



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, November 29, 2010

Electricity

Transformer Snag Cuts Power to about 37,000 LUS Customers in Louisiana November 26

A transformer snag cut power to about 37,000 Lafayette Utilities System (LUS) customers in Lafayette, Louisiana on November 26, but the company restored power to all but about approximately 4,000 customers in just over an hour.

<http://www.theadvertiser.com/article/20101127/NEWS01/11270336/Outage+leaves+most+of+Lafayette+in+twilight>

18 Gates at Atlanta, Georgia's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport Lose Power for Seven Hours November 29

Eighteen of the airport's 199 gates lost power from 5:00 AM until noon today for unknown reasons. Two dozen flights were cancelled as a result of the power outage; other flights were delayed

<http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-us-airport-power-outage-atlanta,0,5546812.story>

Coal-Fired Plants in Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Massachusetts Planning to Shut Over Next Few Years

Edison International plans to shut two coal-fired plants near Chicago, Illinois in the next month. Exelon Corporation plans to close two coal-fired plants in Pennsylvania by 2012. Dominion plans to shut its 745 MW coal-fired Salem, Massachusetts power plant within the next five years. The New England ISO currently requires the operation of the Salem plant, but is studying options for its replacement

<http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-us-salem-power-plant,0,7211804.story>

Dominion's 871 MW Millstone Nuclear Unit 2 in Connecticut Shut November 28

The unit shut automatically on November 28 after the "loss of condenser vacuum" led to a "turbine trip," the company said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that on the morning of November 24 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20101129en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Duke Energy's 1,129 MW Catawba Nuclear Unit 1 in South Carolina Reduced to 20 Percent by November 29

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of November 28 the unit was operating at full power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: Entergy's 951 MW Indian Point Nuclear Unit 2 in New York at Full Power by November 25

The plant shut automatically on November 7 after a transformation explosion, the company said in a previous filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that on the morning of November 24 the unit was operating at 23 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20101108en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: STP's 1,251 MW South Texas Nuclear Unit 2 in Texas at Full Power by November 27

STP Nuclear Operating Company declared an unusual event after an explosion led to the shutdown of its 1,251 MW South Texas Nuclear Unit 2 in Texas on November 3, the company said in a previous filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The incident occurred as “operators attempted to start the Unit 2 startup feedpump to support a two hour maintenance run.” The feedpump’s feeder breaker exploded, triggering “an undervoltage condition on Auxiliary Bus 1H and Standby Bus 1H” and “an automatic reactor trip due to reactor coolant pump undervoltage. There was no fire and the incident did not impact the site’s other unit. The NRC reported that on the morning of November 26 the unit was operating at 30 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20101104en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: Xcel Energy’s 578 MW Monticello Nuclear Unit in Minnesota at Full Power by November 29

Xcel shut the plant by November 17 to fix a feedwater heater, a local news source said previously. The plant ramped up to 50 percent power by the morning of November 25, but fell back to 30 percent power by the morning of November 26, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). It was not clear if the reduction was related to the initial outage.

<http://www.sctimes.com/article/20101117/NEWS01/111170024/1009>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

NextEra’s 493 MW Blythe Gas-Fired Power Plant in California Reduced by November 27

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit was curtailed by 263 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201011011515.html>

Update: SCE’s 200 MW Eastwood Hydroelectric Unit in California Returns to Service by November 25

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

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201011251515.html>

Luminant Restarting 800 MW Oak Grove Coal-Fired Unit 1 in Texas November 27

An “incomplete combustion of lignite... overwhelmed the capacity of the baghouse compartments that were in service” as Luminant restarted its 800 MW Oak Grove coal-fired Unit 1 in Texas on November 27, the company said in a filing with state regulators. It was not clear why the unit went offline.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147795>

After Brief Shutdown, Luminant to Restart 793 MW Monticello Coal-Fired Unit 3 in Texas November 24-25

