



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, August 25, 2009

Electricity

TVA's 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuke Unit 3 in Alabama Shut by August 25

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 24 the unit was at full power. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Progress Energy's 834 MW Crystal River Nuke Unit 3 in Florida Shut by August 25

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 24 the unit was at full power. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Update: Wolf Creek's 1,165 MW Wolf Creek Nuke Unit 1 in Kansas Ramped Up to 48 Percent by August 25

The unit shut on August 19 after a loss of off-site power, according to an earlier news source. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 24 the unit was operating at 7 percent. Bloomberg News, 07:11 August 24, 2009

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Update: PG&E's 1,087 MW Diablo Canyon Nuke Unit 2 in California Ramped Up to 97 Percent by August 25

Workers shut the unit on August 13 to inspect bushings in a transformer bank, a spokeswoman said previously. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 24 the unit was operating at 78 percent. Bloomberg News, 07:14 August 24, 2009

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Fire Shuts Progress Energy Substation in Florida August 20

A lightning strike was likely to blame for a fire that destroyed part of a Progress Energy substation in Florida on August 20, a news source reported. Workers removed the facility from service and firefighters fully contained the blaze in about three hours. About 7,700 Progress Energy customers lost power.

http://www.myfoxorlando.com/dpp/news/seminole_news/082109_Fire_strikes_power_station

Citing Financial Losses, Constellation Energy Says it May Mothball Ginna Nuclear Reactor Prior to Decommissioning—Shutdown would not Occur for at Least 20 Years

Constellation Energy might mothball its Ginna nuclear reactor prior to the plant's eventual decommissioning, after last year's financial crisis cut into funds that would have paid for the decommissioning process, the company told the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The company's current operating license expires in 2029. Should it decide to decommission the plant at the end of that term, Constellation said it would place the facility in "safe storage" until it could raise enough money to fund the decommissioning. The NRC allows closed nuclear facilities to remain in "safe storage" for as long as 60 years, a spokesman said.

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/article/20090823/BUSINESS/908230313/1001>

Update: Santee Cooper Shelves Plans for 600 MW Coal-fired Pee Dee Energy Campus in South Carolina

Santee Cooper suspended plans to build the 600 MW, coal-fired Pee Dee Energy Campus in South Carolina, citing fallen demand, environmental costs, and business concerns. A company spokeswoman said it was unlikely that the company would revive the project.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2417169320090824>

Increased Energy Efficiency Could Lessen Need for New Coal Power in the U.S. South—Georgia Tech Study

Improved efficiency could reduce the South's energy consumption to a rate 9 percent below currently-forecasted levels for 2020, according to a study released by Georgia Tech. The decreased demand could, in turn, lessen the need to build new coal-fired power plants, the study said.

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/ap/tx/6585138.html>

Petroleum

Iraq Hopes to Quadruple Current 2.4 Million b/d Oil Production—Oil Minister

Iraq expects its estimated 2.4 million b/d oil production capacity to multiply by "three to four times," pending the development of 10 soon-to-be-auctioned fields, the country's Oil Minister said on August 25.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5geWULDXXrwpI5mB-PPqBd4L8KKg>

Hydrocracker Shuts at Exxon Mobil's 348,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery August 25

A hydrocracker sustained an "emergency shutdown" at Exxon Mobil's 348,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas refinery on August 25, the company said in a filing with state regulators. The filing did not indicate the cause of the shutdown or when the unit might return to service.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=128603>

Reuters, 12:45 August 25, 2009

Power Dip Briefly Disrupts Operations at ConocoPhillips 285,000 b/d Bayway Refinery in Linden, New Jersey August 24

ConocoPhillips "promptly restored routine operations" after "a very brief power dip" at its 285,000 b/d Bayway refinery in Linden, New Jersey on August 24, a company spokesman said. The incident did not significantly impact operations, he said.

