



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, November 08, 2012

Major Developments

OE/ISER Situation Report: Hurricane Sandy–Nor’easter

On November 7, a Nor’easter began to impact the U.S. Mid-Atlantic and Northeast with strong winds, rain, snow, and coastal flooding, as the region worked to recover from impacts caused by Hurricane Sandy, which made landfall on October 29. For details on the impact of this storm on customer outages, energy infrastructure issues, and restoration efforts, see: Hurricane Sandy–Nor’easter 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=68

Electricity

Update: DTE Shuts 1,089 MW Fermi Nuclear Unit 2 in Michigan Due to Hydrogen Gas Leak into Stator Water Cooling System November 7

DTE Energy reported that at 9:21 a.m. EST on November 7, operators manually tripped the Unit 2 main turbine generator in response to hydrogen gas in-leakage into the stator water cooling system from the main turbine generator, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The cause of the increased hydrogen gas in-leakage into stator water cooling is under investigation. On the morning of November 7 the unit had been operating at 68 percent following an outage on September 14, when the reactor automatically scrambled due to an onsite loss of power. An investigation into the cause of the loss of power was ongoing at the time of the original NRC filing.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2012/20121108en.html>

Update: PPL’s 1,105 MW Susquehanna Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Restarts November 7, Ramps Up to 37 Percent by November 8

Susquehanna Unit 1 is returning from an outage that began October 22, when operators began a planned inspection of turbine blades. Operators restarted the unit November 7 after completing the inspections, which showed signs of cracking on a small number of turbine blades, confirming data from diagnostic equipment installed in the spring of 2012. Those blades were replaced.

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

<http://pplweb.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=12270&item=135351>

Update: Entergy’s 813 MW FitzPatrick Nuclear Unit in New York Restarts November 7, Ramps Up to 20 Percent by November 8

FitzPatrick Unit 1 is returning from an outage that began on November 5, when the reactor automatically scrambled from full power on a valid reactor protection system activation caused by a main turbine trip. The cause of the main turbine trip was under investigation.

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

Update: Entergy’s 730 MW Palisades Nuclear Unit in Michigan Restarts November 7, Ramps Up to 85 Percent by November 8

Entergy’s Palisades nuclear unit is returning from an outage that began November 4, when operators manually shut the reactor due to a small steam leak on a drain valve.

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

Update: Entergy's 653 MW Pilgrim Nuclear Unit 1 in Massachusetts at Full Power by November 8

On the morning of November 7 the unit was operating at 75 percent.

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

Exelon Reports Surface Indications on System Pressure Boundary Weld at Its 619 MW Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant in New Jersey November 7

Exelon Corp. reported that during inspections on its Oyster Creek nuclear plant, which is currently in cold shutdown executing a refueling outage, operators on November 7 detected surface indications in the adjacent base material area of the System Pressure Boundary weld, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The depth of the indications was unknown at the time. Initial investigation revealed that there was no moisture or leakage found in the area of the indications. Further investigation was in progress to better characterize the indications and develop a corrective plan.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2012/20121108en.html>

CDWR's 933 MW Hyatt-Thermalito Hydro Unit in California Reduced by November 7

The unit entered a curtailment of 594 MW that was due to planned and unplanned causes.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201211071515.html>

GenOn's 320 MW Etiwanda Natural Gas-Fired Unit 4 in California Shut by November 7

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201211071515.html>

PCWA's 218 MW Middle Fork and Ralston Hydro Unit in California Reduced by November 7

The unit entered a curtailment of 184 MW that was due to planned and unplanned causes.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201211071515.html>

Petroleum

NuStar to Sell Its 14,021 b/d San Antonio, Texas Refinery and Related Terminal Due to Poor Margins

NuStar Energy L.P. on Thursday announced it has initiated a sale process for its San Antonio refinery and related terminal in Elmendorf, Texas, which it purchased out of bankruptcy in April 2011. The assets include a pipeline NuStar constructed that connects the terminal to the refinery. NuStar said its decision to sell was made as part of the company's strategic redirection away from the margin-based refining and marketing business in order to further grow its fee-based pipeline and storage operations.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/nustar-significantly-expand-presence-eagle-140000584.html>

Update: Alon Shuts Its 11,000 b/d Bakerfield, California Refinery on Poor Margins; Plans to Reconfigure Plant to Process Light, Midcontinent Crude Before Reopening Late 2013

Alon USA Energy Inc. announced this week that it has again shut its Bakersfield refinery due to poor margins, citing high West Coast oil prices and other economic factors. Operators expect to reopen the refinery by late 2013, pending permission to reconfigure the facility to process light, midcontinent crude oil brought in by rail from North Dakota. The company has now confirmed it intends to resume processing crude oil at the Bakersfield plant, which has processed only vacuum gas oil left over from its Los Angeles County complex since reopening under Alon's ownership in June 2011.

