



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

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, September 21, 2010

## *Electricity*

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### **Exelon's 1,161 MW Braidwood Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois Shut September 20**

The unit shut automatically for unknown reasons on September 20, the company said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Workers were "performing a calibration of Power Range Channel N-43 and a calibration of the 1C S/G Narrow Range Level Channel 1L-0538" at the time of the incident, according to the filing. The NRC reported that on the morning of September 20 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20100921en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

### **Update: Exelon's 802 MW Three Mile Island Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Ramped Up to 68 Percent by September 21**

The unit shut on September 19 due a malfunctioned electrical card, company officials said. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of September 20 the unit was operating at 15 percent.

<http://www.fox43.com/news/wpmt-tmi-back-online-daupin-county.0.7318587.story>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

### **Xcel to Shut 347 MW Harrington Coal-Fired Unit 2 in Texas September 21**

Xcel planned to shut the unit today "to repair tube leaks" and for "other minor maintenance items," the company said in a filing with state regulators.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=145017>

### **Update: Southern's 856 MW Hatch Nuclear Unit 1 in Georgia at Full Power by September 21**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of September 20 the unit was operating at 80 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

### **Update: FPL's 565 MW Duane Arnold Nuclear Unit in Iowa Ramped Up to 82 Percent by September 21**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of September 20 the unit was operating at 57 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

### **Update: PCWA's 218 MW Middle Fork and Ralston Hydro Unit in California Returns to Service by September 20**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201009201515.html>

### **Mirant's 206 MW Potrero Unit 3 Gas-Fired Unit 3 in California Shut by September 20**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage by September 20.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201009201515.html>

## **Southern Declares Unusual Event at 1,848 MW Hatch Nuclear Power Plant in Georgia September 18**

Southern Company declared the unusual event due to a “high-high reactor building sump level alarm,” it said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The company terminated the event early on September 19 after it discovered that the sump level “was in its normal operating range,” according to the filing. Operators did not detect any “abnormal sump-in leakage” and Southern said it was investigating “the abnormal level indication.”

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20100920en.html>

<http://www.southerncompany.com/nuclearenergy/hatch.aspx>

## **Update: CPS Energy Dedicates 750 MW Coal-Fired Spruce 2 Power Plant in Texas September 20**

The facility is located at the Calaveras Power Station in San Antonio, Texas. The Calaveras site includes the original Spruce unit, another two-unit coal-fired power plant, and a two-unit gas-fired facility.

[http://www.cpsenergy.com/About\\_CPS\\_Energy/News\\_Features/News/092010\\_Spruce2\\_dedication\\_NR.asp](http://www.cpsenergy.com/About_CPS_Energy/News_Features/News/092010_Spruce2_dedication_NR.asp)

## ***Petroleum***

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### **Update: PHMSA Could Allow Enbridge to Restart 190,000 b/d, 30-inch, Indiana-to-Ontario Lakehead System Line 6B, if Company Agrees to Perform Other Repairs**

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) could authorize Enbridge to restart its 190,000 b/d, 30-inch, Indiana-to-Ontario Lakehead System Line 6B, if the company agrees to complete numerous repairs along the line within one year, according to a notice from PHMSA. Specifically, PHMSA wants Enbridge to fix more than 100 problems within six months, and replace a dented section of the line within one year. The company, for its part, had “no opposition to the new requirements,” according to a spokeswoman. Enbridge shut the line in late-July after it ruptured and spilled about 19,000 barrels of oil into a creek near the company’s Marshall, Michigan pump station.

<http://www.freep.com/article/20100921/NEWS05/9210342/Quick-hit-Oil-pipeline-could-restart-with-new-guidelines>

[http://www2.wjtv.com/jtv/ap\\_exchange/business/article/regulators-want-more-fixes-for-mich-oil-pipeline/197933/](http://www2.wjtv.com/jtv/ap_exchange/business/article/regulators-want-more-fixes-for-mich-oil-pipeline/197933/)

### **Hurricane Igor Nears Newfoundland Coast, but Energy Companies Report no Impact on Production September 21**

Hurricane Igor caused heavy winds over parts of Newfoundland, Canada, but the storm had not impacted production at the energy facilities along its path by September 21, news, company, and official sources reported. The storm threatened to disrupt operations at three offshore oilfields – ExxonMobil's 170,000 b/d Hibernia, Suncor's 80,000 b/d Terra Nova, and Husky's 60,000 b/d White Rose – and at KNOC's 115,000 b/d Come-by-Chance refinery. It forced some evacuations, but operators had not reported any affect to output, as of latest reports.

