



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, May 08, 2009

Electricity

Powerful Storms Sweep through Illinois and Missouri, Knocking out Power to Over 131,000 Customers May 8

Strong thunderstorms swept through Illinois and Missouri earlier today, bringing tornado sightings and hail in many areas. As of 04:30 PM, utilities across those states are reporting the following outages; Ameren reported 46,407 customers without power in Illinois with an additional 17,194 out in Missouri. The Empire District Electric Cooperative reported about 60,000 customers without power in Missouri, while the White River Valley Electric Cooperative is reporting 7,489 customers without electricity.

https://www2.ameren.com/outagemap/Maps/IL/image_map.gif

http://www.ameren.com/Outage/ADC_IllinoisOutageInformation.asp

<http://www.wbbm780.com/Tornadoes-spotted-near-Carbondale/4360979>

<https://www2.ameren.com/outagemap/default.aspx?state=MO>

<http://www.whiteriver.org/OutageInformation.html>

<https://www.empiredistrict.com/>

<http://www.neoshodailynews.com/news/x342388074/BREAKING-NEWS-T-storm-KO-power-in-area>

Exelon's 619 MW Oyster Creek Nuke Unit in New Jersey at Full Power by May 8

The unit was shut on April 25 due to an equipment failure on one of its two main transformers. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of May 7 the unit was operating at 70 percent.

Reuters, 07:15 May 8, 2009

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Xcel's 347 MW Harrington Coal-fired Unit 1 in Texas Shut May 7

Reuters, 8:43 May 8, 2009

Xcel's 545 MW Tolk Coal-fired Unit 2 in Texas Shut May 8

Reuters, 8:43 May 8, 2009

Xcel's 347 MW Harrington Coal-fired Unit 1 in Texas Shut May 7

Reuters, 20:29 May 7, 2009

Luminant's 565 MW Monticello Coal-fired Unit 2 in Texas Shut May 7

Reuters, 20:29 May 7, 2009

Update: Southern's 876 MW Hatch Nuke Unit 1 in Georgia Ramps up to 1 Percent May 8

The unit was shut May 4 due to a problem with a safety relief valve.

Reuters, 8:43 May 8, 2009

Department of Energy to Fund 71 Nuclear Energy Research and Development Projects

Energy Secretary Chu announced the selection of 71 university research project awards as part of the Department of Energy's investments in cutting-edge nuclear energy research and development (R&D). Under the Nuclear Energy University Program (NEUP), these 71 projects will receive approximately \$44 million over three years to advance new nuclear technologies in support of the nation's energy goals. Selected R&D projects include 31 U.S. universities that will act as lead research institutions for projects in more than 20 states.

<http://www.energy.gov/news2009/7383.htm>

Update: April 30 Storm Forced Luminant's 1,150 MW Comanche Peak Nuclear Power Plant in Texas to Reduce Output

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) asked Luminant to reduce generation from its Comanche Peak nuclear plant as a result of damage from a thunderstorm that knocked out two transmission lines, one of which could not be returned to service. ERCOT said the curtailment was necessary to prevent further congestion on the ERCOT transmission network.

<http://www.star-telegram.com/business/story/1364915.html>

Update: Department of Energy Narrows List of Nuclear Plants for \$18.5 Billion Federal Loan Guarantees

Southern Company's Vogtle Plant in Georgia, Scana Corp.'s Summer Plant in South Carolina, Constellation Energy Group's Calvert Cliffs Plant in Maryland and NRG Energy Inc.'s (NRG) South Texas plant are among the projects still in the running for federal loan backing. Under the loan guarantee program, the government promises to assume the companies' debt obligations if they default on loans for the nuclear projects.

http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/djf500/200905071724DOWJONESDJONLINE001040_FORTUNE5.htm

Petroleum

Brief Power Outage Reported at Alon USA's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery May 7

According to a filing with state regulators, electrical supply to equipment at the refinery was briefly interrupted on May 7. The refinery is running at reduced rates due to ongoing planned maintenance on the crude unit and the FCCU. The repairs are expected to be completed by May 10.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=123942>

Reuters, 08:38 May 8, 2009

Murphy's 120,000 b/d Meraux, Louisiana Refinery Operating at 10,000 b/d Under Capacity

Murphy Oil Corporation's refinery located in Meraux, Louisiana is currently operating at 10,000 b/d under capacity due to low demand for motor fuels.

