



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, May 11, 2012

Electricity

Wisconsin Regulatory Permit Approved for CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Line

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin voted to grant a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for an approximate 48-mile 345 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line between Alma, Wis., and Holmen, Wis. The CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse project, which is being developed by Northern States Power Company, Dairyland Power Cooperative, and WPPI Energy, will provide local reliability benefits to western Wisconsin, enhance regional reliability, and increase access to lower cost renewable energy by providing a 345 kV link between Wisconsin and Minnesota. The line is one segment of the CapX2020 project, which includes three 345 kV transmission lines and a 230 kV line and represents the largest development of new transmission in the Upper Midwest in 30 years.

http://www.xcelenergy.com/About_Us/Energy_News/News_Releases/Wisconsin_regulatory_permit_approved_for_CapX2020_Hampton-Rochester-La_Crosse_345_kV_line
<http://kstp.com/article/stories/s2614669.shtml>

Update: Tenaska to Switch Fuel for Proposed 716 MW Taylorville Energy Center in Illinois from Coal to Natural Gas

Tenaska's plan to build a proposed 716 MW integrated gasification combined-cycle (IGCC) coal-fired power plant is changing to cancel the coal portion of the facility and instead build an electric plant fueled by natural gas, according to reports. It is unclear why Tenaska is changing the plan, which was approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency earlier this month, but reports indicate project cost estimates have been slashed by 66 percent under the new plant. The company is hoping to win legislative approval from the Illinois General Assembly by the end of the month. Tenaska officials declined to discuss the changes Wednesday.

http://thesouthern.com/news/local/state-and-regional/power-plant-project-stripped-of-coal/article_8be44754-9a53-11e1-a630-001a4bcf887a.html

Update: NRC Says Cracked Shield Building at FirstEnergy's Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant in Ohio Is Capable of Performing Its Safety Functions; Investigations Ongoing

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Monday reported its staff was satisfied with FirstEnergy Nuclear Operating Company's (FENOC) plans to address cracks identified in portions of the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station shield building during its fall 2011 reactor head replacement outage, but its review of FirstEnergy's root cause analysis and proposed corrective actions is ongoing. The NRC said FirstEnergy has provided reasonable assurance that the shield building was capable of performing its safety functions.

http://nuclearstreet.com/nuclear_power_industry_news/b/nuclear_power_news/archive/2012/05/09/nrc-gives-davis_2d00_besse-shield-building-clean-bill-of-health-050902.aspx

FPL's 839 MW Saint Lucie Nuclear Unit 2 in Florida Shut by May 11

On the morning of May 10 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Update: Entergy's 966 MW River Bend Nuclear Unit 1 in Louisiana Restarts May 9, Ramps Up to 42 Percent by May 11

On the morning of May 9 the unit was operating at 5 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Update: Dominion's 511 MW Kewaunee Nuclear Unit in Wisconsin Restarts May 10, Ramps Up to 49 Percent by May 11

On the morning of May 10 the unit was operating at 6 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Update: Entergy's 510 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Unit in Vermont Ramped Up to 68 Percent by May 11

On the morning of May 10 the unit was operating at 48 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Update: AES's 332 MW Alamos Gas-Fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by May 10

The unit returned from an unplanned curtailment of 202 MW.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201205101515.html>

Update: Dynegy's 510 MW Moss Landing Gas-Fired Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by May 10

The unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201205101515.html>

Petroleum

Update: ExxonMobil Begins Repairs on Ruptured 160,000 b/d North Line Crude Oil Pipeline in Louisiana

ExxonMobil Corp. on Friday said it has begun repairing the damaged North Line pipeline in Louisiana where a leak in late April spilled more than 1,800 barrels of crude oil, according to reports. ExxonMobil shut the 198-mile line after the leak was discovered April 28. The U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) on Wednesday said ExxonMobil must receive permission from PHMSA before restarting the pipeline.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/11/pipeline-operations-exxon-northline-idUSWNAB021020120511?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43>

Compressor Trip Shuts Hydrocracker at ExxonMobil's 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery May 10-11

ExxonMobil reported a hydrocracker recycle compressor tripped Thursday, resulting in flaring at its Beaumont refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators shut the unit and were investigating the cause of the compressor trip at the time of the filing. A spokeswoman said Friday the hydrocracker will return to service following repairs to the recycle compressor. The refinery anticipates some impact to production, but it expects to meet all contractual commitments, the spokeswoman said.

DJN, 10:16 May 11, 2012

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168311>

Update: Valero Restarts FCCU after Repairs at Its 171,000 b/d McKee, Texas Refinery May 10

Valero Energy Corp. reported emissions were expected during the restart of the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its McKee refinery, according to a filing with state regulators. The startup began on Thursday and would last through Monday, the filing said. In early April operators cut feed to the FCCU to perform maintenance on the electrostatic precipitator.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=167990>

Process Upset Leads to Emissions at Phillips 66's 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery May 10

Phillips 66 reported an unspecified process upset at its Borger refinery led to emissions Thursday afternoon, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168318>

Update: Delek Restarts Boiler after Snag at Its 60,000 b/d Tyler, Texas Refinery May 9

Delek reported excess emissions occurred at the No.9 boiler stack in the process of resuming normal operations after a snag earlier in the week, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168271>

Mechanical Failure Results in Flaring at Citgo's 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery May 10

Citgo Petroleum Corp. reported sulfur dioxide was releasing to flare due to a mechanical failure at its Lemont refinery Thursday evening, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The filing did not identify the unit that malfunctioned, but the refinery reported a sulfur recovery unit upset on Monday. The release had not been secured at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1011151

Phillips 66 Reports FCCU Startup, Emissions at Its 100,000 b/d Ferndale, Washington Refinery May 10

Phillips 66 reported carbon monoxide emissions during the restart of the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Ferndale refinery, according to a filing with the Northwest Clean Air Agency.