Luminant planned to restart the unit on November 24-25 after fixing an “electro hydraulic fluid leak at the number 1 turbine control valve,” it said in a filing with state regulators. The company had expected to shut the unit on November 24, according to an earlier filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147760>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147759>

Update: Progress Energy Will Not Restart 838 MW Crystal River Nuclear Power Plant in Florida by End of 2010

Progress Energy will not restart its 838 MW Crystal River nuclear power plant before the end of 2010, according to officials with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The company shut the unit in September 2009 for refueling and to replace steam generators. The outage was expected to last about three months, but was prolonged after workers discovered a gap in a containment building wall. Progress said in August 2010 that it expected to resume operations in the fourth quarter of 2010. Officials with the NRC, however, say now that the plant will not resume service before a public meeting in early January.

Reuters, 13:44 November 24, 2010

Alaska Governor, Alaska Energy Authority Support Plan to Construct \$4.5 Billion Hydroelectric Power Project along Susitna River in Alaska

The project would involve a 700-foot-high dam.

http://www.juneauempire.com/stories/112510/reg_741504089.shtml

Update: Pattern Energy Completes 400 MW, 53-Mile Under Water Transmission Line in San Francisco, California by November 29

The Trans Bay Cable project runs under the San Francisco Bay. The line is equipped to supply up to 40 percent of San Francisco's peak power needs, according to Pattern Energy Group LP.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/pattern-energy-announces-completion-of-the-trans-bay-cable-project-under-san-francisco-bay-110965414.html>

Ontario to Convert 306 MW Thunder Bay Coal-Fired Power Plant to Run on Natural Gas

The province of Ontario, Canada expects to complete the conversion prior to year-end 2014, it said in a report.

Reuters, 18:57 November 24, 2010

Petroleum

Power Outage Forces Enbridge to Cut Throughput along 670,000 b/d, 34-Inch, Wisconsin-to-Indiana Line 6A November 25

A third-party power outage disrupted operations at a pumping station and led Enbridge to cut throughput along its 670,000 b/d, 34-inch, Wisconsin-to-Indiana, crude oil Line 6A on November 25, the company and the Calgary Herald said. Enbridge expected to finish repairs and restart the line at "pre-incident rates" on November 30, according to a spokeswoman.

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/Enbridge+reduces+flow+main+pipeline/3889306/story.html>

Update: After Small Fire, ExxonMobil Continues to Operate its 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery November 24

A small fire left one worker with minor injuries at ExxonMobil's 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas refinery on November 24, but the facility continued to operate, the company said in a statement.

Reuters, 15:46 November 24, 2010

Valero Makes "Unit Adjustments" at 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery November 26

Valero "made unit adjustments" after a compressor caused flaring on November 26 at its 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas refinery, the company said in a filing with state regulators. The flaring occurred after "the wet gas compressor received light end material from an unknown source," according to the filing. It was not clear if the incident affected production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147779>

<http://www.nasdaq.com/asp/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=201011281712dowjonesdjonline000238&title=valero-reports-flaring-at-port-arthurtx-refinery>

ConocoPhillips Releases Sulfur Dioxide after Cat Cracker Shutdown at 306,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery November 24

A catalytic cracking unit "tripped offline" at ConocoPhillips' 306,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois refinery on November 24, the company said in a filing with state regulators. It was not clear if the incident impacted production.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-26/conoco-reports-shutdown-of-cracker-at-wood-river-refinery.html>

<http://tier2.iema.state.il.us/FOIAHazmatSearch/HazmatDetails.aspx?RptNum=H-2010-1289>

Update: After Tuesday Fire, LyondellBasell Continues Restarting 268,000 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery November 24

LyondellBasell continued to restart its 268,000 b/d Houston, Texas refinery on November 24, one day after a small fire broke out at the facility, a company spokesman said. The company was, at the time of the fire, restarting units from an earlier, plant-wide shutdown.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-24/oil-gasoline-heating-oil-gain-on-jobless-claims-oil-products.html>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-23/lyondell-s-houston-plant-has-fire-as-unit-restarts-update1-.html>

