



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, October 27, 2009

Electricity

Update: Exelon's 1,022 MW Clinton Nuke Unit in Illinois Ramped Up to 96 Percent by October 27

The unit shut due to a pump system malfunction on October 15, according to a previous news source. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of October 26 the unit was operating at 50 percent.

http://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/article_8fce17ec-ba03-11de-990e-001cc4c002e0.html

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Dominion's 815 MW Surry Nuke Unit 2 in Virginia at Full Power by October 27

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of October 26 the unit was operating at 85 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Update: Calpine's 561 MW Los Medanos Energy Center Gas-fired Unit in California Ramps up by October 26

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned curtailment of 297 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200910261515.html>

Update: Cabrillo Power's 330 MW Encina Gas-fired Unit 5 in California Returns to Service by October 26

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

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200910261515.html>

Update: Xcel Could Start-up 750 MW Comanche Coal-fired Unit 3 in Texas as Early as November 2009

Xcel could begin operations at its 750 MW Comanche coal-fired unit 3 in Texas next month, a news source said.

http://www.dailycamera.com/ci_13645433

Abengoa Solar Plans 250 MW Mojave Solar Power Project in California

The company expects to complete the project by late 2013, and sell its power output to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), according to a press release.

http://www.pge.com/about/news/mediarelations/newsreleases/q4_2009/091026.shtml

Summit Power Plans Multiple Power Plants across United States

Summit Power plans to construct several power plants across multiple states, according to the company's website and a press release. The projects include:

- The 520 MW "Blythe Energy II" gas-fired unit in California.
- The 300 MW "Cliffs" gas-fired facility in Washington.
- The 536 MW "Lower Columbia" gas-fired power plant in Oregon.
- The 400 MW "Texas Clean Energy Project" coal gasification power facility in Texas.
- The 240 MW "Windy Point" wind farm in Washington, slated for December 2009 completion.

<http://www.summitpower.com/projectlist.htm#Coal>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS133519+26-Oct-2009+BW20091026>

FERC Warns NERC May be Ill-equipped to Complete Investigations and Ensure Compliance with Electric Reliability Rules

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the North American Electric Reliability Corporation's (NERC) 2010 business plans and budgets, but warned "that NERC's monitoring and compliance staffing levels for 2010 were insufficient to complete investigations and ensure compliance with reliability rules." <http://www.ferc.gov/news/news-releases/2009/2009-4/10-15-09-E-3.asp>

Petroleum

Valero Plans Unit Shutdown at 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery October 26-27

Valero expected to shut a Stabilizer for "required maintenance" at its 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery from October 26-27, the company said in a filing with state regulators. The filing did not say if the incident would have any impact to production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=131106>
<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSSP26077020091026>

ConocoPhillips Warns of Possible FCC Shutdown at 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery October 26

ConocoPhillips prepared to shut a gasoline-making fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCC) due to a cooling tower leak at its 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas refinery on October 26, the company said in a filing with state regulators. The filing did not say whether workers had completed the shutdown.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN2619774520091026>
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=131171>

Boiler Explosion Injures Workers at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery October 26

A boiler explosion injured three employees, but did not affect production at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas refinery on October 26, the company said. Alon said it was investigating the incident.
DJN, 10:56 October 27, 2009

Update: No Significant Slowdown after Unit Malfunction at BP's 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery October 23

A malfunction in the pipestills triggered flaring and fuel gas combustion at BP's 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas refinery on October 25, but the incident did not significantly affect production, a source familiar with the facility's operations said.

<http://www.nasdaq.com/aspx/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=200910261234dowjonesdjonline000275&title=bps-texas-city-unit-slag-has-no-significant-impactsourc>

Update: Citgo to Restart Fire-Downed Alkylation Units by November 1 at 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery

Citgo has completed preparations to restart a fire-downed alkylation unit at its 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery. The company expects to restart over the October 31-November 1 weekend, at the latest, a source familiar with the facility's operations said. The company delayed the restart—originally slated for early October—due to safety concerns.

Reuters, 12:26 October 27, 2009

Update: ConocoPhillips Restarts 58,000 b/d Billings, Montana Refinery after October 23 Power Failure

ConocoPhillips restarted all units at its 58,000 b/d Billings, Montana refinery by October 26, three days after a power outage disrupted the facility, a news source said.

