



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, September 27, 2011

Electricity

California Urges DOE to Reject Semptra's Plan to Build High-Voltage Energía Sierra Juárez Transmission Line across Mexico-California Border

In a resolution approved September 15, the California legislature called upon the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to reject Semptra Energy's application to construct a cross-border transmission line because it would export jobs to Mexico. Semptra's proposed three-mile Energía Sierra Juárez tie line would connect to the Imperial Valley-Miguel segment of the Southwest Powerlink and carry electricity produced at the Semptra's proposed 1,250 MW Rumorosa wind project in Baja, Mexico. Semptra has been working to obtain a permit for the transmission project since 2008. The company expects DOE to issue a final environmental impact statement and decision by the end of the year.

<http://obrag.org/?p=45381&cpage=1>

CL&P Promises Changes at Connecticut Hearing to Address Poor Storm Response in the Wake of Tropical Storm Irene

During the second day of the hearing, Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) said that it is making a number of improvements, including upgrades to its circuit mapping system, which will improve communications in response to storms. The company also said it will hold 15 community forums to address concerns. Tropical Storm Irene left approximately 800,000 CL&P customers without power in late August. Town leaders testified that CL&P's response was poorly organized and communications with officials and customers were inadequate.

<http://newcanaan.patch.com/articles/clp-promises-changes-public-forums-2fa7d35c>

Maryland Officials to Hold Hearings in October on Response by Pepco, BGE to Power Outages Caused by Hurricane Irene

The Prince George's County Council and the Maryland Public Service Commission will hold hearings in October to review the response of utility companies Pepco and Baltimore Gas and Electric (BGE) in addressing power outages after Hurricane Irene made landfall on the Mid-Atlantic Coast late last month. Both utilities had customers without power for up to a week after the hurricane. At its peak, the storm knocked out power to 30,424 Pepco customers and 466,000 BGE customers.

<http://www.wtop.com/?nid=678&sid=2512537>

Update: Pump Failure Causes Power Reduction at Entergy's 510 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Unit in Vermont

Officials at Entergy Corp.'s Vermont Yankee nuclear plant said Monday that they were working to repair a pump motor that failed Sunday night, forcing the plant to reduce power and reconfigure its operations in order to avoid shutting down. A plant spokesman said that one of two large pumps that re-circulate water through the reactor failed Sunday night, and the plant automatically began reducing power. The plant had to be reconfigured to operate with one pump within eight hours, or federal regulations would have required it to shut down. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of September 27 the unit was operating at 47 percent power, up from 36 percent the previous day.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Vt-nuke-reduces-power-after-apf-362595905.html?x=0&.v=1>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

NRC Begins Inspection of Energy Northwest's 1,150 MW Columbia Nuclear Plant in Washington State September 26

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) began an inspection on Monday of Energy Northwest's 1,150 MW Columbia nuclear power plant in Richland, Washington. Inspectors will focus on three events that occurred during a refueling outage in April. Energy Northwest began powering up the plant last week. On September 27, the plant was operating at 14 percent.

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1126/ML11269A059.pdf>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Progress Energy's 710 MW Robinson Nuclear Unit 2 in South Carolina Shut by September 27

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of September 26 the unit was operating at full power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Update: Exelon's 619 MW Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant in New Jersey Back to Full Power September 23

On September 22, the plant was reduced to 65 percent to repair leaks in two condenser tubes. Exelon reported on September 23 that the Oyster Creek plant was back to full power following a power reduction due to unplanned maintenance.

<http://www.app.com/article/20110923/NJNEWS/309230097/Oyster-Creek-nuke-plant-back-full-power>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Calpine's 751 MW Pastoria Gas-Fired Unit in California Returns to Service by September 26

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned curtailment of 281 MW.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201109261515.html>

Update: Calpine's 593 MW Metcalf Gas-Fired Unit in California Returns to Service by September 26

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned curtailment of 328 MW.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201109261515.html>

Reliant's 320 MW Etiwanda Gas-Fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by September 26

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

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201109261515.html>

National Solar Power Plans to Build 400 MW Solar Farm in Gadsden County, Florida

National Solar Power plans to build a 400 MW solar farm in Gadsden County, Florida and is currently seeking investors to finance the project. The company has entered into a purchase-power agreement with Progress Energy Florida and is having discussions with other potential customers.