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/text/refresh/MIATCPAT1+shtml/211740.shtml?>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN209572520100921>

<http://www.torontosun.com/news/world/2010/09/19/15403366.html>

### **Update: Deepwater Horizon Spill to Have Minimal, if Any, Impact on Medium-Term Prospects for Offshore Drilling: IEA**

The Deepwater Horizon spill in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico could postpone some offshore drilling projects in the short term, but the incident will have minimal – if any – impact to the industry in the medium-term, the chief economist at the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on September 21. Governments are considering new rules, in light of the spill, “but they are sensitive to the fact these regulations should not be designed to slow the growth of offshore drilling or making these upstream investments unprofitable,” he said.

Reuters, 11:33 September 21, 2010

### **Murphy Finishes Maintenance at 125,000 b/d Meraux, Louisiana Refinery by September 20**

Murphy began the work last week, according to a spokeswoman. The company was fixing a hydrocracker pump, according to sources familiar with the facility’s operations. The spokeswoman did not confirm the nature of the work. It was not clear if there was any impact on production.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFWEN006820100920>

### **Pasadena Refining Shuts FCC at 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery September 20**

Pasadena Refining shut a 56,000 b/d gasoline-making fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC) after a compressor failure at its 100,000 b/d, Pasadena, Texas refinery on September 20, the company said in a filing with state regulators. Operators attempted to restart the compressor, but then shut the FCC “for repair,” according to the filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=145035>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSWEN007820100920>

### **Hovensa Reports Leak at 500,000 b/d St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands Refinery September 19**

The leak involved a small amount of light vacuum gas oil and hydrogen sulfide; it lasted just 20 minutes and was contained, according to a local health official. Local officials, citing precautionary reasons, urged local residents not to drink cistern water. It was not clear if the incident had any impact on production.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9IB6T4O0.htm>

### **Crews Plug Leak along Oil Pipeline to PdVSA’s 645,000 b/d Amuay, Venezuela Refinery by September 20**

Crews stopped a spill along a pipeline that had been delivering oil to PdVSA’s 645,000 b/d Amuay, Venezuela refinery, officials said on September 20. It was not clear if the pipeline was taken out of service, or if the leak had any effect on production. Separately, locals said they heard an explosion at another PdVSA-owned facility – the 146,000 b/d El Palito, Venezuela refinery – over the weekend. Workers said the blast had not impacted operations.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN2027084820100920>

## ***Natural Gas***

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### **Update: PG&E Posts List of Riskiest Natural Gas Pipeline Sections in California – Exploded San Bruno Line Was Not in “Top 100”**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) posted online the “Top 100” list of its most at-risk natural gas pipeline sections in California, but the 30-inch line that exploded in San Bruno, California was not included, the company and the Associated Press said on September 20. “We were not aware of anything in this particular area that would have met the criteria to put it on that list,” PG&E’s President said. The company said it assessed line segments based on the prospects for third-party damage, corrosion, and ground movement, along with “physical design and characteristics.” To read more about the list, click on the first two links below.

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

[http://www.pge.com/about/newsroom/newsreleases/20100920/pge\\_provides\\_update\\_on\\_san\\_bruno\\_recovery\\_efforts\\_and\\_discusses\\_gas\\_pipeline\\_safety\\_and\\_maintenance\\_program.shtml](http://www.pge.com/about/newsroom/newsreleases/20100920/pge_provides_update_on_san_bruno_recovery_efforts_and_discusses_gas_pipeline_safety_and_maintenance_program.shtml)

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/PGE-San-Bruno-pipe-segment-apf-3652335239.html?x=0>

### **Update: Tristream Extends Shutdown at Eustace Processing Plant, Forcing Eagle Rock to Keep Offline Oil and Gas Production in East Texas**

Eagle Rock Energy Partners, L.P. will not resume oil-and-gas output in East Texas until mid-November due to the longer-than-expected shutdown of the facility – Tristream Energy LLC’s Eustace plant – that processes the company’s production, Eagle Rock said on September 20. Tristream Energy shut the Eustace plant on August 11 after an electrical failure caused significant damage to a sulfur recovery unit (SRU). The company had expected the work to last for 30 to 45 days, but now does not plan to resume service until mid-November. Eagle Rock produced about 211 MMcf/d of natural gas in East Texas and Louisiana during the three months ended June 30, 2010, along with 109,500 barrels of natural gas liquids (NGLs) and condensate, according to an earlier company release.