Reuters, 10:03 August 25, 2009

Update: Valero Returns 70,000 b/d FCC to Planned Rates at 180,000 b/d Memphis, Tennessee Refinery August 25—Unit Shut for Repairs on August 6

Valero finished repairs and returned a 70,000 b/d gasoline-producing fluid catalytic cracker unit (FCC) to planned rates at the 180,000 b/d Memphis, Tennessee refinery, the company said on August 25. Workers shut the unit on August 6 to fix a flue gas cooler. They began restarting it over the weekend.

DJN, 10:39 August 24, 2009

Reuters, 09:25 August 25, 2009

Update: After Weekend Storm, Valero Resumes Normal Operations at 83,000 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery by August 23

Valero resumed normal operations at its 83,000 Houston, Texas refinery by Monday, August 23, two days after an August 21 storm disrupted the facility's operations, the company said. The storm impacted a gasoline-producing fluid catalytic cracker (FCC) and an ultra-low-sulfur diesel unit, Valero said in a previous filing with state regulators.

<http://www.forbes.com/feeds/afx/2009/08/24/afx6809046.html>

Suncor Reports Flaring at 135,000 b/d Edmonton, Canada Refinery August 24

A coker unit flared for unspecified reasons at Suncor's 135,000 b/d Edmonton, Canada refinery on August 24, but the company did not expect the incident to significantly affect production, according to a spokesman. Contrary to local media reports, the spokesman said there had been no fire or explosion at facility.

http://www.reuters.com/article/reutersComService_3_MOLT/idUSTRE5700AF20090825

Update: Shell Begins Production at Parque das Conchas Oil Project Offshore Brazil

Shell began phase one production at the Parque das Conchas oil project in July, but expected the site to be officially commissioned today, August 25. The company opened three fields—the Abalone, Ostra and Argonauta B- West—on July 13. It did not say then when it might open the project’s second phase, centered on the Argonauta O-North field. Sources did not mention specific production figures, but Shell said the project includes a floating, production, storage and offloading vessel capable of processing 100,000 b/d of oil and 50 MMcf/d of natural gas.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB125116362757655657.html>

http://www.shell.com/home/content/investor/news_and_library/press_releases/2009/bc10_production_begins_13072009.html

Kazakhstan Plans 500,000 b/d-to-1.8 Million b/d Oil Pipeline System

The 500,000 b/d-to-1.8 million b/d Kazakhstan Caspian transport system would deliver oil from the offshore Kashagan and Tengiz oil fields to connections with the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan (BTC) export pipeline, a news source reported. It would include construction of the Eskene-Kurik pipeline in Kazakhstan and multiple link-ups with the BTC line. The system would open in 2012, deliver up to 500,000 b/d, and eventually increase capacity to 1.8 million b/d.

http://www.upi.com/Energy_Resources/2009/08/24/KCTS-boon-for-Caspian-oil/UPI-89641251130468/

Natural Gas

Newfield Exploration Company to Reduce Quarterly Production by 2.5 Bcfe on Low Prices

Newfield Exploration Company plans to voluntarily reduce its third quarter 2009 production by 2.5 Bcfe due to low natural gas prices, according to the company. The curtailments will come mostly from its Mid-Continent division, the company said.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=63798&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1323802&highlight=>

Other News

Coal-Carrying Train Derails in New Jersey August 23—Incident Shuts Track to Valero’s 160,000 b/d Paulsboro, New Jersey Refinery

As many as 16 coal-carrying train cars derailed in Paulsboro, New Jersey on August 23, shutting a stretch of track crucial to local industry, a news source reported. The affected track, or “Penns Grove Line,” is the only train route to multiple area co-generation plants, as well as Valero’s 160,000 b/d Paulsboro, New Jersey refinery. The train, en-route to a co-generating plant, derailed as it passed over the Conrail Bridge; the bridge buckled for unspecified reasons. No cars overturned, but a news source reported as many as 16 cars off the tracks. The town’s mayor planned to seek help from the state’s U.S. senators to speed up the restoration process.

http://www.nj.com/gloucester-county/index.ssf/2009/08/train_cars_derail_in_paulsboro.html

First United Ethanol Warns of Bankruptcy—Future Unclear for Company’s 100 MMGal/Yr. Georgia Ethanol Plant

First United Ethanol LLC might declare bankruptcy due to limited liquidity, the company told the Securities and Exchange Commission. It was not clear what impact the news might have on the company’s 100 million gallon/year (MMGal/Yr.) ethanol plant near Camilla, Georgia.

