



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, May 19, 2009

Electricity

NMC's 522 MW Prairie Island Nuke Unit 1 in Minnesota Shut by May 19

The unit shut automatically due to a water pump trip, according to a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that on the morning of May 18 the unit was operating at full power.

Bloomberg News, 09:04 May 19, 2009

Reuters, 11:58 May 19, 2009

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/en.html#en45072>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

FirstEnergy's 1,235 MW Perry Nuke Unit 1 in Ohio Reduced to 50 Percent by May 19

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of May 18 the unit was operating at 60 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

AES's 227 MW Huntington Beach Gas-fired Unit 4 in California Shut by May 18

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit experienced an unplanned outage by May 18.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200905181515.html>

Update: Luminant's 1,150 MW Comanche Peak Nuke Unit 2 in Texas at Full Power by May 19

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of May 18 the unit was operating at 70 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: PSE&G's 1,049 MW Hope Creek Nuke Unit 1 in New Jersey Ramped Up to 20 Percent by May 19

The unit shut on May 17 due to an air leak, a company spokesman said. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of May 18 the unit was not operating.

Bloomberg News, 06:51 May 19, 2009

Reuters, 07:49 May 19, 2009

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

CAISO Approves Highwind Project Transmission Upgrade in California

The California Independent System Operator Corporation (CAISO) approved the Highwind Project transmission upgrade, a plan to deliver renewable power from the Tehachapi, California area. The project would include about 10 miles of transmission lines and a new substation.

<http://www.caiso.com/23b2/23b2cb348860.pdf>

Storage Tank Fire at BP's 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery May 19

A fire broke out in a storage tank at BP's 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas refinery, but the incident did not impact production, the company said. The affected tank was not in service at the time of the blaze. The fire was still burning this morning, but was "isolated to a product storage area," according to a spokesman. Separately at Texas City, BP said it postponed the restarts of an ultracracker and an ultraformer. Operators had expected to restart the ultracracker from May 17 to 21 and the ultraformer from May 18 to 21, but delayed the start-ups for unknown reasons, based on a filing with state regulators.

Bloomberg News, 11:09 May 19, 2009

Bloomberg News, 11:44 May 19, 2009

Fire Shuts FCC at Flint Hills' 288,126 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery May 19

A fire injured one non-company employee and forced shut a fluid catalytic cracker (FCC) at Flint Hills Resources' 288,126 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery on May 19. The fire was extinguished by this afternoon. Only the FCC was offline, according to a spokesperson for the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality. A Flint Hills spokeswoman did not say if the incident had any impact to production. She said the company was "assessing the situation."

Bloomberg News, 13:26 May 19, 2009

Reuters, 13:10 May 19, 2009

Reuters, 13:30 May 19, 2009

Update: Fire Out at Sunoco's 178,000 b/d Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania Refinery— Production Remains Reduced May 19

Firefighters extinguished a blaze on May 18 at Sunoco's 178,000 b/d Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania refinery, but the refinery remained at reduced rates today, May 19, the company said. The fire began after an explosion in an ethylene unit on May 17. The incident forced shut a gasoline-making fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC), and slowed two crude units to 85 percent capacity, a news source said. The crude distillation unit had already been at reduced rates prior to the incident, a spokesman said. Sunoco increased production at its Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Eagle Point, New Jersey refineries to compensate for the lost output. The company was investigating the cause of the incident, and did not yet have a timetable for any restoration, according to latest reports.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1940163020090519>

Bloomberg News, 10:20 May 19, 2009

Bloomberg News, 17:17 May 18, 2009

Reuters, 10:02 May 19, 2009

Reuters, 18:32 May 18, 2009

FCC Snag at Valero's 182,200 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery May 18

An upset in a gasoline-producing fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC) triggered flaring on May 18 at Valero's 182,200 b/d Delaware City, Delaware refinery, according to a filing with state regulators. The company did not say whether the incident had any impact to production. Valero had been ramping up the refinery from a plant-wide shutdown, begun in March. Operators had expected to reach normal rates this month.