Total Reports Unit Shutdown, Flaring at 240,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery November 26

A compressor snag led to the shutdown of a “SCOTT” unit at Total’s 240,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas refinery on November 26, the company said in a filing with the National Response Center. It was not clear if the incident had any impact on production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147776>

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=960764

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-27/total-port-arthur-texas-refinery-has-unit-shut-emissions.html>

Equipment Failure Leads to Malfunction at Motiva’s 234,700 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery November 27

It was not clear which units were affected or whether the incident had any impact on production.

Reuters, 15:35 November 28, 2010

Update: FCC Shuts at 150,000 b/d ExxonMobil Torrance, California Refinery November 26: Trade Source

A 100,000 b/d gasoline-making fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC) shut on November 26 at ExxonMobil’s 150,000 b/d Torrance, California refinery, a trade source said. ExxonMobil did not confirm the affected unit. The company had planned to return the refinery to normal operations over the weekend, a spokeswoman said previously, after a third-party power outage forced shut some units at the facility on November 24. The same spokeswoman said on November 28, however, that “a mechanical issue” led the company to shut a unit on November 26.

Reuters, 15:56 November 26, 2010

Reuters, 11:00 November 29, 2010

Reuters, 19:45 November 28, 2010

Reuters, 12:49 November 29, 2010

Valero Reports Leak, Flaring at 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery – Company Sees no Impact on Production

Valero planned to de-pressure units at its 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery as it performed “unplanned maintenance” on the “Boiler Feed Water System,” the company said in a filing with state regulators. The system had a leak, but the incident did not impact production, a Valero spokesman said separately. The company planned to restart the affected equipment on November 29 – December 1, according to a later filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147812>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147815>

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN2817569120101129>

Crude Unit Offline at Tesoro’s 120,000 b/d Anacortes, Washington Refinery by November 29: Trade Sources

It was not clear why the unit shut or when it might return to service.

Reuters, 11:00 November 29, 2010

Power Outage Triggers Flaring at Tesoro’s 93,500 b/d Kapolei, Hawaii Refinery November 25

A brief power outage triggered flaring at Tesoro’s 93,500 b/d Kapolei, Hawaii refinery on November 25, but “power was quickly restored” and the incident did not significantly impact production, a company spokesman said.

Reuters, 16:27 November 26, 2010

Update: Husky, BP to Pursue 60,000 b/d of Production at Sunrise Oil Sands Project in Alberta, Canada

Husky Energy and BP plan to begin producing about 60,000 b/d in 2014 at the Sunrise oil sands project in Alberta, Canada, Husky announced on November 29. Husky is the project’s operator. Sunrise is estimated to contain more than 3.7 billion barrels of proved, probable, and possible bitumen reserves (as of December 31, 2009), according to Husky.

<http://www.huskyenergy.com/news/2010/husky-energy-announces-major-strategic-growth-initiatives.asp>

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20101129-706153.html>

Athabasca Oil Sands Corp. to Develop Hangingstone and Dover West Bitumen Projects in Northern Alberta, Canada

More specifically:

- Athabasca plans to file a regulatory application in the second half of 2011 for the first phase of its Hangingstone development in Northern Alberta, Canada. The first phase, a 12,000 b/d steam assisted gravity drainage (SAGD) demonstration project, could begin production as soon as late 2013. It would be the initial segment of a multi-phase development plan in the Hangingstone area. The second phase development – estimated at 25,000 b/d – could start up as early as 2016.
- Athabasca plans to file a regulatory application in the second half of 2011 for a demonstration SAGD project – representing up to 12,000 b/d of capacity – at its Dover West area. First steam could come as early as year-end 2014. Subsequent phases would likely be sized between 25,000 b/d and 35,000 b/d.

http://www.aosc.com/upload/media_element/64/01/hangingstone-development-press-release.pdf

