



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, August 25, 2008

Electricity

Storms Cut Power to as Many as 100,000 in Alabama August 23

Initial reports indicated that about 35,000 Alabama Power customers and some 10,000 customers of the Alabama Rural Electric Association lost power as the result of a severe wind and rain storm that swept through the state on the evening of August 23. Later reports placed the number of outages for Alabama Power as high as 95,000 customers. About 7,000 were still without electricity in the afternoon of August 25.

<http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080824/NEWS/80824011>
http://www.nbc13.com/vtm/news/local/article/severe_weather_reports_from_birmingham_area/33281/
http://www.eufaulatribune.com/euf/news/local/article/residents_lose_power_due_to_storm/33288/
<http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080823/NEWS/80823017>

Storms Knocks Out Power to 29,000 Duke Energy Customers in Ohio August 24

The storm cut electricity to more than 29,000 customers, cumulatively, Duke Energy said. Only scattered outages remained, as of latest reports.

http://www.wtte28.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.oh/3554cc15-www.wtte28.com.shtml
<http://www.duke-energy.com/ohio/outages/current.asp>

Progress Energy's 834 MW Crystal River Nuke Unit 3 in Florida Shut August 24

Operators shut the unit after a pump supplying feedwater to a steam generator became "uncoupled" August 24, according to a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The unit will be back online "within a few days," a company spokeswoman said. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 24 the unit was operating at full power.

Bloomberg News 12:00 August 25, 2008

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

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

NRG Energy's 864 MW Limestone Coal-fired Unit 2 in Texas Trips August 23

An operator error tripped the unit early Saturday, according to a report. The company quickly restored operations. Reuters, 10:45 August 25, 2008

NRG Energy Shuts 836 MW Limestone Coal-fired Unit 1 in Texas August 22

The company shut the unit to fix a boiler tube leak, according to a filing with state regulators. A filing suggested repairs could stretch to this evening, at 8:30 local time.

Bloomberg News, 10:41 August 25, 2008

Reuters, 10:45 August 25, 2008

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=113009>

Luminant's 575 MW Big Brown Coal-fired Unit 2 in Texas Shuts August 25

The unit tripped offline "due to a failed breaker in the electrical system," a spokesman said. Neither the spokesman nor a filing with state regulators indicated when the unit would be back online.

Bloomberg News, 12:23 August 25, 2008

Reuters, 12:35 August 25, 2008

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=113062>

Update: Energy Northwest's 1,107 MW Columbia Generating Station Nuke Unit in Washington Ramped Up to 60 Percent by August 25

Workers halted the unit as a precaution after identifying low oil pressure in a hydraulic system August 21. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 24 the unit was operating at 15 percent. Bloomberg News, 07:21 August 25, 2008

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Update: FPL Restarts 839 MW Saint Lucie Nuke Unit 1 in Florida

A sump pit flooded during Tropical Storm Fay, forcing the unit offline August 20. The company restored the unit to 1 percent power by this morning, August 25, according to a Nuclear Regulatory Commission report.

Bloomberg News 07:15 August 25, 2008

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/20080825ps.html>

Constellation's 825 MW Calvert Cliffs Nuke Unit 1 in Maryland at Full Power by August 25

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 24 the unit was operating at 87 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Update: FPL's 693 MW Turkey Point Nuke Unit 4 in Florida at Full Power by August 25

FPL shut the unit on August 15 to repair a small leak between two pipes connected to a valve, associated with off-line equipment tests. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 24 the unit was operating at 64 percent.

Reuters, 07:46 August 25, 2008

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

FPL's 565 MW Duane Arnold Nuke Unit in Iowa Ramped Up to 96 Percent by August 25

The unit slowed from 98 percent to 55 percent power by August 23. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 24 the unit was operating at 63 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

OPPD's 478 MW Fort Calhoun Nuke Unit in Nebraska Ramped Up to Full Power by August 25

Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) shut the unit last week after workers found an out-of-place duct boot in the cooling system. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 22 the unit was operating at 9 percent.

Reuters, 08:01 August 25, 2008

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Luminant Restarts 569 MW Sandow Coal-fired Unit 4 in Texas

Operators ramped the unit up to full capacity by early today, August 25. The unit "tripped while at load" on August 24, according to a filing with state regulators.

