



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, September 13, 2010

Major Developments

Update: NTSB Finds Unusual Section of Blown Out Pipeline Following the September 9 PG&E Gas Pipeline Explosion in California

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is probing last week's massive natural gas explosion and found an unusually built section of the pipe in the ruins. The 28-foot pipe consisted of several smaller segments that were welded together and officials believe may hold clues to the cause of the explosion. NTSB confirmed that officials are preparing to ship the section of the blown out pipe to Washington D.C. for further inspection. California regulators are also assisting in the investigation of the event. As of Sunday morning, PG&E has completed all necessary construction and repair work in the affected area. PG&E is restoring electric and natural gas service to each home, and conducting gas appliance safety checks.

<http://www.pge.com/myhome/customerservice/response/>

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=23999

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-09-13/death-toll-may-rise-in-pg-e-s-gas-blast-in-california-five-people-missing.html>

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100912-704523.html>

Electricity

Entergy's 813 MW FitzPatrick Nuclear Unit in New York Shut by September 13

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of September 12 the unit was operating at 14 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Delta Energy Center's 880 MW Delta Gas-Fired Unit in California Reduced by September 12

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 340 MW by September 12.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201009121515.html>

Update: Exelon's 1,134 MW Limerick Nuclear Unit 2 in Pennsylvania at Full Power by September 13

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of September 12 the unit was operating at 77 percent. The unit was reduced by September 10.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN1024714320100910>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: Entergy's 966 MW River Bend Nuclear Unit 1 in Louisiana at Full Power by September 13

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of September 11 the unit was operating at 75 percent. The unit was reduced by September 10.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN106083420100910>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: TXU's 545 MW Sandow Coal-Fired Unit 4 in Texas Began Restart on September 10

The unit shut for boiler feed pump repairs, was restarted by September 11.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=144464>

NRC Investigating Entergy's Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant in New York

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is investigating a series of mechanical failures which forced six plant shutdowns in the past two years. More specifically, officials are examining the cause of a malfunction on September 3 that triggered an automatic shutdown

<http://www.newjerseynewsroom.com/science-updates/nuclear-regulatory-commission-probes-indian-point>

Power Companies Switching to Natural Gas to Fuel Power Plants

Driven by low prices and plentiful supply forecasts, power companies have been increasingly using natural gas as a fuel source for their power plants. Some utilities are closing coal-fired plants, while others are converting them to run on natural gas. The switch has been a global trend and is getting a push from regulators concerned about climate change and reducing emissions.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703579804575441683910246338.html.html>

Petroleum

Update: Enbridge Working to Discover Source of Leak on 670,000 b/d Crude Oil Pipeline, Line 6A, in Illinois

The EPA on-scene coordinator said Enbridge workers are actively looking for the leak so the bad section of the pipe can be replaced. The pipeline closure has disrupted the supply of crude to refineries in the Midwest. The pipeline has been shut since September 9 when the line began leaking oil. Enbridge estimates that 6,100 barrels of crude leaked, and about 6,050 barrels has been recovered.

http://www.salon.com/wires/techbiz/2010/09/12/D9I6LANG0_us_pipeline_leak/index.html

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN1319066520100913>

<http://www.news25.us/Global/story.asp?S=13137272>

<http://romeoville.enbridgeus.com/line6a/main.aspx?id=13255>

Companies Report Status of Refineries after Enbridge's Line 6A Outage

ExxonMobil reports that its 238,600 b/d Joliet, Illinois refinery has continued normal operations despite the shutdown of the Enbridge Line 6A pipeline that provides the refinery with crude. BP's 405,000 b/d Whiting Indiana refinery and Citgo's 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois refinery reported minimal impacts from the outage.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSWEN957620100910>

Reuters, 17:34 September 10, 2010

TransCanada to Hold Open Season for 1,980-Mile, 1.5 MMb/d Keystone KX Pipeline from Alberta, Canada to U.S. Gulf Coast