Reuters, 20:18 May 10, 2012

Suncor Reports Heat Exchanger Leak at Its 85,000 b/d Sarnia, Ontario Refinery May 10

Suncor Energy Inc. reported a leak in a heat exchanger at its Sarnia refinery Thursday, according to a spokeswoman. The refinery continued to operate and the upset was not expected to affect production, the spokeswoman said.

Reuters, 15:39 May 10, 2012

Natural Gas

MarkWest Energy Partners to Expand its Marcellus Shale Midstream Facilities in West Virginia

MarkWest Energy Partners, L.P. on May 4 announced it will expand the gas processing capacity at its Majorsville, West Virginia processing complex by 400 MMcf/d from 670 MMcf/d to approximately 1.1 Bcf/d. The company will construct two new 200 MMcf/d cryogenic gas plants that are expected to be completed in late 2013 and mid 2014. MarkWest will also expand its existing gathering operations in southwestern Pennsylvania into a key part of West Virginia, including the installation of two large high-pressure gathering headers and associated compressor stations in Doddridge and Harrison Counties, West Virginia. The new gathering system will have the capacity to initially deliver more than 300 MMcf/d of gas to MarkWest's Sherwood gas processing complex by 2013.

<http://investor.markwest.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=135034&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1691623>

Update: Wyoming O&G Commission Concludes Chesapeake's Delayed Response to Warning Signs Contributed to Late-April Natural Gas Well Blowout

The Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission concluded that Chesapeake Energy's delayed response to warning signs contributed to a natural gas well blowout in Wyoming in April, according to a report Thursday. Chesapeake had delayed in its observation of and response to drilling mud that collected during the casing process, a factor contributing to the eventual loss of control at the well on April 24. The commission also found Chesapeake had improperly engaged wellhead lockdown pins, which also contributed to the mechanical failure at the surface of the well. The OGCC said less than 2 MMcf of natural gas leaked after the blowout; workers regained control of the well within 3 days, plugging the hole with drilling mud.

Reuters, 16:23 May 10, 2012

Lightning Strikes H2S Monitoring System, Shuts Acid Gas Compressor at Regency's 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas May 10

Regency Energy Partners reported the hydrogen sulfide (H2S) monitoring system at its Waha gas plant was struck by lightning early Thursday morning, causing it to fault and shutting down the acid gas compressor (AGC). Acid gas was routed to the flare as designed. Operators repaired the H2S monitoring system and placed it and the AGC back into service.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168270>

Equipment Malfunction Shuts Turbine at DCP Midstream's 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas May 10

DCP Midstream reported Turbine B went down Thursday morning when both enclosure fans failed to run, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168273>

Storm Cuts Power, Leads to Flaring at DCP Midstream's 85 MMcf/d Robert Ranch Gas Plant in Texas May 10

DCP Midstream reported its Roberts Ranch gas plant lost third party electrical power due to stormy weather Thursday morning, causing natural gas to flare. Operators restarted the engines once electrical power was restored, and the flaring stopped.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168312>

Other News

Nothing to report

International News

Bomb Attack Shuts 220,000 b/d Cano Limon-Covenas Pipeline in Colombia May 9

FARC guerrillas are suspected in Wednesday night's bombing of the 220,000 b/d Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline in Colombia, which has been shut due to the attack, according to reports. Oil exports are continuing as normal, according to the state-run oil company Ecopetrol. The 480-mile pipeline, which usually pumps about 80,000 b/d, transports crude oil from the Arauca region near the Venezuelan border to the port of Covenas.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/10/colombia-pipeline-idUSL1E8GAKT820120510>

Update: Total to Begin Intervention on Elgin's Leaking Well in North Sea within Days; Natural Gas Leak Rate Continues to Diminish

Total SA reported Friday its final preparations for the planned intervention on Elgin's leaking G4 well were nearing completion, including positioning the West Phoenix drilling rig about 30 meters away from the Elgin complex to support the operation. Weather permitting, the well intervention should begin within a very few days, the company said in a statement. Observations made during 11 over-flights of the area confirm visual inspections on the Elgin complex itself, which indicate that the leakage rate of gas continues to diminish. The drilling of the first back-up relief well is still progressing as per plan, the statement said.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=117757

<http://www.elgin.total.com/elgin/pressrelease.aspx>

Pirates Hijack Oil Tanker 'Smyrni' Carrying Nearly 1 Million Barrels of Crude Offshore Oman May 10; Divert Ship's Course toward Somalia

Reuters, 11:09 May 11, 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-18032948>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices May 11, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	97.05	98.08	100.64
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.36	2.29	4.19

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 and 1:00 PM Eastern Time every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://www.eia.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM Eastern Time every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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