



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, September 16, 2015

Electricity

Update: More Than 9,500 PG&E Customers Remain Without Power Due to California Wildfires September 16

More than 800 Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) employees were working 24-hour shifts to repair fire-damaged power lines and poles in order to restore service to areas affected by the Valley Fire in northeast Sacramento. The company reported the fires have taken down more than 380 poles and 108 transmission lines. PG&E crews had surveyed only 15 percent of the affected areas and were still determining restoration timelines. As of 2:00 p.m. EDT, approximately 6,855 customers remained without power in areas affected by the Valley Fire. More than 2,700 PG&E customers also remained without power in areas of Calaveras County affected by the Butte Fire. The utility estimates it will restore power to most customers in Calaveras County by Sunday night.

<http://kron4.com/2015/09/15/valley-fire-pge-working-24-hour-shifts-to-repair-dozens-of-downed-power-lines/>
<http://www.mymotherlode.com/news/local/248728/more-butte-fire-evacuation-orders-lifted.html>
<http://www.pge.com/myhome/outages/outage/>

Power Failure Shuts Entergy's 730 MW Palisades Nuclear Unit in Michigan September 16

Entergy reported that early on Wednesday morning its Palisades nuclear plant was operating at approximately 85 percent power and coasting down in preparation for a refueling outage when a Digital Electro-Hydraulic (DEH) alarm went off, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Shortly following the alarm, the turbine tripped. An initial investigation indicated that the turbine trip was caused by a DEH power supply failure. The plant was in stable condition at the time of the filing.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20150916en.html>

Update: Southern's 856 MW Hatch Nuclear Unit 1 in Georgia Ramped Up to 98 Percent by September 16

On the morning of September 15 the unit was operating at 34 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

Xcel Announces Projects to Add 30 MW of Solar Power Generation in Colorado

Xcel Energy on Tuesday reported it has selected three companies to supply nearly 30 MW of renewable energy via its Solar Rewards Community program. The program will fund the construction of 16 projects spread across Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Conejos, Douglas, Garfield, Jefferson, Logan, and Summit counties.

http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/blog/earth_to_power/2015/09/xcel-loading-up-on-solar-power-in-colorado.html?ana=yahoo

USDA Awards Grants to Improve Electricity Generation, Transmission, or Distribution Facilities in Remote Rural Areas

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today awarded \$7.9 million for nine grants to help reduce residential costs in remote rural areas where electricity generation costs are extremely high. The High Energy Cost Grant program, which is administered by USDA's Rural Utilities Service, may be used to improve energy generation, transmission, or distribution facilities in communities where the average residential costs exceed the national average by 275 percent. Notable grantees include the Puvurnaq Power Company in Alaska, which will integrate a 200-kW lithium ion-based battery energy storage system into its wind-diesel power system in Kongiganak to lower fuel consumption by up to 20,000 gallons per year, and Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in the Northern Mariana Islands, which will improve its power distribution grid by replacing 63 pole-mounted electric transformers.

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2015/09/0256.xml&contentidonly=true>

PBF Energy Plans to Restart Hydrocracker at Its 189,000 b/d Chalmette, Louisiana Refinery by Late 2016 to Boost Distillate Output – Sources

PBF Energy Inc plans to restart a 20,000 b/d hydrocracking unit by late 2016 at its Chalmette, Louisiana refinery, which is in the process of being acquired from Exxon Mobil Corp by the end of 2015. PBF is also considering restarting an idled coker at the refinery, the sources said. In conference calls to discuss the purchase and second-quarter earnings, PBF executives said they were looking at restarting the hydrocracker to boost distillate output from the refinery.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=49120

Update: Employees Evacuated After SRU Shuts Down at Flint Hills' 290,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery September 15 – Local Media

Approximately 3,000 employees and contractors were evacuated on Tuesday from the Flint Hills Resources Corpus Christi West refinery in Texas after a sulfur recover unit (SRU) went down, according to a report from the local television station KZTV. No one was hurt in the incident and the evacuation was a precautionary measure.

Reuters, 19:25 September 15, 2015

HollyFrontier Reports Emissions from Tail-Gas Unit at Its 138,000 b/d El Dorado, Kansas Refinery September 11

HollyFrontier Corp reported that emissions from the tail-gas incinerator at its El Dorado, Kansas refinery were due to a furnace going down on September 11.

Reuters, 09:33 September 16, 2015

U.S. Crude Stocks Fall, Cushing Inventories Down the Most Since February 2014 – EIA

U.S. crude stocks fell last week, with inventories at the Cushing delivery hub declining the most in more than a year, data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) showed on Wednesday. Crude inventories fell by 2.1 million barrels in the last week, compared with analysts' expectations for an increase of 1.2 million barrels. Crude stocks at the Cushing, Oklahoma delivery hub fell by 1.906 million barrels, EIA said. The withdrawal was the biggest draw at Cushing since February 2014.

Reuters, 10:37 September 16, 2015

Natural Gas

PSE&G to Replace Aging Natural Gas Pipelines in New Jersey

Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) on Tuesday announced a \$905 million settlement in principle with the staff of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel to expedite the replacement of aging gas pipes. The settlement will enable the utility to replace up to 510 miles of gas mains and 38,000 service lines over the three-year period. The mains and service lines will be replaced with strong, durable plastic piping, which is much less likely to have leaks. The new elevated pressure systems also enable the installation of excess flow valves that automatically shut off gas flow if a service line is damaged, and better support the use of high-efficiency appliances.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/pse-g-reaches-905-million-175600649.html>

http://njbmagazine.com/monthly_articles/power-utilities-take-a-resilient-stance/

Compressor Shutdown Leads to Flaring at Atlas Pipeline's 195 MMcf/d Midkiff Gas Plant in Texas September 15

Operators shut Compressor Unit B13 due to a broken distance piece, which connects the compressor cylinder to the main cylinder frame. Repairs were expected to be completed September 16.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=220214>

Regency Reports AGI Compressor Shutdown at Its 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas September 15

Operators said the acid gas injection (AGI) compressor went down due to a valve malfunction. Emissions ceased after operators replaced the valve and restarted the compressor two hours later.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=220215>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
September 16, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	47.07	44.08	94.68
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.73	2.73	3.91

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

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

Please direct comments and questions to: ead@oe.netl.doe.gov