Bloomberg News, 11:20 October 27, 2009

Update: OSHA Denies BP's Appeal to Amend Settlement Terms after 2005 Explosion at 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) denied BP's appeal to alter a settlement over a 2005 explosion at the company's 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas refinery, arguing BP "failed to demonstrate that its failures to comply are because of factors beyond its reasonable control." BP, in the settlement-in-question, agreed to upgrade safety conditions at Texas City. OSHA, however, said in August that the company had failed to complete the necessary changes. BP responded that OSHA's criticisms fell outside the scope of the deal, and requested an amended settlement. The case will be forwarded for review to an administrative law judge at the Occupational Safety and Health Review, a news source said.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=18889

Update: Puerto Rico expects no Supply Issues after Fire at Caribbean Petroleum's Bayamon Refinery and Fuel Storage Site

Puerto Rico has enough stored fuel to provide for 24 days of local demand, so the recently-extinguished fire at Caribbean Petroleum's Bayamon refinery and associated storage site should not squeeze supplies in the area, the U.S. Commonwealth's Governor said by October 26. The Governor also indicated that the investigation into the cause of the fire and explosion can not begin until firefighters complete their work and leave the site.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=18888

Update: Petrobras Eyes 2010 Start Date for Planned Cascade and Chinook Oilfields in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico

Petrobras expects to employ the first floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) vessel in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, the FPSO's developer said in a release. The FPSO—or BW Pioneer—will include 600,000 b/d in oil storage capacity, 80,000 b/d in process capacity, and gas export facilities of 16 MMcf/d, according to the release.

<http://www.kepcorp.com/press/press.asp?RID=2230&L=&Y=2009&Q=4>

Natural Gas

RasGas to Inaugurate 7.8 Million Tonnes/Year LNG Train 6 in Qatar this Week

RasGas Company Limited plans to officially inaugurate its 7.8 Million Tonnes/Year liquefied natural gas (LNG) "Train 6" in Qatar this week, the company said in a release. It has already begun production at the site, a news source said. Qatar plans to increase LNG production to 77 million tons/year—from 28.5 million tons, at present—by the end of 2010, the news source said. The boost would make the nation the world's largest LNG exporter.

http://www.rasgas.com/news_details.cfm?news_id=1156

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=18881

Other News

Flambeau River Biofuels Plans 20 MMGal/Yr. Cellulosic Ethanol Refinery in Wisconsin

Flambeau plans to convert spent pulping liquor into 20 MMGal/Yr. of cellulosic ethanol at its existing paper mill in Park Falls, Wisconsin, the company said on its website. It expects to open the site by 2012, according to a project contractor.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=18871

<http://www.flambeauriverpapers.com/environment/ethanol-and-electricity.html>

IATA to Okay Biofuels for Commercial Airlines by 2010

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) plans to approve biofuels for use on commercial airlines by 2010, an IATA official said on October 23. The move could reduce the industry's carbon dioxide emissions by as much as 80 percent, according to the IATA.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hT2R9WjkgbGKvH0rzDr8e5cdZxHQ>

<http://www.iata.org/pressroom/pr/2009-10-23-01.htm>

United States has Largest Combined Energy Resources on Planet—Congressional Research Service

The United States has the largest combined total of recoverable natural gas, oil and coal in the world, the Congressional Research Service said on October 20. The nation's reserves include 167 billion barrels of recoverable oil, 2,047 Tcf of natural gas, and 28 percent of the world's coal reserves, the committee said. To read the report, click on the first link below.

http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Files.View&FileStore_id=01feb68b-ef57-4748-8f5c-d88c0e7d6bd5

http://epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=Minority.PressReleases&ContentRecord_id=824fbf11-802a-23ad-4fe4-04c94a5a6757&Region_id=&Issue_id=

DOE Announces \$151 Million in Funding for Energy Research Projects October 26

The Department of Energy (DOE) approved \$151 million in funding for 37 energy research projects, it announced on October 26. DOE awarded the funds under its recently-formed Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), as part of the agency's goal "to develop nimble, creative and inventive approaches to transform the global energy landscape while advancing America's technology leadership." The recipient projects included an energy-storing battery, bacteria for producing direct solar hydrocarbon biofuels, CO2 capture using artificial enzymes, and low cost crystals for LED lighting. To read more, click on the link below.

