



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, November 21, 2011

Electricity

Xcel Energy Shuts Its 578 MW Monticello Nuclear Unit in Minnesota Due to Safety Relay Activation November 20

The plant automatically shut down Saturday night when relays that are part of the reactor protection system activated, Xcel Energy officials said Sunday. All plant safety systems functioned as designed, and the situation posed no danger to the public or to plant workers, the officials said. Operators are investigating what caused the relays to activate and did not expect the shutdown to last long. In the meantime, Xcel will purchase energy from other sources until the plant comes back online.

<http://www.startribune.com/local/west/134218228.html>

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

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Dominion to Shutter 515 MW State Line Coal-Fired Power Station in Indiana in March 2012

Dominion Resources will shut its coal-fired power plant on the southwestern shore of Lake Michigan by March 2012 instead of 2014, according to news reports late last week. The power company said that it would have to install expensive new pollution controls to meet federal pollution rules, and that cheaper natural gas and more expensive coal are "challenging the profitability of the station," a spokesman said in an email response to questions.

http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2011-11-18/news/ct-met-coal-plant-early-shutdown-20111118_1_state-line-power-station-comed-plants-dirtiest-power-plants

AEP Shuts Unit 1 Boiler for Repairs at its 721 MW Pirkey Coal-Fired Power Plant in Texas November 21

AEP reported that it shut the unit to repair an electrical fault on 13 kV bus and to repair a leaking manway door on the deaerator storage tank. Operators were leaving the precipitators, rapper system, and scrubber in service as long as possible to minimize opacity events.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=161931>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=161926>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=159626>

Luz Solar Partners's Aggregate 175 MW Solar Units 3–7 and Aggregate 184 MW Solar Units 8–9 in California Shut by November 20

According to the California Independent System Operator, the units reported unplanned outages on November 20.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201111201515.html>

AES's 175 MW Redondo Gas-Fired Unit 6 and 496 MW Gas-Fired Unit 8 in California Shut by November 20

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage on November 20.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201111201515.html>

Update: PSE&G's 1,096 MW Salem Nuclear Unit 1 in New Jersey Restarts, Ramps Up to 17 Percent by November 21

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that the unit restarted November 19 after being shut since October 24. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Duke Energy Ramps Up 846 MW Oconee Nuclear Unit 2 in South Carolina to 89 Percent by November 20, Reduces 846 MW Unit 1 to 55 Percent by November 21

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of November 19 Unit 2 was operating at 40 percent. On the morning of November 20 Unit 1 was operating at 76 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Energy Northwest's 1,107 MW Columbia Nuclear Unit in Washington Ramped Up to 85 Percent by November 21

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of November 20 the unit was operating at 53 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: DTE's 1,089 MW Fermi Nuclear Unit 2 in Michigan at Full Power by November 20

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of November 19 the unit was operating at 76 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Ontario Power Authority Reaches Agreement with Greenfield South Power Corporation to Stop Construction of 280 MW Mississauga Natural Gas-Fired Power Plant in Ontario

The Ontario Power Authority (OPA) announced today that it has reached an agreement with Greenfield South Power Corporation to stop construction at Greenfield's power plant site in Mississauga, Ontario. The OPA and Greenfield will continue to discuss details, including an agreement on facility relocation.

<http://www.powerauthority.on.ca/news/agreement-reached-stop-construction-mississauga-power-plant>

<http://greenfieldsouth.ca/Project%20description.htm>

NRC to Inspect Progress Energy's Brunswick Nuclear Power Station in North Carolina after 920 MW Unit 2 Shutdown Due to Reactor Coolant System Leakage November 16

Progress Energy Inc. reported that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) plans to send a special inspection team to the power plant for an evaluation following Progress's decision to shut the 920 MW Unit 2 after identifying an elevated drywell leakage on November 16. Operators investigating the cause of the leakage determined that at least ten reactor pressure vessel head bolts were not fully tensioned, according to a company spokesman. The unit was exiting a scheduled outage when operators discovered the leak.

Reuters, 16:01 November 18, 2011

Petroleum

Update: UAE to Start 2.5 MMb/d Abu Dhabi Crude Oil Pipeline in December – Industry Sources

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) could start its 480-km (approximately 288-mile) Abu Dhabi Crude Oil Pipeline (ADCOP) in December, four industry sources told Reuters on Monday. The pipeline will link state oil firm Abu Dhabi National Oil Company's Habshan oilfields to the port of Fujairah on the Gulf of Oman, bypassing the Straits of Hormuz. Industry sources reported that the plan is to pump 1 MMb/d of Murban crude by the end of December and gradually increase that figure to 2.5 MMb/d. The news report also stated that the state-owned International Petroleum Investment Company (IPIC) is also planning to undertake a refinery project to complete in mid-2016.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2011/11/21/uae-pipeline-hormuz-idUKL5E7ML10I20111121>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/21/uae-pipeline-hormuz-idUSL5E7ML08220111121?feedType=RSS&feedName=rbssEnergyNews&rpc=43>