Shell Expects Restart to Cause Flaring at 98,000 b/d Scotford, Alberta Refinery **November 26**

Shell did not expect the restart or flaring to have a material impact on production. It was not clear which unit was restarting or when it went offline.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-27/shell-is-restarting-unit-at-scotford-oil-refinery-update1-.html>

Update: Shell Completes Repairs along Trans-Niger Oil Pipeline in Nigeria, Begins Resuming Production by November 25

Shell was restarting oil production after completing repairs along its Trans-Niger Pipeline in the Niger Delta, Nigeria, it said on November 25. The company declared force majeure for Bonny Light crude deliveries on November 19, citing damage along the line. A spokesman said on November 25 that thieves were to blame for the disruption. It was not clear how much output was forced offline, or when the company expected to resume normal production.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20101125-705254.html>

PDVSA's 645,000 b/d Amuay and 310,000 b/d Cardon Refineries in Venezuela Adversely Affected Due to Storms November 29

The Cardon refinery shut completely and the Amuay refinery shut four units due to electrical faults caused by the storm. PDVSA reports it is attempting restarts of the units and expects them to be restarting by the afternoon of November 29.

Reuters, 12:16 and 12:39 November 26, 2010

Kashagan Project Expected to Produce 300,000 b/d of Crude Oil in Kazakhstan by 2014: KazMunaiGaz National Company

The project is jointly owned by several companies. The largest interests are held by KazMunaiGaz, Eni, ExxonMobil, Shell, and Total. Second and third phases of the project are expected to boost crude oil output to 1 million barrels per day by 2016.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-26/kashagan-partners-to-produce-300-000-barrels-a-day-by-2014.html?cmpid=msnmoney>

Natural Gas

Update: Magnum Gas Storage LLC to Open First 8 Bcf Cavern in Early 2012 at Planned 32 Bcf Natural Gas Storage Project in Utah

On November 23 the U.S. Bureau of Land Management released the environmental assessment for Magnum Gas Storage LLC's proposed 32 Bcf natural gas storage project in Millard County, north of Delta, Utah. The company plans to develop four 8.0 Bcf salt caverns. It expects the first cavern to be available for storage in early 2012.

<http://www.westernenergyhub.com/projectinfo>

http://www.pennenergy.com/index/petroleum/display/3817751148/articles/oil-gas-journal/transportation-2/2010/11/blm-releases_ea_for.html

NET Holdings Management to Construct 110-Mile Natural Gas Pipeline in Texas

Eagle Ford Midstream, LP, a NET Holdings Management, LLC subsidiary, is expected to construct a 110-mile natural gas pipeline in the Eagle Ford Shale, Texas, NET said on November 29. The line would deliver natural gas to Tilden, Texas in McMullen County. It would have interconnects with NET's 16-inch, 53-mile LaSalle Pipeline and the Transco Pipeline. A second phase of the project would add deliveries to interstate and intrastate pipelines at the Agua Dulce Hub in South Texas. Eagle Ford Midstream is currently holding an open season for additional transportation services on its pipeline system.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/net-holdings-management-signs-gas-transportation-agreement-with-murphy-exploration--production-company---usa-will-construct-additional-pipelines-in-the-eagle-ford-shale-110967764.html>

Other News

Massey Energy Subsidiary Receives "Imminent Danger" Citation after Roof Fall at Horse Creek Eagle Coal Mine in West Virginia

The roof fall occurred on November 23 at Marfork Coal Company's Horse Creek Eagle coal mine in Raleigh County, West Virginia. There were no injuries, but the fall obstructed access to two evaluation points. The citation also mentioned that the mine roof in another entry to the same area was severely deteriorated.