<http://www.azocleantech.com/news.aspx?newsID=15605>

<http://www.natsolar.com/component/content/article/3-newsflash/69-newsflash-1.html>

Update: Invenergy Wind, DTE Energy Break Ground on 212.8 MW Gratiot County Wind Farm in Michigan

Invenergy Wind LLC and DTE Energy officially broke ground on the 212.8 MW Gratiot County Wind Project in Gratiot, Michigan on September 27. DTE Energy will own and operate nearly half of the wind farm and purchase the remaining power from Invenergy under a 20-year power purchase agreement. The wind farm is scheduled to begin operations in the first quarter of 2012 and will feature 133 1.6 MW GE wind turbines interconnecting into an existing 138 kV transmission line owned by International Transmission Company.

http://www.invenergyllc.com/news/gratiot_sep2011.pdf

ConocoPhillips to Immediately Idle 185,000 b/d Trainer, Pennsylvania Refinery; May Permanently Close the Plant Unless Buyer Found

ConocoPhillips said September 27 it will immediately begin the process of idling the refinery and will permanently close the plant in six months if a sales transaction is unsuccessful. The refinery, located on the Delaware River, processes mainly light, low-sulfur crude oil.

http://www.conocophillips.com/EN/newsroom/news_releases/2011news/Pages/09-27-2011.aspx

Catalytic Cracking Unit Shut at Motiva's 233,500 b/d Norco Refinery in Louisiana September 26

According to a filing with the National Response Center, the unit was shut down due to a leak on the reactor stripper overhead line, which resulted in emissions of ethane, propylene, butane, and benzene. The leak has been fixed and the company reported no impact on operations.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwervlet?standard_web+inc_seq=990801

Update: Enbridge Restarts 25,000 b/d Crude Oil Line 26 after Leak in North Dakota September 26

Enbridge Inc. said Monday afternoon that it restarted its 25,000 b/d crude oil line transporting crude from Berthold, North Dakota to Steelman, Saskatchewan after shutting it Sunday when a broken valve caused approximately 20 barrels of oil to spill.

Reuters, 16:58 September 26, 2011

https://news.fidelity.com/news/news.jhtml?articleid=201109261446RTRSNEWSCOMBINED_S1E78P187_1&IMG=N&cat=default&ccsource=rss-default

Natural Gas

Enterprise nears Completion of New Pipelines and 18,000 b/d Condensate Stabilizer at Neptune Plant in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana

Enterprise Products Partners L.P. announced Monday that work is nearing completion on a series of infrastructure improvement projects designed to optimize the partnership's Neptune cryogenic natural gas processing facility in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana. The enhancements made to the Neptune plant will offer greater flow assurance and flexibility for onshore and offshore producers in the Gulf Coast region. The various initiatives include:

- Installation of a new 18,000 b/d condensate stabilizer—to support improved flow assurance of natural gas production transported on the Nautilus offshore pipeline
- Columbia Gulf's East Lateral Efficiency Optimization Project—new pipe and compression facilities that will allow Neptune to process natural gas from the South Marsh Island area of the Gulf of Mexico, including a new 500 MMcf/d dehydration unit at Neptune
- Anaconda Pipeline—a 46-mile re-route of its 20-inch Anaconda offshore pipeline linking it to Neptune and providing shippers with added processing reliability, and plans to add an interconnect to the Manta Ray pipeline at Ship Shoal 207
- Calumet to Neptune Pipeline—a new, nine-mile pipeline that carries offshore natural gas between Calumet and Neptune
- Walker Ridge Gathering System Access—prepares Neptune to accept incremental volumes from Enbridge's Walker Ridge Gathering System, to handle production from discoveries in the ultra-deepwater region of the Gulf of Mexico.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/preview/phoenix.zhtml?c=80547&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1610028>

National Transportation Safety Board Releases Report on 2010 Explosion of PG&E's Natural Gas Pipeline in San Bruno, California

<http://www.nts.gov/investigations/summary/PAR1101.html>

Fire Shuts Multiple Units at Southern Union's Keystone Gas Plant in Texas September 26

According to news sources, an explosion sparked a fire inside a cooling tower at Southern Union Gas's Keystone Gas Plant near Kermit, Texas Monday morning. Plant officials have said they are investigating the cause of the fire, and it was unclear Monday evening whether the plant would resume operations today. Plant officials reported the fire was out by around 2:00 Monday.

<http://www.cbs7kosa.com/news/details.asp?ID=29127>

http://permianbasin360.com/fulltext?nxd_id=136067

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=159655>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=159658>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=159661>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=159662>

Other News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices September 27, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	83.58	89.96	76.66
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.80	3.78	3.80

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

**Gunmen Cause Explosion at El-Arish Pipeline Pump Station in Egypt September 27;
Disrupts Gas Supply to Customers in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Sinai Peninsula**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/world/story/2011/09/27/egypt-gas-pipeline.html>

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2095156,00.html>

Typhoon Nesat Leaves Millions of People without Power in Manila, Philippines September 27

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/09/27/us-philippines-weather-idUSTRE78Q0UO20110927>

Saudi Aramco-Total Joint Venture Expects 400,000 b/d Refinery in Jubail, Saudi Arabia to Be Fully Operational by December 2013

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=27988

Public Hearing Held September 28 for Xcel Energy's Proposed 4.7-Mile, 115 kV Power Line in Benton County, Minnesota; PUC Permit Decision Expected by Year-End

<http://www.sctimes.com/article/20110926/NEWS01/109260003/Power-line-proposed-Benton-County-public-can-weigh-in>

Equipment Malfunction Leads to Flaring at Teague Gas Plant in Texas September 26

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=159611>

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 EDT every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://www.eia.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EDT every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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

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