



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, September 23, 2009

Electricity

Update: Storm Knocks Out Power to about 50,000 Oncor Customers in Texas September 21-22

A storm cut electricity to approximately 50,000 Oncor customers on September 21-22, but the company restored power to all downed customers by midday on September 22, a company official said.

http://www.courier-gazette.com/articles/2009/09/23/news_update/271.txt

Duke's 754 MW Moss Landing Gas-fired Unit 6 in California Shut by September 22

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage by September 22.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200909221515.html>

Update: PG&E's 1,087 MW Diablo Canyon Nuke Unit 1 in California Ramped Up to 78 Percent by September 23

PG&E took the unit offline on September 19 to fix a feedwater heater, the company said previously. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of September 22 the unit was operating at 8 percent.

Bloomberg News, 07:18 September 22, 2009

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: NRC Says First Energy Has Completed Necessary Improvements after 2002 Corrosion-Related Shutdown at 882 MW Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant in Ohio

First Energy Nuclear Operating Co. has completed upgrades to its operations approach and safety procedures, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said, several years after a two-year-long, corrosion-related shutdown. First Energy shut the unit in March 2002 after corrosion caused a football-sized hole in the reactor's vessel head, a news source said. The incident did not cause any accidents, but the unit remained offline for two years of maintenance. The NRC approved its restart in 2004, and ordered the company to undertake several operational and safety measures. In September 2009, the NRC confirmed that First Energy had satisfied the 2004 demands.

<http://www.neimagazine.com/story.asp?sectionCode=132&storyCode=2054199>

Entergy Nuclear to Deliver Nuclear Waste to Texas from 510 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Vermont

Entergy Nuclear plans to ship low-level nuclear waste to Texas from its 510 MW Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant in Vermont, the company said. The Texas site, owned by Waste Control Specialists LLC, still requires further approval. Pending that authorization, the build should take about one year.

<http://www.wcax.com/Global/story.asp?S=11173841>

NRC Launches Special Inspection after August 19 Power Disruption at Wolf Creek Operating Co.'s 1,165 MW Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant in Kansas

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) launched a special inspection into an August 19 lightning storm that forced offline all three offsite power lines to Wolf Creek Operating Co.'s 1,165 MW Wolf Creek nuclear power plant in Kansas, the NRC said. The unit tripped automatically due to the loss of offsite power, and the site's emergency diesel generators powered on to ensure a safe shutdown. The NRC said it would chronicle the event, review the company's determination of cause, assess its maintenance and testing program, and evaluate its response.

The inspection was slated to begin on September 21, and last several days.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-032iv.html>

Iberdrola Renewables receives more than \$250 Million in U.S. Treasury Department Grants for Wind Farms in Three States

Iberdrola Renewables received U.S. Treasury Department grants for wind farms in Iowa, Missouri and Texas, the company said in a release. The grants apply to the three recently-completed wind power projects: the 160 MW Barton farm in Iowa, the 146 MW Farmers City facility in Missouri, and the 120 MW Barton Chapel site in Texas. Iberdrola has received Stimulus grants for eight renewable energy projects, or a combined 980 MW of power.
http://www.iberdrolarenewables.us/rel_09.09.22.html

Southern Co. Expects to Increase Use of Natural Gas for Power Generation in 2009, Citing Lower Prices

Southern Co. expects to increase its use of natural gas for power generation by 24 percent, from 250 Bcf/year "normally," to 310 Bcf/year in 2009, a company official said on September 23. Decreased natural gas prices have made the fuel more economical than coal, the official said. Southern owns 42,607 MW of electric generation; 68 percent of that output is coal-based, and 16 percent comes from oil and gas, according to the company's website. Bloomberg News, 13:04 September 23, 2009

Petroleum

Process Upset, Flaring at ConocoPhillips 139,000 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery September 23

A process upset affected an unspecified unit at ConocoPhillips' 139,000 b/d Wilmington, California refinery on September 23, according to a filing with state regulators. The incident triggered flaring. It was not clear if the disruption had any impact to production.
DJN, 10:48 September 23, 2009

Delek Restarts FCC at 58,000 b/d Tyler, Texas Refinery September 21

Delek restarted a gasoline-producing fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC) after a temporary malfunction at its 58,000 b/d Tyler, Texas refinery, the company said in a filing with state regulators. The incident caused flaring.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2210372920090922>

Sunoco Postpones Unit Restarts after Planned Maintenance at 160,000 b/d Toledo, Ohio Refinery by September 21

Sunoco delayed the restarts of unspecified units after planned maintenance at its 160,000 b/d Toledo, Ohio refinery, trade sources said on September 21. A news source did not provide any reason for the postponement.
<http://in.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idINN2245454420090922>