<http://www.equities.com/news/headline-story?dt=2012-11-07&val=686437&cat=energy>

Update: Valero Has No Timeline for Restarting FCCU at Its 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery after Fire November 3

Valero Energy Corp. hasn't determined a timeline for restarting the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) it shut at its Port Arthur refinery Saturday following a pump fire at the facility. The company doesn't expect it to be a very long outage, a spokesman said.

<http://www.nasdaq.com/article/valero-no-estimate-of-port-arthur-refinery-unit-restart-20121107-01134>

Update: Chevron Details Repair Plans at Its 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery; Says It Feels ‘Optimistic’ about Restarting Fire-Damaged CDU by First Quarter 2013

http://www.contracostatimes.com/breaking-news/ci_21952132/chevron-details-richmond-refinery-repairs-says-it-will

Tesoro Restarts Unspecified Unit at Its 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery after Repairs – Contra Costa County Health Officials

http://www.dailybulletin.com/business/ci_21948659/shell-and-tesoro-refineries-martinez-get-units-back

Update: CVR Extends Maintenance Activities at Its 70,000 b/d Wynnewood, Oklahoma Refinery Due to Complications Caused by September Boiler Explosion

CVR Energy, Inc. reported that ongoing turnaround work at its Oklahoma refinery will last longer than originally planned due to complications caused by a September 28 boiler explosion, an executive said Tuesday. The work had been planned to last 45 days but is now expected to take up to 55 days because of a loss of steam after the explosion. The Wynnewood plant is expected to run up to 38,000 b/d in the fourth quarter this year because of the work.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/11/06/refinery-operations-cvr-idUSL1E8M6AMH20121106>

Natural Gas

Update: FERC Approves Williams’ 250 MMcf/d Northeast Supply Link Project to Provide Additional Natural Gas Service to U.S. Northeast

Williams Partners L.P. on Wednesday announced that the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has approved a proposal to expand its Transco natural gas pipeline to provide an additional 250 MMcf/d of incremental firm natural gas transportation capacity to serve growing markets in the U.S. Northeast by November 2013. The previously announced Northeast Supply Link project is designed to expand the Transco Leidy Line and Transco mainline in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, to transport domestic supplies of natural gas to growing northeastern markets. Most of the new pipeline will be installed either entirely within or parallel to existing pipeline and utility rights-of-way. As part of the project, construction on a new Essex County compressor facility is scheduled to begin in November 2012, with pipeline construction following in the spring of 2013. The project is scheduled to be placed into service in November 2013.

<http://www.williamslp.com/profiles/investor/ResLibraryView.asp?ResLibraryID=58536&BzID=1296&g=345&Nav=0&LangID=1&s=0>

Targa Reports Flaring at Its 150 MMcf/d Sand Hills Gas Plant in Texas November 7

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=175792>

Other News

BOEM Seeks Comments on Environmental Review for Central and Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sales

The U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on Thursday announced it has completed a draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to support two proposed lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico. Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 233 is tentatively scheduled for 2013 in the Western Planning Area, offshore Texas; and Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 231 is scheduled for 2014 in the Central Planning Area, offshore the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. BOEM will hold public hearings to solicit comments on the environmental analysis, to use to prepare the final SEIS.

<http://www.boem.gov/BOEM-Newsroom/Press-Releases/2012/Press11082012.aspx>

International News

Update: PdVSA Expects Normal Operations at Its 645,000 b/d Amuay Refinery in Venezuela by Year-End as It Completes Repairs after Late-August Explosion, Fire

Venezuela's 645,000 b/d Amuay refinery should be operating normally at about 500,000 b/d by year-end, once it completes repairs to a crude distillation unit (CDU) damaged by an explosion in August, according to the country's energy minister. State-owned Petroleos de Venezuela SA (PdVSA) shut the refinery August 25 after a gas explosion ignited a fire, damaging nine storage tanks and killing 48 people. Operators have since determined the explosion also damaged a furnace at a 180,000 b/d CDU, one of five CDUs at the refinery, and they expect to complete repairs and restart the unit by the end of the year. The refinery has been operating at around 360,000 b/d since September 25.

<http://whtc.com/news/articles/2012/nov/08/exclusive-venezuela-amuay-refinery-operations-seen-normal-by-year-end/>

Iraq Says ExxonMobil Wants to Quit Its Stake in 400,000 b/d West Qurna-1 Oilfield in Southern Iraq

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/exxon-tells-iraq-wants-quit-084707706.html>

Suspected Militants Bomb Oil Pipeline Feeding Balhaf Export Terminal in Yemen November 4

http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Energy-Resources/2012/11/08/Yemeni-oil-pipeline-target-of-attack/UPI-52921352381779/

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
November 8, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	85.11	86.98	96.09
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.59	3.51	3.35

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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