



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, October 15, 2012

Electricity

Storms Packing Powerful Winds Knock Out Power to More Than 32,000 Utility Customers in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio October 14

Heavy rainfall and powerful wind gusts Sunday night knocked out power to approximately 32,322 utility customers in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. About 18,000 DTE Energy customers were without power Monday morning after gusts blew through southeastern Michigan Sunday night. DTE expected to fully restore power before the end of the day Monday. Indianapolis Power and Light reported 4,200 customers in Central Indiana were affected by the storm Sunday. Consumers Energy reported 3,200 of its customers in West Michigan lost power overnight Sunday. Scattered outages in the region were reported also by Toledo Edison Co. (2,839 customers), NIPSCO (2,500), Indiana-Michigan Power (1,061), and Commonwealth Edison (522).

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20121015/METRO/Winds-knock-out-power-to-thousands-in-Michigan>

http://articles.southbendtribune.com/2012-10-14/news/34453926_1_traffic-signals-strong-winds-power-outages

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/10/thousands_without_power_in_wes.html

<http://www.nwitimes.com/news/local/some-nipSCO-customers-without-power-in-crown-point-s-ville.html>

<http://www.indystar.com/article/IPL-500-remain-without-power-after-4-200-lost-during-strong-winds>

<http://tinleypark.patch.com/articles/hail-strong-winds-whip-through-tinley>

<http://www.toledoblade.com/local/2012/10/14/Gusty-winds-topple-utility-polls-in-Putnam-County.html>

Update: Additional NRC Analysis Confirms Earthquake Safety at PG&E's 2,160 MW Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant in California

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Friday said its latest analysis of faults near the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant in California continues to conclude the plant's design would withstand earthquakes near the site. The NRC analyzed ground motion from earthquakes that the Shoreline fault, an identified earthquake source about a kilometer offshore from the plant, could potentially generate. All of those ground motions fell within Diablo Canyon's existing design limits, which are based on ground motion associated with an earthquake from the larger Hosgri fault near the plant. Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), which operates the plant, must still carry out additional earthquake evaluations, as well as a walkdown to identify any near-term actions for enhancing earthquake resistance. Separately, PG&E is performing a seismic research effort mandated by the state legislature to better understand the hazards posed by potential earthquakes near the plant.

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1228/ML12286A313.pdf>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/12/utilities-nuclear-pge-idUSL1E8LCLF320121012?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43>

Generator Snag Shuts Luminant's 793 MW Monticello Coal-Fired Unit 3 October 13

Luminant reported its Monticello Unit 3 tripped offline due to a generator lockout undervoltage Saturday morning, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174750>

NPPD's 764 MW Cooper Nuclear Unit in Nebraska Shut by October 14

On the morning of October 13 the unit was operating at 91 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Dynegy's 335 MW El Segundo Natural Gas-Fired Unit 3 in California Shut by October 14

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201210141515.html>

Inland Empire Energy Center's 376 MW Inland Empire Natural Gas-Fired Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by October 14; Its 366 MW Natural-Gas Fired Unit 2 Reduced by October 13

Inland Empire Energy Center reported Unit 1 on Sunday returned from an unplanned outage that began by October 13, and Unit 2 on Saturday entered an unplanned curtailment of 196 MW.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201210141515.html>

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201210131515.html>

AES's 225 MW Huntington Beach Natural Gas-Fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by October 12

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began by October 11.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201210121515.html>

Update: GenOn's 215 MW Mandalay Natural Gas-Fired Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by October 12

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began by September 14.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201210121515.html>

DOI Approves Roadmap for Utility-Scale Solar Energy Development on Public Lands

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) on Friday announced it has finalized the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for solar energy development, which provides a blueprint for utility-scale solar energy permitting in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah by establishing solar energy zones with access to existing or planned transmission, incentives for development within those zones, and a process through which to consider additional zones and solar projects. The Solar PEIS establishes an initial set of 17 Solar Energy Zones (SEZs), totaling about 285,000 acres of public lands, that will serve as priority areas for commercial-scale solar development, with the potential for additional zones through ongoing and future regional planning processes. If fully built out, projects in the designated areas could produce as much as 23,700 MW of solar energy.

<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/Obama-Administration-Approves-Roadmap-for-Utility-Scale-Solar-Energy-Development-on-Public-Lands.cfm>

Petroleum

Tesoro Restarts HDS Unit Compressor at Its 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery October 12

Tesoro Corp. restarted the hydro-desulfurization (HDS) Unit 3 compressor at its Martinez refinery on Thursday, according to a filing with the Contra Costa County Health Department Hazardous Materials Program. The compressor shut by Thursday morning, leading to flaring of hydrogen.