<http://ir.eaglerockenergy.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=200871&p=RssLanding&cat=news&id=1473112>

<http://ir.eaglerockenergy.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=200871&p=RssLanding&cat=news&id=1460841>

<http://phx.corporateir.net/External.File?item=UGFyZW50SUQ9NTY1NTN8Q2hpbGRJRDR0tMXxUeXBIPTM=&t=1>

[http://www.tristreamenergy.com/press\\_releases/announces\\_Acquisition\\_of\\_East\\_Texas\\_Processing\\_Assets.htm](http://www.tristreamenergy.com/press_releases/announces_Acquisition_of_East_Texas_Processing_Assets.htm)

### **UGI Energy Services to Pipe up to 120,000 Dth/d of Natural Gas in Pennsylvania**

UGI Energy Service Inc. plans to acquire and construct facilities to deliver up to 120,000 Dth/d of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale in Wyoming County, Pennsylvania, to Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company’s interstate pipeline in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, UGI said on September 21. The project would involve natural gas produced by Citrus Energy Corporation. UGI plans to begin service as soon as the spring of 2011.

<http://investor.shareholder.com/ugi/ReleaseDetail.cfm?ReleaseID=509498>

## Other News

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### **Update: Aventine to Open 110 MMGal/Yr. Indiana Ethanol Plant Before New Regulations Take Effect**

Aventine Renewable Energy plans to open its 110 MMGal/Yr. Mount Vernon, Indiana ethanol plant by December 19, 2010, but could begin production by November, according to a company official. The company must begin operations by December 19 in order to avoid new environmental regulations. It broke ground on the facility in 2007, but halted work in 2008 amid weak market conditions. It later declared bankruptcy.

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2010/sep/20/no-headline---21b0xaventine/>

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2010/jul/11/plant-preparations/>

### **Update: Abengoa Eyes 2013 Start-Date for Planned 100 MMGal/Yr. Hybrid Ethanol Plant in Kansas**

Abengoa Bioenergy plans to begin operations in 2013 at a hybrid facility in Hugoton, Kansas that would produce 100 MMGal/Yr., combined, of cellulosic-and grain-based ethanol, the company said recently.

<http://www.brighterenergy.org/16541/news/bioenergy/progress-for-abengoas-kansas-cellulosic-ethanol-project/>

### **Biocardel Quebec Inc. Plans 10.6 MMGal/Yr. Biodiesel Plant in Richmond, Quebec**

The facility would process vegetable or cooking oil, or animal fat.

[http://www.soyatech.com/news\\_story.php?id=20152](http://www.soyatech.com/news_story.php?id=20152)

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
September 21, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	72.94	77.51	69.14
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	4.01	3.83	3.21

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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### **San Diego Gas & Electric Reports 16,344 Customers without Power September 20 - Only Scattered Outages across Company's Service Area September 21**

<http://www.sdge.com/outages/outageDetailsLists.shtml>

### **Squirrel Enters Substation, Cuts Power for Almost One Hour to Nearly 16,000 BC Hydro Customers in North Vancouver, British Columbia September 21**

<http://www.vancouversun.com/Wandering+squirrel+knocks+power+North+Vancouver/3557587/story.html>

### **Man Sustains Third-Degree Burns during Suspected Copper Theft at Appalachian Power Substation in West Virginia September 16**

<http://www.register-herald.com/todaysfrontpage/x721418749/Man-suffers-burns-after-alleged-copper-theft-attempt>

### **Air Products Plans 49 MW Tees Valley Renewable Energy Facility in Northeast New England**

[http://www.alternrg.com/press\\_release\\_94439](http://www.alternrg.com/press_release_94439)

**Update: AEP, Allegheny Energy File New Application for Virginia Segment of Proposed 765 kV, West Virginia-to-Maryland PATH Transmission Line by September 21 – Application Incorporates PJM’s Recommendation that Line be Constructed by mid-2015**  
<http://www.pathtransmission.com/news/VA%20PATH%20Filing.pdf>

**Locals Evacuated after Fire along Underground Natural Gas Pipeline in Tucson, Arizona September 20 – No Reported Injuries**  
<http://www.azfamily.com/news/Gas-line-fire-evacuates-midtown-neighborhood-103317994.html>

