



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, October 21, 2011

Electricity

Update: NRC to Implement Task Force Safety Recommendations Based on Lessons Learned from the Nuclear Reactor Accident at Fukushima

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced Friday that it has directed the agency's staff to immediately begin implementing seven of 12 comprehensive safety recommendations from the NRC's Near-Term Task Force on lessons learned from the reactor accident at Fukushima, in Japan last March. The recommendations, which the Task Force presented to the NRC in July, are intended to help owners and operators protect nuclear facilities from disasters. The recommendations include suggestions for how operators should handle a complete loss of electrical power (also called "station blackout"), reviews of seismic and flooding hazards and emergency equipment, and plant staff training. For the recommendation regarding new station blackout rules, the NRC would like to complete the rulemaking process by April 2014.

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1129/ML11293A030.pdf>

Update: Dominion Says Its 1,806 MW North Anna Nuclear Power Plant in Virginia is Ready to Resume Operation

Dominion issued a statement Friday that said its chief nuclear officer has told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that both units of its 1,806 MW North Anna nuclear power plant in Virginia will be ready to restart operations once the NRC completes its independent review, analysis, and on-site inspections and grants permission. Both units remain shut down following the August 23 earthquake in central Virginia. Dominion agreed to perform additional seismic analysis on certain components after restart to quantify and demonstrate they can meet specific seismic requirements.

<http://dom.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=1043>

PG&E Will Inspect Transformers, Other Equipment in Santa Clara County, California after Finding Instances of False Claims

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (PG&E) said October 20 that during an internal investigation it found 25 instances of inspectors falsely claiming they had checked underground electrical gear. Due to these findings, PG&E is planning to reinspect 16,400 overhead transformers and other equipment at these sites, six of which are in Santa Clara County, one in San Mateo County, and the rest outside of the Bay Area in California.

<http://www.topix.net/business/energy/2011/10/inspection-prompts-pg-e-to-examine-overhead-electrical-lines>

Clean Line Energy Proposes 3,500 MW High Voltage Transmission Line to Transport Iowa Wind Energy

Clean Line Energy said October 20 that it plans to develop a 500-mile, 3,500 MW high voltage transmission line originating in either O'Brien or Cherokee County, Iowa. The line will end at a DC-to-AC converter station near Chicago and deliver three-phase AC power to utilities in Illinois and farther east.

<http://wallacesfarmer.com/story.aspx/big-power-line-project-proposed-to-transport-iowa-wind-energy-14-54165>

Update: FPL's 839 MW Saint Lucie Nuclear Unit 1 in Florida Ramped Up to 41 Percent by October 21

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of October 20 the unit was not operating. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: FirstEnergy's 1,235 MW Perry Nuclear Unit 1 in Ohio Ramped Up to 70 Percent by October 21

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of October 20 the unit was operating at 36 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Xcel Energy's 522 MW Prairie Island Nuclear Unit 2 in Minnesota Ramped Up to 50 Percent by October 21

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of October 20 the unit was operating at 7 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Petroleum

ExxonMobil, BP, Eni to Upgrade Three Iraqi Oil Fields, Increasing Output by Almost 5 Million b/d

A top Iraqi advisor said October 19 said that the West Qurna Phase 1, Rumaila, and Zubair oil fields in Iraq will be upgraded from their current capacity of two million b/d (the bulk of Iraq's total national oil output of 2.9 million b/d), to at least 6.8 million b/d by 2017. Of the \$100 billion to be spent on the upgrades, \$50 billion will be spent on ExxonMobil's West Qurna Phase 1 field. The other \$50 billion will be split between the Rumaila and Zubair fields.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=111918

Kinder Morgan Begins Open Season for Proposed Expansion of 300,000 b/d Trans Mountain Pipeline in Alberta, Canada

Kinder Morgan announced October 20 the start of an open season to seek shipper support for the expansion of its 715-mile Trans Mountain Pipeline, which runs from Alberta to the Westridge Marine Terminal in Burnaby, Canada. The pipeline's maximum capacity is currently 300,000 b/d and could be expanded per request to handle 700,000 b/d.

