



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, October 30, 2012

Major Developments

OE/ISER Situation Report: Hurricane Sandy

At 8:00 p.m. EDT October 29, the National Hurricane Center reported Hurricane Sandy made landfall near Atlantic City, New Jersey as a post-tropical cyclone. The storm has brought heavy rain, winds, and snow in higher elevations to the U.S. Mid-Atlantic and Northeast, and to portions of U.S. Midwest. For details on the impact of this storm on customer outages, energy infrastructure issues, and restoration efforts, see: Hurricane Sandy Situation Reports issued by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Electricity Delivery & Energy Reliability (OE/ISER) at the following URL:

http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/named_event.aspx?ID=67

Electricity

Update: Georgia Power Brings Third 840 MW Plant McDonough-Atkinson Natural Gas-Fired Unit into Service October 28; Completes Plant's Fuel Conversion from Coal

The third and final of Georgia Power's new 840 MW natural gas-fired, combined-cycle units at Plant McDonough-Atkinson in Smyrna, Georgia became operational October 28, the utility announced yesterday. Georgia Power placed the first new natural gas-fired unit online in December 2011, and the second unit, in April 2012. The addition of the units will help meet the expected growth in electricity demand and ensure reliability in Metro Atlanta and North Georgia. Georgia Power retired the plant's two 300-MW coal-fired units in September 2011 and February 2012, respectively.

<http://www.georgiapower.com/about-us/media-resources/newsroom.cshtml>

Xcel Energy Completes Three High-Voltage Transmission Line Projects in NW Texas Panhandle

Xcel Energy on Monday announced it has completed high-voltage transmission line projects that are boosting reliability and capacity in the northwestern counties of the Texas Panhandle, where local communities and industries had outgrown the existing transmission infrastructure. Northwestern Texas Panhandle upgrades include a new 75-mile, 230-kV transmission line running between the Dallam County Substation and the Channing and Potter County Substations north of Amarillo; a new 115-kV transmission line running between the Dallam County Substation and the Sherman County Substation; and a new 62-mile, 230-kV transmission line running between the Hitchland Substation and the Moore County Substation.

http://www.xcelenergy.com/About_Us/Energy_News/News_Releases/Xcel_Energy_boosts_transmission_in_NW_Texas_Panhandle

Indiana-Michigan Power's 1,000 MW D.C. Cook Nuclear Unit 1 in Michigan Reduced to 55 Percent by October 30

On the morning of October 29 the unit was operating at full power.

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

FirstEnergy's 1,235 MW Perry Nuclear Unit 1 in Ohio Reduced to 91 Percent by October 30

On the morning of October 29 the unit was operating at full power.

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

Update: NextEra Energy Resources, Xcel Energy Announce Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at 400 MW Limon I and II Wind Energy Centers in Colorado

NextEra Energy Resources and Xcel Energy on Monday hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Limon I and II Wind Energy Centers in Colorado. The twin 200-MW projects are owned and will be operated by affiliates of NextEra Energy Resources. Each Limon project consists of 125 GE 1.6-MW wind turbines. The project also includes a 45-mile, 345-kV transmission line that interconnects the wind farms to the Missile Site substation in Arapahoe County. All of the power from both projects is being sold to Xcel Energy under long-term contracts. Xcel Energy in August said that the wind farm could be in service by the end of 2012.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/xcel-energy-joins-nextera-energy-190000240.html>

Update: CDWR's 933 MW Hyatt-Thermalito Hydro Unit in California Returns to Service by October 29

The unit returned from a curtailment of 594 MW that began by October 18 and was due to planned and unplanned causes.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201210291515.html>

Alta Wind's 150 MW Alta Wind Unit 1, 150 MW Unit 2, and 150 MW Unit 3 in California Shut by October 29

The units all entered outages that were due to planned and unplanned causes.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201210291515.html>

Petroleum

Fire on Residual Hydrotreater at BP's 455,790 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery Expected to Continue for Several Hours October 30

BP Plc reported a fire broke out on a residual hydrotreater at its Texas City refinery Tuesday afternoon, forcing operators to evacuate a section of the plant, according to a spokesman. Local fire officials were working to contain the blaze, which was expected to continue for several hours before burning itself out.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/30/refinery-fire-bp-texas-city-idUSL1E8LUBAK20121030>

Update: TransCanada Lifts Pressure Restrictions on Its 590,000 b/d Keystone Crude Oil Pipeline after Completing Tests October 24

TransCanada Corp. lifted pressure restrictions on its 590,000 b/d Keystone oil pipeline on October 24, a spokesman said. The company restarted the pipeline at reduced pressure on October 22, after shutting the line October 17 when operators detected a "small anomaly" on a section of the pipeline between Missouri and Illinois during planned maintenance. Tests indicated the integrity of the pipeline was sound. The company had said October 22 that it would be curtailing October volumes before resuming planned rates in November. The 2,154-mile pipeline extends from Hardisty, Alberta to U.S. markets at Wood River and Patoka in Illinois, and from Steele City, Nebraska to Cushing, Oklahoma.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-10-24/oil-fluctuates-as-api-reports-gains-in-u-s-inventories.html>

Possible Hydrocarbon Carryover into SRU Causes Flaring at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery October 28

Alon USA Holdings reported the No. 1 Sulfur Recovery Unit (SRU) feed at its Big Spring refinery was diverted to the flare on Sunday in an incident operators believed was due to hydrocarbon carrying over into the unit, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Emissions related to the incident continued for approximately 5.5 hours Sunday, the filing said.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=175409>

Brief Grass Fire Breaks Out at Flint Hills' 288,468 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery October 28

Flint Hills Resources reported a spark from a malfunctioning electrical breaker caused a ground fire at the East Plant of its Corpus Christi refinery on Sunday afternoon that burned approximately 1,500 square feet of grass, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Smoking was observed for approximately 25 minutes before the fire was extinguished.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=175389>

Natural Gas

Valve Malfunction Shuts Inlet Engines at Atlas Pipeline's 195 MMcf/d Midkiff Gas Plant in Texas October 28

Atlas Pipeline reported a valve malfunction caused the B-plant inlet engines at its Midkiff plant to go down on high scrubber level Sunday night, 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=175404>

Compressor Shuts on High Vibrations at ExxonMobil's 135 MMcf/d Salt Creek Gas Plant in Texas October 29

ExxonMobil Corp. reported compressor Unit 3404 went down on high vibrations at its Salt Creek plant in Texas Monday morning, routing its inlet gas to flare, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators were investigating what caused the high engine vibrations. Emissions related to the incident were expected to continue until Tuesday morning.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=175414>

Other News

Update: Enkern to Start Operations at 10 MMGal/Year Waste-to-Ethanol Plant in Alberta by Mid-2013

Enkern is currently constructing its previously announced commercial waste-to-ethanol plant at Edmonton's Waste Management Center in Alberta. The company expects to complete construction on the 10 MMGal/Year plant by late winter, with operations scheduled to start by mid-2013. The plant will be fueled by 100,000 tons of solid wastes per year. Enkern is also constructing previously announced 10 MMGal/Year waste-to-ethanol plants in Quebec and Mississippi.

<http://www.greenoptimistic.com/2012/10/30/enkern-canadas-new-waste-to-biofuel-plant-ready-for-expansion/>

International News

Nothing to report

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
October 30, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	85.64	86.13	93.17
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.43	3.49	3.59

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

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 PM Eastern Time. 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