**Lightning Storm Cuts Power Briefly to Penticton, British Columbia – City Home to More than 30,000 People**  
<http://www.am1150.ca/News/Local/Penticton/Story.aspx?ID=1281554>  
<http://www12.statcan.ca/census-recensement/2006/dp-pd/prof/92-591/details/page.cfm?Lang=E&Geo1=CSD&Code1=5907041&Geo2=PR&Code2=59&Data=Count&SearchText=penticton&SearchType=Begins&SearchPR=59&B1=All&Custom=>

**Quantum Fuel Systems Technologies Worldwide, Inc. Plans 45 MW/Year Solar Module Facility in Irvine, California**  
<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/quantum-selected-by-california-energy-commission-for-44-million-financing-for-solar-manufacturing-in-california-103278844.html>

**Explosion at Gasoline Station in North Las Vegas, Nevada September 18 – No Injuries Reported**  
<http://www.fox5vegas.com/news/25081189/detail.html>

**Update: Enbridge Receives State Authorization to Perform Maintenance along Pipeline under Straits of Mackinac, Michigan**  
<http://michiganmessenger.com/42060/state-approves-work-on-oil-pipeline-under-mackinac-straits>

**Valero Reports Brief Flaring at 325,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery September 20**  
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=145053>

**ConocoPhillips Reports Flaring at Carson, California Refinery September 20**  
<http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/MALHaz.nsf/f1841a103c102734882563e200760c4a/980768535c449a08882577a4005c3e2b?OpenDocument>  
Reuters, 18:54 September 20, 2010

**Update: Study Says North Dakota Refinery More Likely to Succeed if it Produced Diesel Fuel and Naphtha, Rather Than Gasoline – Facility Would Process 34,000 b/d and could Come Online by 2015**  
[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iUw3w5Yn9y\\_39mtdpPMtLIMGZVRgD9IBSA801](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iUw3w5Yn9y_39mtdpPMtLIMGZVRgD9IBSA801)

**Update: Cenovus Energy Receives Regulatory Okay For Three-Phase, Combined 90,000 b/d Expansion at Existing 120,000 b/d Foster Creek Oil Sands Project in Alberta, Canada by September 20 - Company Plans to File Plans for Additional 25,000 b/d of Capacity**  
<http://www.cenovus.com/news/news-releases/2010/0920-foster-creek-receives-reg-approval.html>

**Update: Shell Receives Conditional Okay from Provincial Regulators for Tailings Management Plan at Muskeg River Oil Sands Project in Alberta by September 20**  
<http://www.oilweek.com/news.asp?ID=29953>

**Ithaca to Begin 22,000 b/d of Production in Third Quarter of 2011 at Athena Oil Field in U.K. North Sea**  
[http://explorationanddevelopment.energy-business-review.com/news/ithaca-wins-decc-approval-to-develop-athena-oil-field\\_210910](http://explorationanddevelopment.energy-business-review.com/news/ithaca-wins-decc-approval-to-develop-athena-oil-field_210910)



**Citing Increased Domestic Production, Iran Says it Has Not Ordered Gasoline Imports for a Month**

[http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/Resource-Wars/2010/09/20/Iran-halts-gasoline-imports/UPI-47021284993256/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/09/20/Iran-halts-gasoline-imports/UPI-47021284993256/)

**Update: PetroChina to Tap Alternate Caribbean Terminal for Oil as PdVSA's Fire-Downed Bonaire Terminal Remains Offline – Trader Says Bonaire Facility Could Reopen Next Week**

Reuters, 22:58 September 20, 2010

**Problem at Targa Natural Gas Facility in Texas Causes Flaring at XTO Energy's Russell Compressor Station September 21-23**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=145073>

**Citing Suspected Methane Leak from Six Natural Gas Wells, Pennsylvania Regulators Direct Chesapeake Energy to Evaluate All Company-Owned, In-State Wells that Used Same Procedures as Problem Wells – Order Involves 171 Wells**

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/newsroom/14287?id=14274&typeid=1>

**ConocoPhillips Hosts Disaster Training Exercise in Farmington, New Mexico September 18 – Fake Pipeline Explosion among Training Scenarios**

[http://www.daily-times.com/ci\\_16115450](http://www.daily-times.com/ci_16115450)

**Officials Participate in Class to Prepare for Response to Natural Gas Well Explosion in Marshall County, West Virginia September 18**

<http://www.news-register.net/page/content.detail/id/541942.html?nav=515>

**TMO Renewables Ltd., Fiberight LLC Plan to Construct 15 Waste-Based Bioethanol Plants within Next Five Years in United States**

<http://www.tmo-group.com/news/news-20-09-10.aspx>

## **Links**

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***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](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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