<http://www.burnabynow.com/technology/Kinder+Morgan+looks+expanding+pipeline/5585534/story.html>

Update: Enbridge Wants to Replace 75 Miles of Underground Pipes to Clean Up Its 843,000-Gallon August 29 Oil Spill in the Kalamazoo River in Michigan

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/ac0a39c7f7314fd29d14d1130f5bc308/MI--Michigan-River-Oil-Spill/>

<http://www.wbez.org/story/oil-company-hopes-avoid-another-major-leak-93328>

Motiva Reports Ongoing Release of Hydrogen Sulfide Due to a Leak at Its 234,700 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery October 20

According to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center, an overhead line on a salt water stripper developed a leak, releasing at least 100 pounds of hydrogen sulfide on October 20. Operators were attempting repairs to secure the release, which was ongoing at the time of the filing Thursday.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=993174

Update: Statoil Increases Estimate of North Sea Oil Find to up to 3.3 Billion Barrels of Oil Equivalent

Test drilling in Statoil's Aldous Major South field discovered this summer has indicated it contains 900 million to 1.5 billion barrels of recoverable oil equivalent, compared with the previously announced 400 to 800 million barrels. Statoil's Aldous reservoir is linked directly to Lundin Petroleum's newly discovered field Avaldsnes, whose estimated size was quadrupled in September to between 800 million and 1.8 billion barrels. The latest estimates from these two fields provide a combined range of 1.7 to 3.3 billion barrels. Statoil expects production to begin in 2017.

Reuters, 07:07 October 21, 2011

Libya's Oil Supply Should Increase with Gaddafi's Death, Oil Chief Says October 20

The recent death of former Libyan ruler Muammar Gaddafi will help Libya's oil production and supply to return to previous levels, the chairman of the National Oil Company, Nouri Berouin, said October 20. According to Berouin, daily output increased to 430,000 b/d last week after two more oil fields were restarted.
Reuters, 16:21 October 20, 2011

Natural Gas

EPA to Develop Natural Gas Wastewater Standards to Ensure Safe and Responsible Natural Gas Extraction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced October 20 that in upcoming months it will develop standards for wastewater discharges produced by natural gas extraction from underground coal bed and shale formations. No comprehensive set of national standards exists at this time for the disposal of wastewater discharged from natural gas extraction activities, although some regulations currently prohibit drillers from directly discharging wastewater associated with shale gas into waterways and other bodies of water in the United States. Many treatment plants are not properly equipped to treat this type of wastewater. The EPA expects to begin soliciting public comment on proposed rules for coal bed methane in 2013 and shale gas in 2014.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/91e7fad4b114c4a8525792f00542001!OpenDocument>

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/91E7FADB4B114C4A8525792F00542001>

Contractor Hits DCP Midstream's Gas Pipeline, Shuts Gas Production in Andrews County, Texas October 21

Operators reported that a contractor excavating soil in the area hit DCP Midstream's E-8-13 gas pipeline, causing a release. Operators quickly shut in gas production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=160510>

DCP Midstream Experiences Equipment Problems at 70 MMcf/d Fullerton Gas Processing Plant in Texas, Unable to Handle Produced Gas from State University Ataubas Battery October 21

Flaring is being used until the equipment can be repaired.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=160816>

http://www12.tceq.state.tx.us/crpub/index.cfm?fuseaction=regent.showSingleRE®_ent_id=110309502002316

<https://www.dcpmidstream.com/Operations/Facilities/Pages/FullertonPlant.aspx>

Other News

Order Halting Uranium Program in Western Colorado Claims that Mining Violates Environmental Laws

A federal judge has ordered officials to stop approving mining and exploration activities at 31 sites leased to uranium companies in Colorado. U.S. District Judge William Martinez said October 18 that officials from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) violated environmental laws by approving programs to mine uranium in Colorado. The decision means that DOE must analyze the environmental impact of renewed mining before the companies can receive approval to mine for uranium. DOE previously found that leasing would have no significant environmental impact, and a complete environmental impact statement was not needed.

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/75c518bc4f804f4c934e25d1a754d05f/CO--Uranium-Mining/>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
January 24, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	87.88	86.46	80.54
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.61	3.42	3.46

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Nothing to report

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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