



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, September 18, 2009

Electricity

Apparent Substation Problems Knock Out Power Briefly to about 58,000 Rocky Mountain Power Customers in Utah September 17

A transmission system malfunction at the El Monte Substation was likely to blame as 58,000 Rocky Mountain Power customers lost electricity in Utah on September 17, a news source said. The utility restored power to all affected customers in about one hour, officials said.

<http://www.standard.net/topics/news/2009/09/17/power-restored-after-large-scale-outage-weber-county>

Update: PSE&G's 1,049 MW Hope Creek Nuke Unit 1 in New Jersey at Full Power by September 18

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of September 17 the unit was operating at 76 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: SCE's 1,070 MW San Onofre Nuke Unit 2 in California Ramped Up to 98 Percent by September 18

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of September 17 the unit was operating at 60 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Mirant's 337 MW Contra Costa Gas-fired Unit 7 in California Reduced by September 17

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 162 MW by September 17.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200909171515.html>

Update: BrightSource Energy Abandons Plans for Solar Power Facility in Mojave Desert, California September 17

BrightSource Energy canceled plans to construct a 5,130-acre solar power plant in the Mojave Desert of California, acceding to environmentalists' concerns about constructing a renewable energy facility within a possible future national monument, a news source reported. The site in question, part of a 600,000-acre spread previously used for railroading, was turned over to the Department of Interior for conservation, the source said.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-solar18-2009sep18,0,1844073.story>

Raser Technologies Sees Technical Issues in Reaching Full Capacity at 5 MW Hatch Geothermal Power Plant in Utah

Production wells at Raser Technologies' 5 MW Hatch geothermal power plant in Utah are not generating hot enough geothermal water, preventing operators from ramping the site up to full power, a news source said. The company has been buying 4 MW of power to run the plant; the facility, in turn, has been generating just 5 MW of electricity. Raser is working to revamp the existing wells, and said it expects to soon add an additional well.

http://www.sltrib.com/business/ci_13360860

GAO Sees Improved Security at International Nuclear Research Reactors, but Says "Critical Security Weaknesses Remain"

The Government Accountability Office found that a program to enhance safety at international nuclear research reactors has, in fact, improved security, but that "critical security weaknesses remain." The National Nuclear Security Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy supplied safety devices to 18 of 22 foreign reactors holding highly enriched uranium; the organization expects to similarly equip the remaining four sites by the end of next year. Despite the improvements, the GAO said that inspectors found, at some locations, "security conditions that did not meet IAEA guidelines." To read the report, click on the link below.

<http://groceboss.net/download/groc/nationalsecurity/d09949.pdf>

http://www.boston.com/news/politics/politicalintelligence/2009/09/audit_nuclear_r.html?comments=all

New England Governors Back Plan to Spur Wind Growth, Encourage New Transmission Lines by 2030

New England's governors backed a plan to derive up to one-third of the region's electricity from wind by 2030, and to develop associated transmission lines, a news source reported. The governors based their plans on ideas from ISO New England. The proposal, seen as conceptual, rather than definitive, would require both inland and offshore wind facilities.

<http://www.burlingtonfreepress.com/article/20090917/NEWS02/909170308/1007>

Petroleum

BP Shuts Hydrotreater at 405,000 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery by September 18

BP shut a hydrotreater associated with a gasoline-producing fluid catalytic cracker (FCC) at its 405,000 b/d Whiting, Indiana refinery, a source familiar with the facility's operations said on September 18. The source said the incident had not significantly affected FCC production, but that the length of repairs would determine any later impact.

Reuters, 12:33 September 18, 2009

Bloomberg News, 11:34 September 18, 2009

Process Upset, Flaring at ConocoPhillips 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery September 17

"Unit 45" sustained a "process upset," triggering flaring at ConocoPhillips' 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas refinery on September 17, the company said in a filing with state regulators. The filing did not further describe the affected unit, or mention any impact to production.

Reuters, 12:15 September 18, 2009

Exxon Mobil Returns FCC to Normal Rates at 238,600 b/d Joliet, Illinois Refinery by September 18—Operators Shut Unit September 14-15

Exxon Mobil returned a gasoline-producing fluid catalytic cracker (FCC) and other associated units to normal rates by September 18, a spokesman said. Operators shut the FCC for work on September 14-15; they had been performing scheduled maintenance on a diesel hydrotreater, at the time of the incident.

Reuters, 10:43 September 18, 2009

Shell Repairs and Restarts 173,000 b/d Eugene Island Oil Pipeline System in Gulf of Mexico September 10—Leak Forced Line Down on July 25

Shell repaired and restarted its 173,000 b/d Eugene Island Pipeline System on September 10, sources said, after a leak forced it offline on July 25. Workers replaced a pipe segment, performed tests on the system, and restarted the line, the company said. The line delivers crude from the Gulf of Mexico onshore to Louisiana; it had been operating at about 100,000 b/d, at the time of the shutdown. Shell had expected to re-route most of the affected supply, a news source said. The July leak took place approximately 33 miles offshore Louisiana, and spilled about 1,400 barrels of oil. Responders cleaned the crude before it reached land.

http://www.shell.com/home/content/usa/aboutshell/media_center/news_and_press_releases/2009/alert_eugene_072509.html

http://www.shell.com/home/content/usa/aboutshell/media_center/news_and_press_releases/2009/alert_eugene_072909.html

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN174054120090917>

China Purchases Foreign Oil Reserves on "Short-Term Weaknesses," UBS Says--Report Suggests Mergers are Unlikely Between Major Oil Companies and National Oil Firms

China is attempting "to take advantage of short-term weakness to secure long-term security of supply," purchasing oil reserves more actively than other nations, UBS Investment Bank said in a report. The report also said that mergers between major oil companies and government-run oil firms—widely expected throughout the 1990s—were actually unlikely to happen.

