



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, August 31, 2011

## Major Developments

### Power Restored to More than 6.7 Million Customers; Fewer Than 1.7 Million Customers Remain without Power along the U.S. East Coast after Hurricane Irene August 31

Hurricane Irene has now been blamed for 42 deaths in 12 states. Restoration efforts continue to reduce the number of power outages from Irene. The storm, which initially made landfall on Puerto Rico on August 22 and reached the mainland at Cape Lookout, North Carolina on August 27, knocked out power to some 8.38 million customers in the U.S. As of latest reports, about 1.66 million customers remain without power along the Atlantic Coast ranging from North Carolina north to Maine. In Canada, reports indicate that a peak of 250,000 Hydro-Québec customers lost power in Quebec during the storm on August 29, though only 16,000 customers were without power the afternoon of August 30. NB Power is currently reporting just 333 customers remain without power in New Brunswick. Even as the number of power outages is being reduced across the U.S., restoration of power plants, refineries, petroleum terminals, and other energy infrastructure facilities is also proceeding. For example, ConocoPhillips is in the process of restarting its 238,000 b/d Bayway refinery in Linden, New Jersey, and Kinder Morgan reports that pipelines and docks are back in service at its Carteret, New Jersey oil terminal. The hurricane also impacted a number of fuel storage facilities in New Jersey and New York. According to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, at least nine fuel tanks ruptured due to Hurricane Irene in Bergen, Middlesex, and Union counties. It is not clear if the tanks are leaking at this time. According to another report, a fuel tank ruptured at an apartment complex in Rye, New York, spilling 7,000 gallons of oil; residents will have to stay away from their homes for weeks as a result. The New York Environmental Conservation Commissioner is also investigating a potential petroleum spill at an unnamed oil storage terminal August 30.

For details on the impact of Hurricane Irene on customer outages, energy infrastructure issues and restoration efforts see: Hurricane Irene Situation Report #9, August 30, 2011 (3:00 PM EDT) issued by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Electricity Delivery & Energy Reliability, at the following URL:

[http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/emergency\\_sit\\_rpt.aspx](http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/emergency_sit_rpt.aspx)

U.S. East Coast Customer Power Outages			
August 27 – 29, 2011			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Connecticut Light & Power	CT	671,000	290,172
United Illuminating	CT	158,130	78,522
Delmarva Power	DE/MD	210,000	1,216
Delaware Electric Cooperative	DE	1,328	0
Pepco	DC	30,424	309
Bangor Hydro Electric	ME	30,000	1,229
Central Maine Power	ME	187,000	44,380
Allegheny Power	MD	19,000	274
Baltimore Gas and Electric	MD	466,000	131,629
Choptank Electric Coop	MD	12,000	0
Pepco	MD	180,000	687
Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative	MD	108,809	11,499
National Grid	MA	500,000	88,754
NSTAR	MA	250,000	35,000
Unitil	MA/NH	27,000	0
Western Massachusetts Electric	MA	36,000	97
National Grid	NH	8,042	62
New Hampshire Electric Coop	NH	32,000	387



Public Service of New Hampshire	NH	125,000	8,100
Atlantic City Electric	NJ	140,000	1,173
Jersey Central Power & Light	NJ	670,000	123,356
PSE&G	NJ	392,000	33,000
Orange & Rockland Utilities	NJ/NY/PA	110,000	13,635
Sussex Rural Electric Cooperative	NJ	12,000	250
Consolidated Edison	NY	187,000	16,668
LIPA	NY	500,000	189,472
National Grid	NY	156,000	14,820
NYSEG	NY	134,000	51,239
RGE	NY	966	104
Central Hudson Gas & Electric	NY	115,000	31,541
Duke Energy	NC	11,250	138
Progress Energy	NC/SC	280,000	21,658
North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives	NC	152,000	34,000
ElectriCities	NC	45,000	17,000
Dominion North Carolina Power	NC	72,346	26,210
Met-Ed	PA	200,000	20,239
PECO	PA	500,000	12,000
Penelec	PA	37,000	776
PPL Electric Utilities	PA	300,000	20,646
UGI	PA	32,000	3,800
National Grid	RI	340,000	89,044
CVPS	VT	70,000	9,491
Green Mountain Power	VT	37,841	388
Vermont Electric Cooperative	VT	8,000	0
Dominion Virginia Power	VA	785,000	228,043
NOVEC	VA	3,950	2
A&N Electric Coop	VA	3,400	3,400
Northern Neck Coop	VA	16,796	4,527
Rappahannock Electric Coop	VA	19,200	1,186
<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>8,382,482</b>	<b>1,660,123</b>

\*Total outages only represent electric utilities listed in this table.