Reuters, 13:12 May 7, 2009

Update: Repairs to Malfunctioning FCC Unit at Husky's 160,000 b/d Lima, Ohio Refinery to be Completed in June

A Husky Energy representative reported that repairs to a steam turbine that drives a gas compressor within a fluid catalytic cracking (FCC) unit at its Lima, Ohio refinery will be completed by June 12. The steam turbine was originally shut after developing vibrations.

Bloomberg News, 09:40 May 8, 2009

Natural Gas

CPS Energy Launches Investigation into May 6 Gas Pipeline Rupture in Texas

A natural gas pipeline operated by CPS Energy was ruptured on May 6 by a construction crew. The ruptured natural gas line caused a subsequent fire, and authorities report no injuries. A spokesperson from CPS Energy said the agency is launching an investigation into what happened.

<http://www.woai.com/news/local/story/Update-Investigation-launched-after-crew-ruptures/WIgp-Vi5i0STEQr9yKffVg.csp>

Natural Gas Explosion Destroys Strip Mall in Maryland May 7

According to Prince George's County fire and police authorities, a call was placed in the afternoon of May 7 due to a strong smell of natural gas at a strip mall located in Forestville, Maryland. A leak was detected from a pipeline and Washington Gas was notified. Within minutes, a fire erupted, setting the entire strip mall ablaze. Eight firefighters and a Washington Gas worker were injured in the explosion.

<http://www.wusa9.com/news/breaking/story.aspx?storyid=85499&catid=158>

Other News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
May 8, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	58.02	52.34	122.58
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.96	3.25	11.08

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Update: Energy Northwest Decides Against Pursuing Proposed 680 MW Kalama Coal-fired Power Plant in Washington on Rising Costs

http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/localnews/2009190231_apwacoalplant.html

Update: Kansas State Senate Approves Bill Allowing Construction of Sunflower Electric Power's Controversial Proposed 895 MW Coal-fired Power Plant

<http://www.kansas.com/news/state/story/804225.html>

Flaring Reported at Valero's 190,200 Delaware City, Delaware Refinery May 7

Bloomberg News, 04:27 May 8, 2009

Cooling Tower Leak Reported at Citgo's 156,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery May 7

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=123931>

Update: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Suspends Mountaintop Mining Permit Belonging to A&G Coal for Mining Operations in Southwest Virginia

<http://www.wric.com/global/story.asp?s=10323732>

Western Massachusetts Electric Company Outlines Plans to Upgrade Regional Power Lines

<http://www.dailymail.com/ap/ApTopStories/200905070379>

Update: Northern Natural Gas Company Repairs Ruptured Natural Gas Pipeline in Arkansas, Wisconsin May 8

<http://www.leadertelegram.com/story-news.asp?id=BJV7R1NIJR5>

http://www.northernnaturalgas.com/infoPostings/asp/atAGlanceNotices.asp?id_priority=Y&company=179#52763

Update: Public Dollars Not to Be Used to Rebuild Alliant Energy's Flood-Damaged 85 MW Sixth Street Generating Station in Iowa Following Massive Cedar River Flood of June 2008, Cedar Rapids City Council Votes

<http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/3222298>

Energy Secretary Chu Defends Department's Revised Budget Plan, Saying Funding Cuts to Hydrogen Fuel-Cell Vehicle Program Necessary to Focus on Other Research Projects

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=aOpl0ABZx6dk>

<http://www.energy.gov/news2009/7387.htm>

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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