<http://www.easybourse.com/bourse/actualite-financiere/consolidation-between-major-oil-cos-nocs-unlikely-to-GB0007980591-733286>

Encore Acquisition Plans 50 MMcf/d CO2 Pipeline from Wyoming to Montana—to Help Increase Production at Aging Fields

Encore Acquisition plans to construct a 50 MMcf/d carbon dioxide (CO2) pipeline from Wyoming to Montana, and use the delivered CO2 to improve production at its Bell Creek oilfield in Montana, a news source said. The company plans to compress the CO2 into liquid form for delivery. It also expects to purchase several oilfields along the pipeline's route, with the hopes of similarly boosting production. The company plans to break ground in mid-2011.

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_6a0f9798-a404-11de-a0ad-001cc4c03286.html

Natural Gas

Nothing to report.

Other News

Update: Big River United Energy Plans to Restart Recently-Purchased 100 MMGal/Yr. Dyersville, Iowa Ethanol Plant in 2010

Big River United Energy plans to restart the 100 MMGal/Yr. Dyersville, Iowa ethanol plant in the third quarter of 2010, a news source reported. The company purchased the facility from the bankrupted VeraSun, the source said.

http://ethanolproducer.com/article.jsp?article_id=5967

Poet to Convert and Expand 50 MMGal/Yr. Corn-Based Emmetsburg, Iowa Ethanol Plant into 125 MMGal/Yr. Combined-Cellulosic and Corn-Based Facility

Poet plans to boost production at its 50 MMGal/Yr. Emmetsburg, Iowa ethanol plant to 125 MMGal/Yr., and derive 25 MMGal/Yr. of that output from corn cobs, a source reported.

http://ethanolproducer.com/article.jsp?article_id=5966

Wyoming Coal Production Slated to Drop 7 Percent in 2009, Year-on-Year

Wyoming coal deliveries could fall by about 32 million tons in 2009, marking the first statewide output drop in 15 years, a state official said. Electricity demand has fallen particularly sharply in the U.S. Midwest, where Wyoming sends most of its Powder River Basin coal, according to the official.

<http://cbs4denver.com/wireapnews/Wyoming.expects.first.2.1190344.html>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices September 18, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	72.17	69.56	97.48
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.50	2.68	7.82

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Substation Malfunction Cuts Power to about 12,000 National Grid Customers in New York September 18

<http://www.wgrz.com/news/local/story.aspx?storyid=70364&provider=gnews>

State PSC Says no Environmental Impact Study Necessary for Beacon Power Corp's Planned 20 MW Flywheel Power Storage Facility in New York

<http://albany.bizjournals.com/albany/stories/2009/09/14/daily50.html?ana=yfcpc>

NACEL Energy Corporation Completes Major Environmental Assessment Work, Receives FAA Permits for Planned 20 MW Channing Flats Wind Power Facility in Texas by September 18

http://www.alphatrade.com/news/stories/AM/2009-09-18/MRW/200909180635MRKTWIREUSPR_0538543.html
<http://www.nacelenergy.com/business/projects.html>

Study Says Power Would be Too Costly from Planned Clean Coal Power Plant in Jamestown, New York

<http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/3490419>

APS Plans to Use CO2 Emissions to Grow Algae, then Produce Biofuels, at Four Corners Coal-fired Power Plant in Arizona

http://www.aps.com/main/news/releases/release_415.html

Nigerian Oil Production Jumps from 2.01 Million b/d in Second Quarter, 2009, to 2.09 Million b/d in Third Quarter 2009

Reuters, 11:23 September 18, 2009

JR Camelina Seed Plans Camelina-based, 2 MMGal/Yr. Biodiesel Plant in Wisconsin

<http://www.thenorthwestern.com/article/20090918/OSH0101/309180032/1987>

MapleLNG Receives Provincial Approval for Planned Natural Gas Pipeline from Proposed LNG Terminal in Goldboro, Nova Scotia by September 17—Line Would Link Facility to Maritimes and Northeast Pipeline

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=18222

Mississippi Hub LLC Receives FERC Approval for near-5 Bcf Expansion at Planned Natural Gas Storage Facility in Mississippi September 17

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Transco Receives FERC Approval to Receive Natural Gas from Planned Elba Express Pipeline in U.S. Southeast

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Compressor Issues Trigger Flaring at West Seminole San Andres Unite Central Tank Battery in Texas September 17

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=129560>

Filter Screen Problems Force Operators to Shut Engine at Keystone Gas Plant in Texas September 17

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=129531>

Canadian Natural Gas Supply to Dip over Next Two Years as Drilling Activity Lags, National Energy Board Says September 17

<http://www.neb.gc.ca/clf-nsi/rthnb/nwsrls/2009/nwsrls19-eng.html>

Columbia Gas Company Releases Natural Gas, Causes Odor in Pennsylvania September 16—Incident poses no Threat to Public Safety, Local Utility Spokesman Says

http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/easton/index.ssf/2009/09/gas_odor_was_controlled_releas.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.

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

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