Sources:

Reuters, 00:32 August 31, 2011

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## ***Electricity***

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### **Update: Constellation's 825 MW Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Unit 1 in Maryland Ramped Up to 2 Percent August 31**

The unit had been shut August 27 after a transformer was hit by a piece of aluminum siding that broke loose due to high winds from Hurricane Irene.

Reuters, 08:07 August 31, 2011

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

### **Update: Exelon's 619 MW Oyster Creek Nuclear Unit in New Jersey at Full Power by August 31**

The plant was shut beginning on August 27 as a precaution due to Hurricane Irene. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 30 the unit was operating at 30 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

### **PSE&G's 1,096 MW Salem Nuclear Unit 1 in New Jersey Reduced to 69 Percent by August 31**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 30 the unit was operating at full power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>



### **Update: Luminant's 1,150 MW Comanche Peak Nuclear Unit 1 in Texas Ramped Up to 96 Percent by August 31**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 30 the unit was operating at 62 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

### **Update: Elk Hills Power's 552 MW Elk Hills Gas-fired Unit in California Reduced by August 30**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 327 MW on August 30.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201108301515.html>

### **Ace Cogeneration's 118 MW Ace Cogeneration Coal-fired Unit in California Shut by August 30**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage on August 30.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201108301515.html>

### **AEP's 690 MW Oklaunion Coal-Fired Unit in Texas Shut August 31**

According to a filing with state regulators, operators shut the unit to repair a boiler tube leak. The filing said it will remain shut until September 2.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=158441>

### **Update: Luminant's 617 MW Big Brown Coal-Fired Unit 1 Starting Up August 30-31**

According to a filing with state regulators, the unit was shut to repair a boiler tube leak August 26.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=158660>

### **Update: Operators Retract July 22 NRC Notification Regarding Fire Suppression Pumps at OPPD's 478 MW Fort Calhoun Nuclear Plant in Nebraska August 30**

On July 22, operators of the plant filed a report with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reporting that both fire suppression pumps were not operable at the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) plant because required monthly surveillance tests were not completed for June and July. On August 30, operators retracted the notification, indicating that "further review of the plant design and licensing basis determined that the plant is adequately analyzed for the reported situation and that it does not constitute an unanalyzed condition significantly degrading plant safety as originally reported."

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20110831en.html>

### **Control Room Ventilation System Inoperable at PG&E's Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant in California August 29-30**

According to a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), work performed by maintenance personnel inadvertently caused the problem. The problem was identified and fixed by August 30.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20110831en.html>

### **Update: City of Alexandria and GenOn Agree to Permanently Close 482 MW Potomac River Coal-Fired Generation Station in Virginia by October 2012**

GenOn agreed to retire the plant by October 1, 2012, though that date may be extended if the plant is determined to be needed for reliability purposes. GenOn will coordinate the closure with PJM Interconnection and Pepco.

[http://alexandriava.gov/news\\_display.aspx?id=51390](http://alexandriava.gov/news_display.aspx?id=51390)

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/GenOn-to-close-Alexandria-Va-apf-1125725865.html?x=0&v=2>



### **Three Killed by Explosion at Oil Production Site in Converse County, Wyoming August 29**

The explosion, which occurred on a private ranch, killed three workers and started a fire that burned about 10 acres. The workers were employed by an unnamed company contracted by Samson Resources to bring an oil well back into production at the site. The well was not involved in the explosion or fire.

[http://www.trivalleycentral.com/articles/2011/08/31/casa\\_grande\\_dispatch/top\\_stories/doc4e5e6499495a3243679704.txt](http://www.trivalleycentral.com/articles/2011/08/31/casa_grande_dispatch/top_stories/doc4e5e6499495a3243679704.txt)

[http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/08/29/general-us-wyoming-oil-explosion\\_8649445.html](http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/08/29/general-us-wyoming-oil-explosion_8649445.html)

### **Update: Rebel-Led National Transitional Council Says Zawiya Refinery Resumes Operations in Libya by August 31**

The refinery was shut down before the rebels advanced on Tripoli. According to a rebel spokesman, the refinery is back up to 30,000 b/d of production. In related news, Libya's new oil minister said on August 30 that he expects oil fields and wells in the country to resume operating within days, saying that they will operate in a manner that is "not exactly normal."

DJN, 09:36 August 31, 2011

Reuters, 13:32 August 30, 2011

### **Power Outage Knocks Out Multiple Units at Marathon's 212,000 b/d Catlettsburg, Kentucky August 30-31**

According to a company filing, emergency shutdown procedures were being deployed. The impacted units were not specified. Crews are currently working to restart the units.

