



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday, October 24, 2006

Electricity

AmerGen Required to Verify Thickness of Radiation Barrier at Oyster Creek Nuke

AmerGEN is being required to measure and verify the thickness of the radiation barrier at its Oyster Creek nuclear plant in New Jersey as part of the process to extend the operating license of the plant for an additional 20 years. When measured in 1994, the thickness was within one sixteenth of the minimum required to meet the safety standard.

<http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20061023/NEWS/610230345>

Drought Reduces Available Hydro Power on Missouri River

The U.S. Corps of Engineers estimates that the drought affecting the area will reduce the hydroelectric generation output from the dams along the Missouri River by almost 40 percent this year. The Corps also anticipates that the problem will extend through 2007 as well. The six principal dams along the river are located in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Nebraska.

http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=7310909

Update: Entergy's 968 MW River Bend Nuke in Louisiana Ramped Up to 55 Percent October 24

Entergy Corporation's 968-megawatt River Bend nuclear power station in Louisiana ramped up from 17 percent October 23 to 55 percent of capacity by early October 24. The unit automatically shut on October 19 when two feed-water tubes were activated inadvertently during routine maintenance in the control room. Reuters, 07:06 October 24, 2006

One of Reliant Energy's 850 MW Conemaugh Coal-fired Units in Pennsylvania Returns to Service October 24

The unit returned to service after being shut over the weekend for unspecified reasons. Reuters, 10:47 October 24, 2006

One of Allegheny Energy's Fort Martin Coal-fired Units in West Virginia Returns to Service October 24

There are two units at Fort Martin; one has a capacity of 552 MW and the other unit has a capacity of 555 MW. One of the units was shut over the weekend for unspecified reasons and this is the one that returned to service today. Reuters, 10:48 October 24, 2006

DTE's 1,111 MW Fermi Nuke in Michigan Reduced Power October 23

DTE Energy Company reduced power at its Fermi nuclear reactor near Detroit after a high-pressure stop valve partially closed on October 23. Company employees are investigating the problem. It is unknown when the reactor will return to full power.

Bloomberg News, 11:25 October 24, 2006

Petroleum

Hydrocracker Malfunction at ExxonMobil's 150,000 b/d Refinery in California Triggers Safety Flare October 24

A hydrocracker malfunction at ExxonMobil's 150,000 b/d refinery in Torrance, California, early on October 24 led ExxonMobil to implement a safety flare to burn off hydrocarbons that could not be processed. The company says the incident had a minor impact on output from the refinery.

Reuters, 13:53 October 24, 2006

Update: Start Up Delays at BP's Thunder Horse Platform Due to Equipment Failure

According to BP officials, start-up delays are being extended at BP's Thunder Horse platform in the Gulf of Mexico because of equipment failures. Sub-sea manifolds became brittle after a lengthy period of exposure to hydrogen during nonuse following last year's hurricanes. BP said that it does not expect production from Thunder Horse to resume until the second half of 2008. BP's Thunder Horse oil platform is designed to process 250,000 barrels of oil and 200 million standard cubic feet of gas per day, which will make it the biggest producing platform in the Gulf of Mexico.

Bloomberg News, 12:38 October 24, 2006

Saudi Arabia to Cut Production by 380,000 b/d to Adhere to OPEC's Announced Quota Reduction

Saudi Arabia announced that in conforming to the production quota reduction announced last week by OPEC, it would reduce its oil production by 380,000 b/d beginning November 1. OPEC provided the following list of the cuts by its members: Algeria 59,000 b/d, Indonesia 39,000 b/d, Iran 176,000 b/d, Kuwait 100,000 b/d, Libya 72,000 b/d, Nigeria 100,000 b/d, Qatar 35,000 b/d, Saudi Arabia 380,000 b/d, UAE 101,000 b/d, and Venezuela 138,000 b/d for a total of 1,200,000 b/d.

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/8697633.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>

Natural Gas

Nothing to report.

Other News

Cigar Lake Uranium Mine in Canada Flooded, Cameco's Initial Production to be Delayed

Cameco announced that its uranium mine in Canada flooded and that construction cost will increase significantly and production will be delayed beyond the initial estimates of early 2008. When fully operational, the Cigar Lake mine was projected to produce about 18 million pounds U3O8 per year.

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/7814642.xml?p=Nuclear/News&sub=Nuclear>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
October 24, 2006			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL			
West Texas Intermediate U.S.	57.45	58.91	60.93
\$/Barrel			
NATURAL GAS			
Henry Hub	7.13	6.26	12.95
\$/Million Btu			

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

NGS Investments Announces Open Season for Mississippi Salt Cavern Storage Project

NGI's Daily Gas Price Index, October 23, 2006

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

U.S. DOE Secretary Bodman Says He Expects OPEC to Carry Out Output Cut

Reuters, 12:25 October 24, 2006

Mexican Crude Oil Production Inches Up in September

Oil Daily, October 24, 2006

Western Wind Energy Corp. Looking at 30 Sites in California to Build 1,200 MW of Wind Power

Reuters, 11:08 October 24, 2006

Iraq's Oil Minister Says Iraq Plans to Boost Crude Oil Production to 4.5 million b/d by 2010

Bloomberg News, 23:11 October 24, 2006

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/index.aspx>.

Please direct comments and questions to: ead@oe.netl.doe.gov