Reuters, 14:17 October 12, 2012

Equipment Malfunction Shuts FCCU at Flint Hills's 288,468 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery October 12

Flint Hills Resources reported the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at the West Plant of its Corpus Christi refinery shut down Friday morning, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The cause of the shutdown was still under investigation Sunday, but preliminary results indicated that the main air blower may have malfunctioned. Emissions associated with the maintenance needed to restart the FCCU were expected to continue through Sunday morning.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174755>

Unspecified Unit Trip Causes Emissions at LyondellBasell's 270,600 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery October 13

LyondellBasell Industries reported an unspecified unit tripped at its Houston refinery Saturday morning, resulting in emissions, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators were initiating the restart of the unit and were investigating the root cause of the incident, which had caused emissions from a thermal oxidizer, the filing said.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174757>

ExxonMobil Restarts Process Compressor at Its 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery October 11; Reports Emissions Due to Vapor Line Leak October 11

ExxonMobil Corp. reported a release of hydrocarbons due to a leak in a vapor line at its Beaumont refinery on Thursday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The filing lists Alkylation Unit No. 2 as a source of emissions. Operators had completed a temporary repair and were in the process of making permanent repairs at the time of the filing. The refinery anticipated no impact to production. In a separate filing, the company reported it restarted a process compressor after it tripped on Thursday at the refinery. The refinery returned to normal operations and anticipated no impact to production.

Reuters, 17:58 October 12, 2012

Reuters, 17:53 October 12, 2012

Update: Sunoco Restarts Isomerization Unit after Completing Repairs at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery October 5

Sunoco Inc. restarted an isomerization unit at the Girard Point section of its Philadelphia refinery on October 5, according to a filing with local pollution regulators. Operators shut the unit on October 3 for mechanical repair.

Reuters, 17:39 October 12, 2012

Shell Restarts Unspecified Unit at Its 100,000 b/d Scotford Refinery in Alberta October 14

Royal Dutch Shell Plc said it was restarting an unspecified unit at its Scotford refinery near Edmonton on Sunday, according to a message posted on a community information line. Operators expected intermittent flaring to continue for approximately 12 hours due to the startup. There was no material impact to production associated with the activity.

Reuters, 21:52 October 14, 2012

Natural Gas

Irregular Inlet Volumes Shut AGI Unit at Regency's 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas October 14

Regency Energy Partners reported irregular inlet volumes to its Waha plant caused an acid gas injector (AGI) to shut down in the early hours of Sunday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Emissions associated with the incident continued until around 8:15 a.m. local time Sunday morning.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174779>

Turbine Snag Causes Emissions at DCP Midstream's 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas October 12

DCP Midstream reported the A Turbine at its Goldsmith plant went down on fuel shutdown relay, causing inlet gas to be flared, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174725>

Southern Union Reports Flaring at Its 140 MMcf/d Keystone Gas Plant in Texas October 12

Southern Union Gas Services reporting it was flaring low-pressure gas at its Keystone plant Friday night after an upstream field unit went down while a pig was coming in, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174752>

DCP Midstream Reports Flaring at Its 70 MMcf/d Fullerton Gas Plant in Texas October 12 and October 13

DCP Midstream reported it was flaring high-pressure gas at its Fullerton plant on Friday after operators shut the South Fullerton No. 3 compressor for repairs, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. On Saturday the entire South Fullerton booster fell offline, which led to the flaring of low-pressure gas. October 13, 10:28 AM–5:53 PM

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174753>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174776>

AGI Unit Shutdowns Cause Emissions at Enbridge's Tilden Gas Plant in Texas October 12

Enbridge reported acid gas injector (AGI) Unit No. 1 at its Tilden plant went down twice due to flash tank swinging on Friday, according to filings with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174748>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174758>

Other News

Nothing to report

International News

Fire at Bajo Grande Refinery in Venezuela October 13 Not Expected to Affect Operations

Officials on Saturday reported a fire at a filling station on the premises of the state-owned Bajo Grande refinery in western Venezuela had been brought under control and was not expected to affect operations at the refinery. Early indicators suggested a lightning strike caused the fire, which began Saturday, but an investigation continued.

<http://www2.counton2.com/news/2012/oct/13/venezuelan-refinery-fire-brought-under-control-ar-4747549/>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
October 15, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL			
West Texas Intermediate U.S.	90.76	89.26	86.46
\$/Barrel			
NATURAL GAS			
Henry Hub	3.38	3.23	3.42
\$/Million Btu			

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 and 1:00 PM Eastern Time every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

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

Updated after 2:00 PM Eastern Time every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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

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