Shell Restarts Upgrader at 98,000 b/d Scotford, Alberta Refinery September 22

Shell began restarting a 155,000 b/d upgrader at its 98,000 b/d Scotford, Alberta refinery on September 22, a community notice said. A news source did not say why the unit had been down. The restart was expected to trigger flaring.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN2335354320090923>

Update: OSHA Says BP Has Not Completed Planned Safety Upgrades after Fatal 2005 Explosion at 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery

BP has not completed agreed-upon safety upgrades after the 2005 explosion that killed 15 employees at its 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas refinery, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) told the company in August. A BP spokesman denied the charges: "We believe we are in full compliance with our commitments," he said. OSHA's letter, however, cited numerous, as-yet unfulfilled obligations. The list included "overdue inspections and preventative maintenance tasks," a news source reported. OSHA said it believed "failure to correct the issues addressed in this letter... by September 23, 2009, would constitute a failure to comply with the terms of the 2005 agreement and/or a failure to abate."
<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-Oil/idUSTRE58L67920090922>

Northwest Refining Plans 100,000 b/d Refinery in Williston, North Dakota

Northwest Refining has completed a preliminary feasibility study for a planned 100,000 b/d refinery in Williston, North Dakota, a news source reported. The source did not indicate when the company hopes to break ground.
<http://www.willistonherald.com/articles/2009/09/22/news/doc4ab8f3a5a3481756982422.txt>

ConocoPhillips' J-Block O&G Fields in U.K. North Sea Shut by September 23

ConocoPhillips' J-Block oil and natural gas fields in the U.K. North Sea shut for unspecified reasons by September 23, the company confirmed. Teeside PX, which operates an associated gas-processing plant, said the sites shut for three days of work. A source did not provide specific production figures.
Bloomberg News, 05:55 September 23, 2009

Update: PdVSA Expects to Restart Cracker at Cardon, Venezuela Refinery in October 2009, Refinery Official Says--Company Shut Unit for 15 Percent Expansion, to Total 89,000 b/d, More than One Year Ago

<http://www.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUSN2340143420090923>

Natural Gas

Nexen Estimates its Horn River Basin Assets in British Columbia, Canada Hold 3-to-6 Tcf of Natural Gas

Nexen is already producing between 15-and-20 MMcf/d of natural gas from five Horn River Basin wells in British Columbia, Canada, and said it could eventually open up to 500-to-700 wells. The company's Horn River Basin assets contain an estimated 3-to-6 Tcf of contingent recoverable resource, a source reported.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSBNG173720090922>

Other News

Equipment Work Forces Offline Tharaldson Ethanol's 120 MMGal/Yr. Ethanol Plant near Casselton, North Dakota

Maintenance to dryer equipment forced offline Tharaldson Ethanol's 120 MMGal/Yr. ethanol plant near Casselton, North Dakota a couple of weeks ago, a company official said. The plant has been running intermittently throughout the work, the official said. He did not provide a timetable for restoration.

<http://ethanol-news.newslib.com/story/6938-33468/>

<http://www.tharaldsonethanol.com/>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
September 23, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	68.74	71.83	107.85
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.43	3.21	7.84

Source: Reuters

NACEL Energy Completes Environmental Assessment Work, Receives FAA Permits for Planned 20 MW Swisher Wind Energy Facility in Texas by September 23

<http://www.nacelenergy.com/business/projects.html>
http://www.alphatrade.com/news/stories/AM/2009-09-23/MRW/200909230727MRKTWIREUSPR_0540079.html

Western Massachusetts Electric Company Plans up to 6 MW of Solar Power Facilities in New England

http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=ind_focus.story&STORY=/www/story/09-22-2009/0005098923&EDATE=

BP Pays \$1.7 Million in Fines, Agrees to Improvements after 2007 Inspection Concluded Oil-Storage and Fuel-Loading Sites Were Improperly Contained in Alaska

Reuters, 16:57 September 22, 2009

Typhoon Koppu Forces Shut CNOOC, Eni and Chevron Oilfields in Huizhou, China—Area Produced About 41,000 b/d of Oil, Prior to Storm

http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=ind_focus.story&STORY=/www/story/09-22-2009/0005099091&EDATE=

Anadarko Discovery Offshore Sierra Leone Could Contain 200 Million Barrels of Oil

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=80608
<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/business/story/0,28124,26088314-643,00.html>

Tanker Overturns, Spilling 2,000 Gallons of Gasoline and Forcing Closed U.S. Highway 95 in Idaho September 20

<http://www.theolympian.com/northwest/story/977719.html>

US Energy Secretary Chu Announces \$528 Million Loan to Fisker Automotive for Advanced Vehicle Technology— Loan to Support Development of Two Lines of Plug-in Hybrids

<http://www.energy.gov/news2009/8050.htm>

Turbine Shutdown at Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas September 22

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=129766>

Compressor Shutdown, Flaring at Waha Gas Plant in Texas September 22

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=129727>

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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