Tesoro Reports Unidentified Unit Malfunctions at Its 96,860 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery November 19

A refinery unit malfunctioned on Saturday at Tesoro Corp's refinery, according to a notice the filed with the California Emergency Management Agency. The filing did not identify the unit involved. Tesoro has been performing planned overhauls of production units at the refinery since October 21.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/20/refinery-operations-tesoro-wilmington-idUSWEN101820111120?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43>

Update: ConocoPhillips and Cenovus Energy Restart Units at 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery after Coker, Crude Unit Upgrades November 18

ConocoPhillips and its partner Cenovus Energy Inc. have begun to ramp up operations after completing the installation of new crude distillation and coking units, a ConocoPhillips spokesman said on Friday. The project will allow the refinery to process 130,000 b/d more heavy Canadian crude oil, raising the capacity of those grades to 240,000 b/d. The refinery currently has a crude distillation capacity of 362,000 b/d.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/18/cenovus-woodriver-idUSN1E7AH1HY20111118?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/18/cenovus-woodriver-idUSWEN101320111118?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43>

Update: ExxonMobil Suspends Its Plans to Shut 320,000 b/d Antwerp, Belgium Refinery

ExxonMobil on Friday announced it will suspend the shutdown of its Antwerp, Belgium refinery after unions called off a strike planned for November 23. The unions may activate another strike after a November 28 vote on proposals put forward for management.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/18/exxon-belgium-idUSB5E7K101P20111118?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43>

Natural Gas

Delaware River Basin Commission Suspends Scheduled Vote to Lift Ban on Natural Gas Drilling

The Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) suspended a vote scheduled for Monday to lift a ban on drilling for natural gas in the 14,000-square mile river basin, which sits atop the major Marcellus Shale natural gas deposit.

Under the proposed new regulations, the DRBC will authorize no more than 300 natural gas wells over 18 months, at which point they will reassess the rules.

Reuters, 17:01 November 18, 2011

Other News

Foreign Hackers May Have Caused Pump Failure at Springfield, Illinois Water Plant in Cyber Attack – Preliminary State Report

Federal officials are investigating damage to a water plant in Springfield, Illinois after a preliminary state report indicated that foreign hackers may have gained access to the plant's control system. An industry security expert told *The Washington Post* that a series of control system glitches escalated into the plant's water pump motor turning on and off and eventually burning out, according to a *Post* report on Friday. A spokesman from the Department of Homeland Security stated that, "At this time there is no credible corroborated data that indicates a risk to critical infrastructure entities or a threat to public safety," according to the *Post* report.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/checkpoint-washington/post/foreign-hackers-broke-into-illinois-water-plant-control-system-industry-expert-says/2011/11/18/gIQAgmTZYn_blog.html?hpid=z3

U.S. Rural Utilities Service Cleared to Lend Up to \$2 Billion for Generation Plants with Carbon Capture and Storage

Congress on November 17 approved the FY12 Agriculture-Transportation-Commerce appropriations, which allows the U.S. Rural Utilities Service (RUS) to grant loans for building electric power generation with carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) technology. Of the \$7 billion available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's RUS loan program, \$2 billion is available for co-ops to build power plants with CCS technology.

<http://www.nreca.coop/press/NewsReleases/Pages/RuralUtilitiesServiceReceives7BillioninLoanFunding.aspx>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices February 6, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	95.94	97.74	81.12
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.01	3.28	3.89

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Xcel Energy Delays Planned 71 MW Upgrade at Its 578 MW Monticello Nuclear Plant in Minnesota until Spring of 2013

<http://www.energybiz.com/article/11/11/xcel-agrees-lower-rate-increase>

<http://www.sctimes.com/article/20111116/NEWS01/111150038/Xcel-agrees-lower-rate-increase>

http://www.xcelenergy.com/Safety_&_Education/Nuclear_Safety/About_Nuclear_Energy/Nuclear_Power

Update: Nexen Restores Normal Output at 200,000 b/d Buzzard Oilfield in the U.K. North Sea – Traders

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/21/uk-oil-buzzard->

[idUSL5E7ML20H20111121?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43](http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/21/uk-oil-buzzard-idUSL5E7ML20H20111121?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43)

Waste Management and Fulcrum BioEnergy Announce Strategic Investment to Facilitate Development of 10 MMGal/Yr. Sierra BioFuels Plant in Nevada

<http://www.fulcrum-bioenergy.com/documents/2011-11-18WasteMgmtInvestment.pdf>

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 & 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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