



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, November 14, 2011

## *Electricity*

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### **Update: NRC Approves Restart of Dominion's 1,806 MW North Anna Nuclear Power Plant in Virginia November 11**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), after its analysis of inspection findings and related information, has concluded Dominion's North Anna Unit 1 and 2 nuclear reactors can be restarted. The plant shut after an earthquake on August 23 had its epicenter near Mineral, Virginia, which is about 11 miles from the North Anna plant. An NRC official said that because the earthquake shook the reactors more strongly than the plant's design anticipated, Dominion had to prove to the agency that the quake caused no functional damage to the reactors' safety systems. The NRC also stated that it would monitor Dominion's ongoing tests and inspections during startup of both reactors.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2011/11-212.pdf>

### **Update: California PUC Orders SCE to Stop Construction on Chino Hills Portion of 4,500 MW Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project until Hearing on Route Alternatives**

The California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on November 10 ordered Southern California Edison (SCE) to stop construction of power towers through Chino Hills and provide feasibility, cost, and timing information for five alternative routes. In the last month, the Federal Aviation Administration also ordered SCE to hold the project because of a lack of aviation warning lights on the towers. SCE began installing larger power towers, needed to transmit wind-generated electricity from Kern County into the region, in October 2010 and has already completed the installation of 12 of the planned 19 towers. SCE is installing the towers as part of its massive Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project (TRTP), which stretches 173 miles through 26 cities in three California counties. The utility company is building transmission lines connecting renewable energy-generation sources, such as wind and solar farms, to the California grid.

<http://www.edison.com/pressroom/pr.asp?id=7390>

[http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci\\_19318490](http://www.dailybulletin.com/ci_19318490)

<http://www.sce.com/PowerandEnvironment/Transmission/ProjectsByCounty/Multi-CountyProjects/TRTP4-11/rights-of-way.htm>

### **Southern's 856 MW Hatch Nuclear Unit 1 in Georgia Reduced to 85 Percent by November 14**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of November 13 the unit was operating at 98 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

### **Luz Solar Partners's Aggregate 175 MW Solar Units 3-7 in California Shut by November 13, Aggregate 184 MW Solar Units 8-9 Shut by November 11**

According to the California Independent System Operator, Units 8 and 9 reported an unplanned outage on November 11 before being returned to service November 12. Units 3-7 at the facility reported an unplanned outage on November 13.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201111111515.html>

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201111121515.html>

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201111131515.html>

### **Watson Cogeneration's 417 MW Watson Gas-Fired Unit in California Reduced by November 12**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 232 MW on November 12.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201111121515.html>

### **Calpine's 561 MW Los Medanos Gas-Fired Unit in California Reduced by November 12**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a planned and unplanned curtailment of 297 MW on November 12.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201111121515.html>

### **Update: SMUD's 102 MW Solano Wind Farm Returns to Service by November 10**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage that began by November 9.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201111101515.html>

### **Constellation's 118 MW ACE Cogeneration Coal-Fired Power Plant in California Shuts November 11**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the power plant reported an unplanned outage on November 11.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201111111515.html>

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## ***Petroleum***

### **ConocoPhillips Repairs Leak, Restarts Crude Oil Pipeline from San Joaquin Valley to Its 120,000 b/d Rodeo, California Refinery November 10**

ConocoPhillips reported early last week that its 16-inch crude oil pipeline ruptured near the Concord Naval Weapons Station, in Contra Costa County, California, just before 5:00 PM PST on November 7. The company restarted the pipeline on November 10 while it continued with cleanup efforts. A spokeswoman said she had no information on any impact the leak has had on operations.

Reuters, 13:07 November 11, 2011

[http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci\\_19289565](http://www.contracostatimes.com/news/ci_19289565)

### **Process Upset Reported at Valero's 287,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery November 10**

Valero reported to the U.S. National Response Center last Thursday that a process unit upset at its Port Arthur refinery was causing the release of 101 pounds of Hydrogen Sulfide and 501 pounds of Sulfur Dioxide from a flare. The cause of the upset was under investigation at that time.

Reuters, 00:34 November 14, 2011

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=995164](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=995164)

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## ***Natural Gas***

### **Update: DOE Advisory Subcommittee Posts Draft Report on Progress in Implementing Shale Gas Recommendations November 10**

The Secretary of Energy Advisory Board Subcommittee (SEAB) on Shale Gas Production released its second and final ninety-day report reviewing the progress that has been made in implementing the twenty recommendations in its initial report of August 18, 2011. The Subcommittee was tasked with producing a report on the immediate steps that can be taken to improve the safety and environmental performance of shale gas development. The August report recommended measures to increase public disclosure and transparency and address concerns about air and water pollution. The report also recommended a range of tools for implementing these measures, including regulation, continuous improvement in best practices by industry, and ongoing research and development.

<http://www.shalegas.energy.gov/index.html>.