Bloomberg News, 11:13 August 25, 2008

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=113028>

Reliant's 215 MW Mandalay Gas-fired Unit in California Shut by August 24

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit experienced an unplanned outage by August 24.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200808241515.html>

Martinez Cogen's 115 MW Gas-fired Unit in California Returns to Service by August 24

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit experienced an unplanned outage by August 23.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200808241515.html>

PPL to Rebuild Collapsed Substructure at 806 MW Montour Coal-fired Unit 1 in Pennsylvania—Unit to be Back by End of September

A water distribution structure partially collapsed August 5, and the company shut the associated Unit 1 as a safeguard. PPL will rebuild and replace the structure by December, the company said. In the interim, the plant will employ temporary equipment and return to full service by the end of September.

Bloomberg News, 09:36 August 25, 2008

http://www.dailyitem.com/0700_the_danville_news/local_story_233080348.html

Georgia Power Files with State PSC to Convert 288 MW Coal-fired Plant Mitchell to 96 MW Biomass Facility

Georgia Power asked the Georgia Public Service Commission (PSC) for authorization to convert its coal-fired Plant Mitchell to renewable wood biomass, according to a company statement. The conversion would reduce the plant's capacity from 288 MW to 96 MW. The company will not replace the net loss with additional power capacity because the current facility does not operate at full power, a spokeswoman said. Georgia Power expects the PSC to rule on its proposal by spring of 2009. Workers would break ground by spring, 2011, and open the facility in June 2012.

<http://southerncompany.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=394>

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6941231.xml?p=Electric%20Power/News&sub=Electric%20Power>

City of Palmdale Plans 570 MW Solar-and-Natural Gas-fired Power Plant

The city of Palmdale filed with the California Energy Commission to build the 570 MW, solar-and-gas-fired power plant. Pending approval, the city plans to break ground in early 2010, and open the facility as early as summer, 2012.

http://www.dailynews.com/news/ci_10259328

Petroleum

Update: BP Resumes Normal Operations along 1 Million b/d BTC Pipeline Tankers to Resume Loading Tomorrow, Operator Says

BP ramped up throughput along the 1 million b/d Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) oil pipeline over the weekend, and expected to begin loading BTC crude onto tankers tomorrow, August 26. "We ramped up the flow over the weekend, and we're still ramping now but effectively we're back to normal operations," a BP spokesperson said. An explosion and fire shut the BTC on August 5. The pipeline delivers Caspian Sea crude 1,109 miles, from Baku, Azerbaijan to Ceyhan, Turkey.

<http://www.hurriyet.com.tr/english/finance/9741262.asp?scr=1>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601102&sid=aXB0PL6mbQQo&refer=uk>

Reuters, 07:06 August 25, 2008

Reuters, 03:35 August 25, 2008

Update: Valero Restarts 110,000 b/d CDU at 340,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery

The 110,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) is ramping up to planned rates, according to a company spokesman. The unit, at the facility's east plant, shut August 14 for unplanned maintenance.

Reuters, 10:17 August 25, 2008

Citgo Restarts FCC at 156,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery August 22

Citgo restarted a fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCC) at the refinery on August 22, according to a filing with state regulators. Severe weather cut power to the unit's controllers, forcing the unit to shut, the filing said.

Reuters, 17:48 August 24, 2008

Bloomberg News 10:20 August 25, 2008

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=113011>

Coker Shuts at Citgo's 156,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery August 23

A coking unit shut after "mechanical failure of the Wet Gas Compressor overwhelmed the Flare Gas Recovery unit," according to a filing with state regulators.

Bloomberg News, 10:55 August 24, 2008

Reuters, 17:48 August 24, 2008

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=113024>

Companies Initiate Open Season for Proposed Reversal of 18-inch Oil Pipeline Line Would Deliver Crude from Montreal, Canada to South Portland, Maine

Portland Pipe Line Corp. and Montreal Pipe Line Ltd. initiated an open season for the project, which would eventually provide for as much as 166,000 b/d of crude deliveries. The pipeline, as planned, would deliver up to 128,000 b/d of western Canadian heavy crude by the second quarter, 2010. Some two years later, it would ship both light synthetic and heavy crude grades, at rates between 128,000 b/d and 166,000 b/d.

http://www.ogj.com/display_article/337141/7/ARTCL/none/none/Reversed-line-would-haul-Canadian-oil-to-Maine/?dcmp=OGJ.monthly.pipeline

Natural Gas

Enbridge, Atmos Energy Launch Open Season for Proposed 1 Bcf/d, 100-mile Natural Gas Pipeline in Texas

Enbridge Energy Partners and Atmos Pipeline and Storage launched an open season for firm transportation service along the proposed Barnett Intrastate Gas, or “BIG”, pipeline. The pipeline would link Atmos Energy’s Line X in Johnson County, Texas, to Enbridge’s Double D and Clarity pipelines in Anderson County, Texas. It would serve gas suppliers from the Waha, Barnett Shale, Bossier Sands and Anadarko Basin producing areas. It would also include interconnections with multiple pipeline systems. The open season will run from today, August 25, until September 17.

