enterprises was restarting the hydrocracking unit on Tuesday at the company's Norco refinery after repairing a valve, said sources familiar with plant operations. The 40,000 b/d hydrocracker was shut on Friday, the sources said.
Reuters, 13:37 August 23, 2016

Natural Gas

CEC, CPUC, CAISO, LADWP Release Action Plan to Preserve Southern California Energy Reliability This Winter Due To Indefinite Operational Constraints at Aliso Canyon

The California Energy Commission (CEC), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), California Independent System Operator (CAISO), and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) on Monday released a follow up action plan to preserve Southern California natural gas and electric reliability during the upcoming winter in light of the current operational limitations at Southern California Gas Co.'s (SoCalGas) 86 Bcf Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility. Previously, the agencies' Summer Action Plan was a forecast primarily based on natural gas used by power plants to produce electricity since air conditioner utilization is higher during hot weather and electricity demand is higher. Meanwhile, the Winter Action Plan flips the equation as more natural gas is used in the colder months by residents of homes and small businesses – known as SoCalGas' core customers – and less natural gas is used to generate electricity by power plants – known as non-core customers. Specifically, the Winter Action Plan calls for the implementation of 10 new mitigation measures in addition to measures identified in the Summer Action Plan, which did help prevent curtailments during heat waves in June and July, according to a Summer Reliability update presented in the appendices of the winter plan. The newest mitigation measures include encouraging natural gas conservation during cold weather, strengthening demand response programs, extending non-core balancing rules, adding balancing rules for core customers, establishing a maximum consumption level for electric generators, requiring reports on restoring pipeline service, identifying additional natural gas supplies, preparing to buy and import liquefied natural gas, updating the Aliso Canyon withdrawal protocol, and monitoring natural gas use at petroleum refineries. The agencies added in the report that next steps include, developing and tracking milestones for Winter Action Plan implementation; updating reliability risk assessments; adjusting the Winter Action Plan as the SoCal Gas well testing plan unfolds and results potentially allow changes to Aliso Canyon injection and withdrawal capability; and providing responses after obtaining stakeholder comments from the upcoming public workshop on Friday, August 26.
http://www.energy.ca.gov/releases/2016_releases/2016-08-22_Aliso_Canyon_Winter_Action_Plan_nr.pdf
http://docketpublic.energy.ca.gov/PublicDocuments/16-IEPR-02/TN212903_20160822T091330_Aliso_Canyon_Gas_and_Electric_Reliability_Winter_Action_Plan.pdf
http://www.energy.ca.gov/2016_energypolicy/documents/index.html#08262016

Atlas Pipeline Reports Flaring at Its 195 MMcf/d Midkiff Gas Plant in Texas August 22

Atlas Pipeline reported flaring at its Midkiff plant due to a malfunction at the consolidator cryogenic plant, according to a filing with state regulators.
http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=242033

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices August 23, 2016			
	Today	**Week Ago**	**Year Ago**
CRUDE OIL **West Texas Intermediate U.S.** $/Barrel	47.49	46.52	40.40
NATURAL GAS **Henry Hub** $/Million Btu	2.74	2.71	2.71

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