<http://www.energy.gov/news2009/8207.htm>

President Obama Announces \$3.4 Billion Smart Grid Investment October 27

President Barack Obama announced \$3.4 billion in Smart Grid awards on October 27, and the White House said that industry funding would push the total beyond \$8 billion, according to a release. The investments will, when fully-realized, reduce peak electricity demand by more than 1,400 MW and enable the installation of 850 grid-monitoring sensors, 200,000 smart transformers, nearly 700 automated substations, more than 1 million in-home displays, 170,000 smart thermostats, and 175,000 other load control devices, according to the White House.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/president-obama-announces-34-billion-investment-spur-transition-smart-energy-grid>

Bloomberg News, 12:47 October 27, 2009

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
October 27, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	79.13	78.58	63.84
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.52	4.22	6.29

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Winds Knock Out Power to about 13,500 Idaho Power Customers in Idaho October 26

<http://www.2news.tv/news/local/66260242.html>

Actus Lend Lease, SolarCity, Tuscon Electric Power and Financiers Plan 6 MW Community-Wide Solar Power System at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona

<http://www.solarcity.com/pressreleases/47/Soaring-Heights-Communities-at-Davis-Monthan-Air-Force-Base-to-Become-Largest-Solar-Powered-Community-in-the-Continental-U-S-to-Date.aspx>

<http://seekingalpha.com/article/168942-solar-roundup-6mw-solar-neighborhood-pg-e-buys-500mw?source=yahoo>

SRS Energy Eyes Early 2010 Start-Date for Solar Tile Manufacturing Facility in Pennsylvania—Plant Would Produce Tiles for Installation on Clay Tile Roofs
<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/srs-energy-expands-operations-with-opening-of-new-manufacturing-plant-65994967.html>

Update: Southern California Public Power Authority Approves EnviroMission Limited's Plans to Deliver First of Two, 200 MW Solar Tower Power Stations in California—Decision will Allow Company to Formalize Power Purchase Agreements and Move Toward Development
<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/enviromission-solar-tower-wins-scppa-approval-66381117.html>

Southwest Power Pool Removes Westar Energy and Others' Proposed High-Voltage Electric Transmission Line from List of Priority Plans—Move Seen as Setback to Development of 765-kV Project
<http://www.kansascity.com/business/story/1531651.html>

SMA Solar Technology Plans to Produce Solar Converters at Colorado Facility, Beginning in 2010
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/sns-ap-us-colorado-jobs.0.4316436.story>

National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Siemens Power Start-up 2.3 MW Research Wind Turbine at National Wind Technology Center in Colorado by October 23
http://www.nrel.gov/features/20091023_large_wind.html

Exchanger Leak Causes Flaring at Total's 174,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery October 26
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=131187>

Fuel Gas Valve Swing Triggers SCOT-Related Flaring at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery October 26
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=131197>

Valero May Reduce Workforce at Three Rivers, Texas Refinery on Economic Conditions
Bloomberg News, 12:50 October 27, 2009

Rebel Group MEND Assaults Three Shell-Owned Oil Pipelines and AFREMO Offshore Oilfields in Nigeria by October 26
http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=18890

South Korea's KNOC to Boost Oil Output to 300,000 b/d by 2012, or more than Four Times Current Figures
<http://www.globeinvestor.com/servlet/story/GAM.20091023.RHARVEST23ART1941/GIStory/>

Iran and Turkey Plan 500,000 b/d Condensate Production, 2 Bcf/d Natural Gas Output at Existing 200,000 b/d Condensate-Producing South Pars Field Offshore Iran
http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=81809
<http://haber.turk.net/ENG/2345366/-Turkish-Minister-Says-Turkey--Iran-To-Sign-Energy-Deal>

Update: Transneft to Open First Stage of Russia-to-Asia Eastern Siberia-Pacific Ocean Oil Pipeline by December 25, 2009
<http://vladivostoktimes.ru/show/?id=43967&r=8&p=>

Update: Port Dolphin Energy Says "Record of Decision" Clears Way for U.S. Maritime Administration to Award License for Planned LNG Terminal Offshore Florida October 26
<http://www.reuters.com/article/pressRelease/idUS203368+26-Oct-2009+PRN20091026>

Biofuels to Cause Greater CO2 Emissions than Gasoline, on Average, over Coming Years—Study from the Marine Biological Laboratory

http://bioenergy.checkbiotech.org/news/advanced_biofuels_will_stoke_global_warming_study_0

<http://www.pollutiononline.com/article.mvc/New-Study-Predicts-Future-Consequences-0001>

Unidentified Problems at Keystone Gas Plant in Texas October 26-27

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=131195>

Fisker to Produce Plug-in Electric-Hybrid Cars at Idled GM Facility in Delaware

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/breaking/business_breaking/20091026_Carmaker_expected_to_reopen_GM_plant_in_Delaware.html

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

Energy Assurance Daily provides a summary of public information concerning current energy issues. Published Monday through Friday to inform stakeholders of developments affecting energy systems, flows, and markets, it provides highlights of energy issues rather than a comprehensive coverage. *Energy Assurance Daily* is updated online Monday through Friday after 5:00 p.m. EST. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at:

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

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