



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, September 26, 2013

Major Developments

Update: 12 Notable Oil Spills in Flood-Impacted Colorado Have Released 890 Barrels as of September 24 – COGCC

The Colorado Oil & Gas Conservation Commission (COGCC) reports that through September 24, teams have now visited 625 well locations. The agency is tracking 12 notable releases. One new release has been confirmed since Tuesday's update. An Anadarko tank released 67 barrels of oil at a location south of Evans and north of La Salle. The 12 notable releases total 890 barrels, or 37,380 gallons. The amount for two of these 12 releases is unknown. Cleanup efforts are underway at some impacted locations where operators have access. They are using booms to contain and absorb any materials in standing water, as well as vacuum trucks to remove affected water. They are also cleaning up debris around locations to assess the condition of equipment and, where appropriate, to prepare for bringing sites back on line.

<http://cogcc.state.co.us/announcements/COGCC2013FloodResponse.pdf>

Electricity

Appalachian Power Affiliate Files Request to Rebuild Kanawha Valley Transmission Lines in West Virginia for Power Transmission Upgrade September 25

AEP West Virginia Transmission Company, Inc., an affiliate of Appalachian Power, filed a request with the West Virginia Public Service Commission for approval to upgrade transmission facilities in the Kanawha Valley. The filing addressed the rebuilding of approximately 52 miles of existing transmission lines and the installation of associated electrical components. Previous filings requested approval for upgrades to substations. The bulk of the project work will take place between the company's John Amos Plant and its Turner and Cabin Creek substations, with a key loop in the Cross Lanes area and another in the Kanawha City area. Additional work will be done to facilities that feed off the backbone transmission line that runs from Poca to Cabin Creek. The project will involve removing current transmission facilities and replacing them with similar but sturdier facilities of the same voltage. Approximately 80 percent of the transmission line rebuild is expected to be done within or adjacent to existing rights of way. Construction is expected to begin this fall and be complete in 2017.

<https://www.appalachianpower.com/info/news/ViewRelease.aspx?releaseID=1447>

Duke Energy Building Two 200 MW Wind Power Projects in Texas by 2016

Duke Energy Renewables today announced it will build two large-scale wind power facilities in Starr County, Texas. The Los Vientos III and IV Windpower Projects will produce 200 MW each of emissions-free electricity. Austin Energy will purchase the output and associated renewable energy credits from the wind farms under two 25-year agreements. Duke Energy will begin construction of the projects in the fourth quarter of this year, with an in-service date expected in early 2015 for Los Vientos III and mid-2016 for Los Vientos IV.

<http://www.duke-energy.com/news/releases/2013092601.asp>

NextEra Energy Canada Announces Completion of 124 MW Summerhaven Wind Energy Centre in Ontario

NextEra Energy Canada, ULC, announced Wednesday that its subsidiary, Summerhaven Wind, LP, has achieved commercial operation at its Summerhaven Wind Energy Centre. The Centre, located in Haldimand County, is comprised of 56 turbines and capable of generating up to 124.4 MW of electricity. Development on the Summerhaven Wind Energy Centre began in 2006, and the project received a Renewable Energy Approval in March 2012.

<http://www.nexteraenergy.com/news/contents/2013/092513.shtml>

Update: PPL's 1,111 MW Susquehanna Nuclear Unit 2 in Pennsylvania Ramped Up to 85 Percent by September 26

On the morning of September 25 the unit was operating at 35 percent, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

Update: Entergy's 510 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Unit in Vermont Ramped Up to 42 Percent by September 26

On the morning of September 25 the unit was operating at 14 percent, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The plant reduced power on September 24 to allow Entergy Nuclear workers to inspect the oil level in a recirculation pump after a low-level alarm was triggered.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

Update: DTE's 1,089 MW Fermi Nuclear Unit 2 in Michigan Ramped Up to 86 Percent by September 26

On the morning of September 25 the unit was operating at 69 percent, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

Petroleum

Valero Plans to Raise Light Crude Capacity at U.S. Gulf Refineries

Valero Energy Corp. said it plans to increase light crude oil processing capacity at several U.S. Gulf Coast refineries through 2018. In 2015, Valero will start up new crude "topping units" at its 88,000 b/d Houston, Texas, refinery and its 200,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas, refinery that will come online in 2015. Valero is also evaluating low-cost projects to unlock light crude capacity at its 290,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas, and 125,000 b/d Meraux, Louisiana, refineries. The company also has plans to expand hydrocrackers at the Port Arthur, Meraux, and 205,000 b/d St. Charles, Louisiana, refineries.