<http://energy.gov/articles/secretary-energy-advisory-board-subcommittee-seab-shale-gas-production-posts-draft-report>

## **Leak in Residue Unit Leads to Flaring at 130 MMcf/d Midkiff Gas Plant in Texas**

**November 9**

Operators reported Thursday that Residue Unit B-12 developed a warped head, which caused it to leak coolant through the gaskets and flange. Operators immediately shut the unit and replaced the leaking head, minimizing emissions where possible.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=161566>

## **Emergency Valve Repair at DCP Midstream's 70 MMcf/d Fullerton Gas Plant Forces Area Production Facilities to Flare Gases in Texas November 11**

DCP Midstream had to vent a line at its Andrews Booster Station for an emergency valve repair, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). In numerous related TCEQ filings over the weekend and this morning, several gas production facility operators reported that they were flaring excess gas until DCP was ready to accept processed gas again, including XTO Energy, Oxy, and Energen.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=161651>

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

## **AGI Unit 1 Goes Down Due to Faulty Stage Valves at Enbridge's Tilden Gas Plant in Texas November 11**

Enbridge reported Friday that the No. 1 acid gas injector (AGI) went down on a fourth-stage high discharge-pressure alarm. Operators inspected the unit and found that the fourth-stage valves were bad. They replaced two fourth-stage discharge valves, two fourth-stage suction valves, and two fifth-stage suction valves and then restarted the unit. Vented gases were sent to flare during repairs.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=161616>

## **Houston Pipe Line Company Reports Pressure Override, Natural Gas Emissions from Orange County Pipeline in Texas November 10**

Operators reported that a slight deviation in line pressure caused the relief valve to trip and release natural gas.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=161612>

## **Other News**

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### **Interior Department, BOEM Announce Oil and Natural Gas Lease Sale in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, the First since the Deepwater Horizon Explosion and Oil Spill**

Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Director Tommy P. Beaudreau announced Thursday that BOEM will hold on December 14 the first oil and natural gas lease sale in the Gulf of Mexico since the *Deepwater Horizon* explosion and oil spill. The sale will include all available unleased areas in the Western Gulf Planning Area offshore Texas.

<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/Salazar-Beaudreau-Announce-Western-Gulf-of-Mexico-Oil-and-Gas-Lease-Sale.cfm>

### **ADM to Build 70 MMGal/Yr. Biodiesel Plant in Lloydminster, Canada; Plant will Increase ADM's North American Biodiesel Production Capacity by 50 Percent**

Archer Daniels Midland Company (ADM) today announced that it will build a 265 million liter (70 million gallon) biodiesel plant in Lloydminster, Alberta, Canada, which will increase ADM's North American biodiesel production capacity by 50 percent. The biodiesel plant will be located adjacent to the company's existing canola crushing facility in Lloydminster, which will help optimize ADM's agricultural origination, transportation, and processing assets in Canada. Construction on the facility will commence in spring 2012, and be completed in the fourth quarter of calendar year 2013.

<http://www.adm.com/en-US/news/layouts/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?ID=372>

## Study Finds Natural Gas Infrastructure Will Have Significant Role in Supporting the Continued Expansion of Renewable Generation – ICF International

ICF International has released a white paper exploring the implications for natural gas infrastructure requirements and operation on the electric grid as a result of integrating significant amounts of variable renewable generation. Based on several recent ICF studies, ICF finds that natural gas will play a significant role in supporting the continued expansion of renewable generation, which will have impacts in the form of operational changes, infrastructure requirements, and cost recovery issues. Examples of changes to address the requirements include enhanced line pack, applications of new no-notice and gas storage services specifically designed for power generation, increases in the number of nomination cycles, and reductions in the length of nomination cycles.

<http://www.icfi.com/news/2011/icf-explores-effects-integrating-renewables-natural-gas-system>

<http://www.icfi.com/insights/white-papers/2011/integrating-variable-renewable-electric-power-generators-natural-gas-infrastructure>

## Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices November 14, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	97.74	95.19	85.41
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	3.28	3.44	3.73

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

**Acid Gas Compressor Shuts Due to Lightning, Leads to Flaring at West Texas Gas's 12 MMcf/d Big Lake Gas Plant in Texas November 10**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=161606>

**Engine Goes Down on Ignition Problems at Seminole Booster Station in Texas November 11; Operators Check the Ignition and Restore Operations**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=161595>

**Natural Gas Leak Following a Fire Prompts Evacuations in Annapolis, Maryland November 13; Baltimore Gas and Electric Says It Has Not Found the Source of the Leak**

<http://baltimore.cbslocal.com/2011/11/13/gas-leak-prompts-evacuation-of-annapolis-shopping-centers/>

**Tanker Truck Carrying 7,700 Gallons of Diesel Gas Byproduct Collides with Milk Tanker Truck outside Phoenix, Arizona November 9**

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/11/09/4041803/tankers-collide-in-phoenix-businesses.html>

**Shell Makes Unspecified Reduction to Production Due to Fire on 25,000 b/d Okordia-Rumuekpe Oil Pipeline in Nigeria November 9**

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=28517](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=28517)

## Links

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***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](http://www.eia.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://www.eia.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/ead.aspx>

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