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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, January 09, 2013

Electricity

STP's 1,251 MW South Texas Nuclear Unit 2 in Texas Shuts after Main Transformer Failure Ignites Brief Fire January 8

STP Nuclear Operating Company on Tuesday afternoon declared an Unusual Event at its South Texas Unit 2 due to a main transformer fire, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). At 4:40 p.m. CST, a failure of the Unit 2 main transformer resulted in an automatic trip from full power and caused the fire, which damaged the transformer. An onsite fire brigade responded to the fire, which was extinguished by 4:56 p.m. CST. No offsite assistance was required. In addition to the loss of the main transformer, several safety related electrical busses and non-safety electrical busses lost offsite power. The appropriate emergency diesel generators started and powered the safety related busses. Unit 2 had just returned to full power after an outage that began January 4, when operators had manually tripped the unit because two shutdown rods unexpectedly dropped during monthly control rod surveillance testing. Operators restarted the unit by January 7. At the time of the NRC filing on Tuesday, Unit 2 was stable and on natural circulation due to the loss of power to the reactor coolant pumps. Auxiliary feedwater was functioning as required and decay heat was being removed through the steam generator atmospheric relief valves. Unit 1 was unaffected by the event.
http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130109en.html

Update: NRC Says Significant Work Remains Before OPPD Can Restart Its 478 MW Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant in Nebraska

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Tuesday said that significant work remains before the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) will be permitted to restart its Fort Calhoun nuclear power plant, which has been shut since April 2011, as the utility works to address previous deficiencies and structural problems discovered last year. The power plant initially shut down for refueling maintenance, but flooding along the Missouri River in 2011 and a series of safety violations discovered during subsequent inspections by the NRC has forced it to remain shut. The OPPD told the NRC in a recent meeting that it has strengthened its oversight of the plant and that Exelon—the company OPPD hired four months ago to run the plant—is improving the safety culture while overseeing the repairs. It is very unlikely that plant will restart early this year as OPPD had previously estimated; NRC officials reiterated Tuesday that there is no timetable for restarting Fort Calhoun.
http://finance.yahoo.com/news/troubled-idle-neb-nuke-plant-202120792.html

Update: Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuclear Unit 1 in Mississippi Ramped Up to 56 Percent by January 9

Grand Gulf Unit 1 is returning from an outage that began January 4, when the reactor automatically scrammed from what appeared to be a generator/turbine trip. Operators restarted the unit by January 8.
http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/

NRC Considering a Requirement to Install Filtered Vents at Some U.S. Nuclear Reactors

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff on Wednesday were planning to brief the commission on its recommendation that the nation's 31 boiling water reactors with Mark I and Mark II containment types install filtered vent systems, which could more effectively and safely release excessive containment pressure after a serious accident. The recommendation came after reviewing lessons learned from the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster in Japan; the Mark I and Mark II containment types are similar to those damaged at Fukushima. Nuclear industry trade groups and analysts are concerned about the costs of installing the vents in the required time period over the next two 18- or 24-month refueling cycles.
http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/09/utilities-nuclear-nrc-idUSL1E9C913S20130109?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43

Connecticut Regulators Approve Interstate Reliability Project to Construct 345-kV Transmission Line from Lebanon to Rhode Island Border

The Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) has approved the Interstate Reliability Project, a collaborative effort between Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) and National Grid. The Connecticut portion of the Interstate Reliability Project includes the construction of a new overhead 345-kV transmission line on 37 miles of existing right-of-way from Lebanon, Connecticut to the Rhode Island border in Thompson, and incorporates substation enhancements. The Rhode Island and Massachusetts portions of the project extend approximately 38 miles through National Grid's service areas. The siting decisions in those states are expected later this year, with construction of the project slated to begin shortly thereafter. The project is scheduled to be in-service by late 2015.
http://nuwnotes1.nu.com/apps/mediarelease/clp-pr.nsf/0/D5412254F539C95785257AED004DFC78?OpenDocument

Petroleum

Tesoro to Cease Refining Operations at Its 93,500 b/d Kapolei, Hawaii Refinery in April, Convert Facility into Import, Storage, and Distribution Terminal

Tesoro Corporation on Tuesday announced that it will cease refining operations at its Kapolei refinery during April of this year, and begin the process of converting the refinery to an import, storage, and distribution terminal. Tesoro Hawaii will maintain the existing distribution system to support marketing operations and fulfill its supply commitments while continuing to offer the terminal, distribution, and retail assets for sale. Upon conversion of the refinery to a terminal, Tesoro Hawaii believes third party utilization of the terminal and associated logistics will facilitate ongoing supplies of refined products.
http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=79122&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1772623

Update: FCCU and Alkylation Unit Remain Shut for Repairs at Valero's 135,000 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery January 8

Valero Energy Corp. reported that the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) and alkylation unit at its Wilmington refinery remained shut on Tuesday while operators worked to repair a leak at the plant's alkylation unit. Operators shut both units on December 21 to make repairs, according to a spokesman.
Reuters, 12:26 January 9, 2103

Unspecified Equipment Failure Causes Flaring at Chevron's 279,000 b/d El Segundo, California Refinery January 8

Chevron Corp. reported an unspecified equipment failure at its El Segundo refinery Tuesday caused nitrogen dioxide to flare, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.
http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1035134

ExxonMobil Reports Flaring at Its 572,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery January 8

ExxonMobil reported flaring at its Baytown refinery on Tuesday was due to unknown causes, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.
http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1035078

Natural Gas

Piedmont Proposes New 20-Inch Natural Gas Transmission Pipeline near Nashville to Comply with PHMSA Regulations

Piedmont Natural Gas has proposed installing a new 20-inch natural gas transmission pipeline from Antioch, outside Nashville, to a Piedmont facility 12 miles away. Piedmont has said the pipeline is needed to meet regulations issued by the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).
http://www.tennessean.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2013301080093

Power Outage Shuts AGI Unit at Enbridge's Tilden Gas Plant in Texas January 8

Enbridge reported that acid gas injector (AGI) Unit 1 at its Tilden gas plant in Texas shut down on Tuesday due to a power outage, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=177817

Other News

Nothing to report

International News

United Arab Emirates to Raise Its Oil Production Capacity from 2.8 MMb/d to 3 MMb/d in 2013
http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/123312/Oil_Min_UAE_Plans_to_Lift_Oil_Production_Capacity_in_2013

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices January 9, 2013			
	Today	**Week Ago**	**Year Ago**
CRUDE OIL **West Texas Intermediate U.S.** $/Barrel	92.94	92.89	102.89
NATURAL GAS **Henry Hub** $/Million Btu	3.21	3.24	2.96

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 & 1:00 PM ET every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA
http://www.eia.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp
Updated after 2:00 PM ET every Thursday.

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