<http://www.investquest.com/iq/a/ato/ne/news/ato082208.htm>

Other News

Update: Boich and FirstEnergy to Increase Output to 12.5 Million Tons/Year at Signal Peak Coal Mine in Montana

The expansion will include a new, 35-mile rail line to deliver coal from the mine. The companies have begun construction on the line, and expect to open it for service by August 2009. The associated Signal Peak Coal Mine could yield an additional 100 million tons of surface reserves, according to the mine’s president.

<http://www.greatfallstribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2008808220323>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
August 25, 2008			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL			
West Texas Intermediate U.S.	114.01	113.89	71.40
\$/Barrel			
NATURAL GAS			
Henry Hub	7.63	7.82	5.73
\$/Million Btu			

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Georgia Reopens Main East-West Railway Overnight after Fuel Train Explosion Briefly Forced Line Offline

Reuters, 02:33 August 25, 2008

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/StoryPage/StoryPage.aspx?sectionName=&id=b9816b12-395b-42d3-8de9-14837d7f9352&&Headline=Oil+train+derails%2c+burns+in+central+Georgia+&strParent=strParentID>

Azerbaijan to Route Some Oil through Iran as Conflict, Pipeline Problems Stem Deliveries Through Georgia—to Export Up to 2.3 Million Barrels of Oil over Two-Month Span

Reuters, 07:31 August 25, 2008

National Grid New York Reports 12,513 Customers Without Power August 25

As of 10:20 AM, <https://www1.nationalgridus.com/niagaramohawk/storm/OutagesByCounty.aspx>

Xcel Energy Says Cold Weather Caused Billing Error—Frozen Part Broke Off of New Meter-Reading Modules and Disabled Meters

http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news_article.cfm?id=10912140

Update: Entergy to Start New Siren System at 2,311 MW Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant This Week

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/7231054.xml?p=Nuclear/News&sub=Nuclear>

Entergy's 2,311 MW Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant Sits Atop Junction of Two Active Seismic Zones—Study

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/08/080821164605.htm>

Employee Finds Explosive Device Near TransAlta Power Plant in Washington State—No Detonation, County Sheriff's Office Says

<http://www.theolympian.com/101/story/554800.html>

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Rejects Nevada's Petition to Reject Proposed Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Facility in State

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5gM9SQa98idllhqZD0eT6fkRW5B_2wD92NJIG00

Firefighters Extinguish Blaze at Refinery and Tank Farm in Chicago, Illinois Suburb August 24

Bloomberg News, 08:39 August 25, 2008

<http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=60706§ionId=46>

Valero Reports Two Snags and Flaring at 289,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery—No Impact to Production, Spokesman Says

Reuters, 08:59 August 25, 2008

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=113023>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=113030>

Seal Problem Triggers Flaring at ConocoPhillips' 260,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery August 23

Bloomberg News 00:23 August 25, 2008

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=113021>

StatoilHydro Discovers Oil Column in North Sea with Estimated Recoverable Reserves of 100-125 Million Barrels of Oil Equivalent

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=65824

Cheniere Seeks DOE Authorization to Export up to 64 Bcf of LNG Over Two-Year Span from Sabine Pass LNG Terminal in Louisiana

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Update: FERC Gives Environmental Okay to TransColorado Gas Transmission's Request to Move Two Colorado Compressor Facilities and Construct Interconnect to REX Natural Gas Pipeline

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Update: Gulfstream Natural Gas System Receives FERC Approval to Open Phase III Expansion of Natural Gas Pipeline System in Florida

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Update: FERC Approves Columbia Gas Transmission's Bid to Expand West Virginia Natural Gas Pipeline System

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Valve Failure Shuts Tarzan Booster Station at Martin Gas Plant in Texas August 23 Unit Restarted Within Hours

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=113029>

Acid Gas Compressor Shuts Down at Waha Gas Plant in Texas August 24

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=113031>

Chrysler Starts Production of Hybrid Electric Vehicles from Delaware Plant

http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=10914861

Gunmen Attack, Hijack West Africa Offshore Oil Supply Boat in Nigeria August 24

Reuters, 11:11 August 25, 2008

Kuwait to Hike Output from 2.5 Million b/d to 3.0 Million b/d in First Half, 2009

Reuters, 10:29 August 25, 2008

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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