The planned open season is to solicit interest in the pipeline's capacity from companies in Montana and North Dakota. Keystone XL pipeline will carry crude from Canadian oil sands to Gulf Coast refineries, following a route that passes through or near several major oil fields in Montana and North Dakota. TransCanada has faced political pressure to allow U.S. oil through its proposed pipeline. According to the director of the North Dakota Pipeline Authority, Montana and North Dakota combined produce about 380,000 b/d.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gMGjvuG_eVBrv18Ce4EyMUUpMaQ0wD9I5C2AO3

Unit Shut at Motiva's 285,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery September 12

The unidentified unit shut after experiencing a flash fire.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20100913-707939.html>

Update: Valero's 325,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery Resumes Normal Operations by September 13

Several units that were affected by a power outage last Wednesday have resumed normal operations. A crude distillation unit, a hydrotreater, and two sulfur recovery units were affected by the power failure.

DJN, 10:02 September 13, 2010

Fire reported at Dock near PdVSA's 130,000 b/d Cardon, Venezuela Refinery September 11

A fire began when a tanker that was loading diesel fuel at one of the refinery's five docks exploded. PdVSA has confirmed that the refinery has been brought under control and the shipping schedules are running on time. The cause of the fire remains under investigation.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-09-11/pdvsa-paraguana-oil-refinery-puts-out-fire-on-dock-after-tanker-explosion.html>

DJN, 08:26 September 13, 2010

Natural Gas

Nothing to Report.

Other News

DOE Secretary Chu to Attend Grand Opening of A123 Systems Battery Plant in Michigan September 13

U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu is speaking at the dedication ceremony for the largest lithium-ion automotive battery production facility in North America which was partly funded by ARRA.

<http://www.energy.gov/news/9477.htm>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices September 13, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	77.13	73.78	69.56
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.79	3.74	2.68

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Electrical Failure at Substation Knocks Out Power to 19,000 Oncor Customers in Texas September 12

http://www.statesman.com/blogs/content/shared-gen/blogs/austin/blotter/entries/2010/09/12/williamson_county_thousands_wi.html?cxntfid=blogs_the_blotter

Storms Knock Out Power to 11,000 Georgia Power Customers in Georgia September 10

<http://savannahnow.com/latest-news/2010-09-11/11000-lose-power-across-savannah-after-wicked-weather>

A-Power Announces Joint Feasibility Study for 10 MW Biomass-Fired Power Plant in Nevada, to be Completed early 2011

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/APower-Energy-Generation-prnews-969543860.html?x=0&.v=97>

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Files Petition with the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration (PHMSA) for Rights to Mandate Rules for Gasoline Transport Vehicles

<http://bulktransporter.com/management/tank-truck/phmsa-comments-ny-rule-gas-transport-0908/>

ExxonMobil Reports Flaring at its 238,600 b/d Joliet, Illinois Refinery September 12

Reuters, 08:33 September 13, 2010

Compressor Trips at Motiva's 234,700 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery September 13

Reuters, 06:21 September 13, 2010

Flaring Reported at Coffeyville Resources' 115,700 b/d Coffeyville, Kansas Refinery September 12

Reuters, 16:36 September 12, 2010

Flaring Reported at Shell's 80,000 b/d Saraland, Alabama Refinery September 13

Reuters, 06:48 September 13, 2010

AGI Compressor Shut at Waha Gas Plant in Texas September 12

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=144683>

Equipment Malfunction at Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas September 11

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=144676>

Power Failure Shut SRU at Sneed Booster Station in Texas September 10

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=144671>

Officials Believe Mechanical Failure Caused Fire on CSX Locomotive Carrying Coal Cars in Virginia, Halting CSX Rail Traffic for Eight Hours September 9

<http://www.wdbj7.com/sns-ap-va--trainfire,0,3123518.story>

Crude Oil Through Kirkuk-Ceyhan Pipeline Halted September 11 Due to Technical Problems, Flow to Resume within 24 Hours

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFLDE68A07920100911>

Tullow Confirms Major Owo Oil Field Find off Coast of Ghana with Estimated 500 MMbbls of Crude in Reserves

Reuters, 02:50 September 13, 2010

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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