<http://www.stockmarketsreview.com/news/63413/>

http://www.steelguru.com/raw_material_news/Massey_Marfork_Coal_cited_for_roof_fall_at_West_Virginia_mine/177967.html

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices November 29, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	85.45	80.94	76.03
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.12	3.79	3.63

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Citing Noise Concerns, Maine DEP Asks Fox Islands Wind to Modify Operations of Three Wind Turbines on Vinalhaven Island, Maine

http://www.necn.com/11/24/10/Maine-asks-island-wind-operator-to-quiet/landing_newengland.html?&blockID=3&apID=7422e172f8194ba6a552dde1c07c2d65

Columbia Water and Light Plans Three Transmission Lines, Combined 15 Miles, in Columbia, Missouri –161 kV Lines Would Link New Substation to Electric Grid

<http://www.columbiabusiness.com/9814/2010/11/26/power-line-extension-plan-jolts-neighborhoods/>

Propane Tractor Trailer Crashes into Telephone Pole, Causing Fire and Leading to Precautionary Evacuations in Palmer, Massachusetts November 26

<http://www.wvlp.com/dpp/news/local/hampden/Propane-truck-explodes%3B-closes-roads>

Process Upset Triggers Brief Flaring at ConocoPhillips' 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery November 25

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147780>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-11-26/conocophillips-reports-process-upset-at-borger-texas-refinery.html>

Drillers Have Ordered at Least 17 New Rigs since Beginning of October, Suggesting Companies Expect Oil Prices to Stay High

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=101596

Former Iraqi Oil Minister Expects Nation's Oil Output Capacity to Surge to 8 Million b/d within Six or Seven Years or about 5.5 Million b/d Greater than Current Levels

Reuters, 09:07 November 29, 2010

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=101650

Chesapeake Energy's Plans to Drill for Natural Gas in Oglebay Park, West Virginia Suspended as State Returns Permits to Company, Citing Company's Failure to Respond to Comments

<http://news-register.net/page/content.detail/id/549286/Oglebay-Gas-Drilling-on-Hold.html?nav=515>

Subcontractor Strikes 3-Inch Natural Gas Pipeline in South Bend, Indiana, Forcing Shut Indiana Highway 933 for Almost 11 Hours November 24

<http://www.southbendtribune.com/article/20101124/News01/101129553/1130>

Turbine Shuts, Restarts at Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas November 24

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147765>

SRU Shutdown Leads to Brief Flaring at Sneed Booster Station in Texas November 25

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147774>

Natural Gas and Smoke Released at Shell's 156, 400 b/d Martinez, California Refinery November 25

Reuters, 13:48 November 26, 2010

DCP Midstream Partners Reduces Natural Gas Sales from Field Due to Compressor Problem at Janice Tank Battery in Texas, November 25-28

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147773>

Compressor System Shutdown Causes Emissions at Aker Gas Plant in Texas November 25

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147772>

Engines Shut, Restart at West Credo Booster Station in Texas November 23 and November 26

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147782>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147746>

Compressor Shuts, Restarts at Waha Gas Plant in Texas November 27

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147810>

Operators Shut, Restart Unit after Ice Plug Forms in Engine at Big Wells Treating Plant in Texas November 27

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=147804>

Truck Crash Kills Worker at Rex-Strip Coal Mine in Harlan County, Kentucky November 23 – Operators Shut Mine

http://www.wsaz.com/news/headlines/Man_Killed_in_Eastern_Kentucky_Mine_110158209.html

County Commissioners Approve Black Range Minerals' Bid to Explore for Uranium on another 2,220 Acres in Hansen Deposit, Colorado November 23

http://www.tradingmarkets.com/news/stock-alert/blkmf_uranium-exploration-to-expand-by-2-220-acres-1328834.html

Idaho Public Utilities Commission Approves Idaho Power's 80 MW Wind Project near Pocatello, Idaho

Reuters, 20:58, November 26, 2010

Burbank Water and Power Plans Rollout of Smart Grid over Next Three Years for its 51,000 Customers

<http://pdf.reuters.com/htmlnews/8knews.asp?i=43059c3bf0e37541&u=urn:newsml:reuters.com:20101129:nBw295273a>

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

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

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