Reuters, 05:00 August 31, 2011

[http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/Power\\_Outage\\_Knocks\\_Units\\_Offline\\_at\\_Marathon\\_Refinery\\_128789428.html?ref=428](http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/Power_Outage_Knocks_Units_Offline_at_Marathon_Refinery_128789428.html?ref=428)

### **BP Postpones Start of Replacement CDU at 405,000 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery to October 2012**

The company originally planned to bring the replacement crude distillation unit (CDU) into operation in August 2012. The delay will not impact the overall schedule for the Whiting refinery modernization project.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFWEN777220110831>

### **Rosneft and ExxonMobil Agree to \$3.2 Billion Deal to Develop Oil Fields Offshore Russia in the Black and Kara Seas August 30**

As part of the deal, Rosneft will gain access to resources in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico.

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2011/08/30/1735373/rosneft-teams-up-with-exxonmobil.html>

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=110616](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=110616)

## **Natural Gas**

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### **Update: NTSB Blames PG&E and Also Cites Lax State and Federal Regulations for the 2010 San Bruno, California Natural Gas Pipeline Explosion August 30**

Concluding its investigation into the incident, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said in a 5-0 vote that actions taken by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) were the likely causes of the September 9, 2010 explosion which killed eight people. According to the board, substandard welds and other problems dating back to the pipeline's 1956 installation directly caused the accident. The NTSB also said that lax state and federal regulations contributed, as did PG&E's inadequate inspections.

<http://www.cbs8.com/story/15363122/ntsb-faults-pge-regulators-in-gas-explosion>

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/NTSB-faults-PGE-regulators-in-apf-1881936081.html?x=0>

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/US-blames-utility-regulators-rb-1595362608.html?x=0&.v=1>

### **Over Half of U.S. Natural Gas Pipelines Cannot Be Inspected Inside: NTSB Investigator**

An investigator with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said August 30 that more than half of all gas pipelines in the U.S. cannot be inspected on the inside due to the way they were built or installed. As a result, many old pipelines have never been inspected for integrity issues.

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=27730](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=27730)



## **Williams Partners Announces FERC Approval of 23-Mile Mid-South Expansion Project for its Transco Natural Gas Pipeline August 31**

Williams Partners L.P. announced today that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has approved a proposal to expand its Transco natural gas pipeline to provide an additional 225,000 dekatherms of incremental firm natural gas transportation capacity to serve growing markets in the Southeast. The expansion will consist of approximately 23 miles of new pipeline, a new compressor facility in Dallas County, Alabama, and upgrades to existing compressor facilities in Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. It will be constructed in two phases: 95,000 dekatherms will be placed into service in the fall of 2012 and 130,000 dekatherms will be placed into service in the summer of 2013.

<http://www.williamsjp.com/profiles/investor/ResLibraryView.asp?ResLibraryID=47039&GoTopage=1&Category=1800&BzID=1296&G=345>

## **Update: Destin Pipeline Says August 30 Force Majeure Caused by High Levels of Fluids at Liquid Handling Facility Located at Pascagoula Compressor Station in Mississippi**

Force majeure remains in effect until further notice.

<http://bpplgasnoms2.com/enotice/CriticalDetail.aspx?codeKey=des2011242.161839>

## **Other News**

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### **SoCalGas and Oberon Announce Plans to Construct the First Commercial Dimethyl Ether Plant in U.S. August 31**

The plant will produce an ultraclean fuel that can be an alternative to diesel fuel.

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=27735](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=27735)

## **Energy Prices**

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<b>U.S. Oil and Gas Prices</b>			
August 31, 2011			
	<b>Today</b>	<b>Week Ago</b>	<b>Year Ago</b>
<b>CRUDE OIL</b>			
<b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b>	88.90	85.83	72.93
\$/Barrel			
<b>NATURAL GAS</b>			
<b>Henry Hub</b>	3.85	4.01	3.77
\$/Million Btu			

Source: Reuters

## **Energy Notes**

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### **Update: Montana Regulators Issue Temporary Permit to ExxonMobil to Begin Construction of 12-inch Replacement Pipe for its Silvertip Oil Pipeline August 26**

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=27726](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=27726)

### **Update: ConocoPhillips Has Cleared 99 Percent of the Oil and Drilling Mud Spilled at the Penglai 19-3 Oil Field Offshore China**

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2011/08/31/1736518/conocophillips-says-99-pct-of.html>

### **Pacific Ethanol Reports 3,500 Gallon Controlled Release of Ethanol Following Spill in California August 30**

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/MALHaz.nsf/f1841a103c102734882563e200760c4a/0eff7d4d941be7f0882578fc0071093e?OpenDocument>



## Links

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***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](http://www.eia.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html)

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EDT every Wednesday.

***Natural Gas Weekly Update*** from EIA

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

Updated after 2:00 PM EDT 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. EDT. 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](mailto:ead@oe.netl.doe.gov)