<http://www.valero.com/InvestorRelations/Pages/EventsPresentations.aspx>

Reuters, 12:37 September 26, 2013

Motiva Reports Process Unit Upset, Emissions at Its 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery September 26

Motiva Enterprises reported a process unit upset at its Port Arthur, Texas, refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The filing cited an alkylation unit and a fluid catalytic cracking unit as sources of emissions. Motiva had reported excess emissions from the FCCU and FCC carbon monoxide boiler as a result of a startup, with the event starting on September 23 and ending on September 25, the filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality said.

Reuters, 11:58 September 26, 2013

Reuters, 19:36 September 25, 2013

ExxonMobil Cuts Feed to Catalytic Light Ends Unit at Its 572,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery September 24

Exxon Mobil Corp. cut the feed to a catalytic light ends unit after a circulation pump failure at its Baytown, Texas, refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The pump failure led to emissions at the refinery on Tuesday and the event ended on Wednesday, the filing showed.

Reuters, 18:17 September 25, 2013

Valero Reports No Production Impact Due to FCCU Work at Its 171,000 b/d McKee, Texas Refinery September 26

Valero Energy Corp. said there was no material impact on production due to maintenance on a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its McKee refinery in Sunray, Texas. The company had warned of flaring at the refinery on Tuesday, according to a filing with state pollution regulators.

Reuters, 10:31 September 26, 2013

Shell Says Its 156,400 b/d Martinez, California Refinery Operating as Planned September 25

Royal Dutch Shell Plc's refinery in Martinez, California, is operating as planned, according to a company spokesperson. The company had contained a propane leak at the refinery September 18.
Reuters, 15:42 September 25, 2013

Shell Oil Leaving Mahogany Oil Shale Project in Colorado, Selling 45 Producing Oil Wells in Mississippian Lime Play Kansas

Shell Oil Co. announced today it was giving up its Mahogany Project in Colorado after more than 30 years, Fuel Fix reports. Earlier this week, Shell also said it was selling its 45 producing wells and 600,000 acres in nine Kansas counties because they haven't shown enough potential oil production. A Shell spokesman said the company will look for oil in other North American plays.

<http://fuelix.com/blog/2013/09/25/shell-pulls-out-of-oil-shale-project-leaving-1-big-operator-behind/>
<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/09/21/4497925/shell-oil-pulling-up-stakes-selling.html>

Natural Gas

Andector Booster Shutdown Curbs Inlet Gas at DCP Midstream's 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas September 25

DCP Midstream reported the andector booster went down causing the plant inlet volumes to drop. This caused both turbine A and B to begin recycling gas. Turbine A shut down on high temperature to the third stage discharge, which started the flaring event. The unit was cooled down and prepared for restart, a faulty valve was repaired, and the unit was restarted, ending the flaring event.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=188703>

ExxonMobil Reports Reinjection Compressor Shut at Its 135 MMcf/d Salt Creek Gas Plant in Texas September 24

ExxonMobil Corp. reported that during normal operation, the K3502 reinjection compressor shut down on a high vibration on the first stage suction no. 2 throw, routing its inlet to flare. All other reinjection compressors were loaded to their maximum allowable capacity to limit emissions.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=188655>

Power Outage Shuts Enbridge's Tilden Gas Plant in Texas September 25

Enbridge Inc. reported an unexpected loss of electrical power that shut down its Tilden gas plant, in Texas. The electrical power was restored to the facility and once acid gas was available, both acid gas injector no. 1 and 2 were restarted.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=188697>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices September 26, 2013			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	102.84	107.14	89.53
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.52	3.76	2.84

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>

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