<http://www.firstunitedethanol.com/>

http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/stories/2009/08/24/story1.html?ana=from_rss

Southern Co. Seeks DOE Funds for Carbon Capture Plans at Proposed 582 MW IGCC Power Plant in Kemper County, Mississippi

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=aZCfyZoc04oE>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices August 25, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	71.60	68.55	114.01
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.85	3.11	7.63

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Update: Idaho Counties Oppose Planned Route of Idaho Power, Rocky Mountain Power's Proposed 1,150-mile, Wyoming-to-Idaho Gateway West Transmission Project—Locals to Recommend Alternate Route

<http://www.kgw.com/sharedcontent/APStories/stories/D9A5KTMO3.html>

Jamestown Officials, New York OxyCoal Alliance Seek DOE Funds for Oxycoal Project at BPU's Samuel A. Carlson Power Plant in New York

<http://post-journal.com/page/content.detail/id/538412.html?nav=5018>

BrightSource Energy Begins Construction of 29 MW Solar Steam Plant at Chevron Oilfield in California—Power Will Help Boost Production at Associated Field

<http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/08/24/a-solar-powered-oil-field/>

Citgo Released "Significant" Amount of Potentially-Deadly Hydrogen Fluoride at 165,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery on July 19—Chemical Safety Board

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=aD1MJZ5mdGWs>

Equipment Malfunction, Flaring at Exxon Mobil's 150,000 b/d Torrance, California Refinery August 25

Reuters, 12:21 August 25, 2009

Update: Local Officials Say no New Oil Will be Stored at Drift River Terminal in Alaska—Mount Redoubt Volcanic Eruptions Shut Facility Earlier in 2009

<http://www.ktuu.com/Global/story.asp?S=10984344>

U.S. Oil Product Deliveries Drop Just 3 Percent, Year-on-Year, in July 2009, Reducing Pace of Decline by 50 Percent from First Half of Year—API

<http://www.cspnet.com/ME2/Audiences/dirmod.asp?sid=&nm=&type=Publishing&mod=Publications%3A%3AArticle&mid=8F3A7027421841978F18BE895F87F791&tier=4&id=B0262333220345E89F46B19A0F2341CF&AudID=CBA745B91AFB44FA923476ACBBD040A5>

US BLM Denies O&G Lease Bids on 24,000 Acres of Land in Wyoming, Citing Newly-Passed Federal Protection Law

<http://www1.platts.com/Natural%20Gas/News/6493666.xml?p=Natural%20Gas/News&sub=Natural%20Gas>

Economic Conditions Have Forced Companies to Postpone, Delay or Cancel more than 7 Million b/d of Oil Production Projects Set to Enter Service from 2009-2015—Report

<http://www.pr-inside.com/more-than-3-5-mb-d-of-crude-r1450705.htm>

The Gas Company LLC Plans to Derive 50 Percent of Gas in Hawaii from Renewable Sources within Five Years

http://www.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20090824005197&newsLang=en

Eni Begins Production at 17,000 boe/d North Bardawil Gas Field Offshore Egypt

Reuters, 06:44 August 25, 2009

Powers Energy of America Plans Waste-to-Ethanol Plant in Indiana

<http://www.post-trib.com/news/lake/1732286.lcgarbage0826.article>

U.S. Development Group LLC Breaks Ground on Ethanol Transport Hub in California

http://www.pe.com/business/local/stories/PE_Biz_S_ethanol25.37c9bf3.html

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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