Bloomberg News, 03:37 May 19, 2009

Delay in Hydrocracker Restart at ConocoPhillips' 76,000 b/d Rodeo, California Refinery— Analyst

ConocoPhillips' expected to restart a hydrocracker on May 15 at its 76,000 b/d Rodeo, California refinery, but had difficulties returning the unit to service, according to an analyst at 4Refuel Inc. "Operating rates at the refinery and downstream fluid catalytic cracking unit were reduced accordingly," the analyst said. A company spokesman did not comment on the situation.

Bloomberg News, 17:09 May 18, 2009

SemGroup LP Completes 20,000 b/d, 524-mile, Colorado-to-Oklahoma White Cliffs Oil Pipeline

The line runs from Colorado to Cushing, Oklahoma. It will be able to ship at least 20,000 b/d of oil.

http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/article.aspx?subjectid=49&articleid=20090519_351_E1_Themil665481

Canadian Oilsands Production Could Reach 6.3 Million b/d by 2035—CERA

Canadian oilsands production could increase nearly fivefold by 2035, to a total 6.3 million b/d, according to a study by IHS Cambridge Energy Research Associates (CERA). The 6.3 million b/d figure would require significant economic growth and consistently high oil prices. Should oil prices remain low, and the economy stay stagnant, production would reach just 2.3 million b/d by 2035, or about 1 million b/d higher than current figures.

<http://www.canada.com/business/fp/Oilsands+output+could+rise+million+barrels+study+says/1606820/story.html>

Protestors Force Shut 40,000 b/d, 530-mile Oil Pipeline in Peru

State-oil company Petroperu closed Peru's 40,000 b/d, 530-mile oil pipeline by May 18, as protestors blockaded waterways and roads in criticism of national energy and investment laws.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1837115020090518>

Natural Gas

Nothing to report.

Other News

President Obama to Propose Record Fuel Efficiency Standards May 18

President Barack Obama was expected to propose a national program for higher Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards. The program would require automobiles to obtain an average 35.5 miles per gallon (mpg) by 2016. The current CAFE standard is 27.5 mpg.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/mnCarbonEmissions/idUS256433619320090519>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
May 19, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	59.73	58.65	126.00
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.02	4.24	11.31

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Thunderstorm Knocks Out Power to about 10,000 Salt River Project Customers in Arizona May 18

<http://www.azcentral.com/community/gilbert/articles/2009/05/19/20090519Weather19-ON.html>

Greystone Power, Excelsior EMC Opt Out of Plans for Coal-fired Power Plant in Georgia—Eight Electric Cooperatives Remain Committed to Plans

<http://www.ajc.com/services/content/printedition/2009/05/19/coal0519.html>

Shell Reports DU2 Unit Release at 329,800 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery by May 19

Bloomberg News, 13:13 May 19, 2009

Update: Citgo to Move Petroleum Coke via Truck after Conveyor Belt Fire at 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery

Bloomberg News, 16:20 May 18, 2009

Storage Tank Seal Fails, Seeps Some Oil at Valero's 144,000 b/d Benicia, California Refinery May 15—no Harm to Environment or People, Local Agency Says

http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/djf500/200905182014DOWJONESDJONLINE000566_FORTUNE5.htm

Marathon to Cut Cook Inlet Basin, Alaska Natural Gas Drilling Program by 50 Percent in 2009

<http://www.reuters.com/article/bondsNews/idUSN1845099220090518>

Nigerian Troops, Militants Fight near Chevron's Abiteye Flow Station in Niger Delta

Bloomberg News, 12:07 May 19, 2009

Venezuela Producing 2.6 Million b/d of Oil, or 500,000 b/d More than Previous Estimate—Petroleum Intelligence Weekly

Bloomberg News, 17:26 May 19, 2009

Update: FERC Gives Positive Environmental Review of Rockies Express Pipeline's Proposed Compressor Additions along West-to-East Natural Gas Pipeline System

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Alltech Postpones Plans for Cellulosic Ethanol Biorefinery in Kentucky, Citing Funding Concerns

<http://domesticfuel.com/2009/05/19/alltech-ethanol-project-on-hold/>

Ethanol Producer Pacific Ethanol Inc., O&G Explorer TXCO Resources File for Bankruptcy by May 18

<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-GreenBusiness/idUSTRE54H3VD20090518>

U.S. Coast Guard Shuts 45 Mile Stretch of Mississippi River South of Memphis, Tennessee after Vessel Accident May 19

Reuters, 13:33 May 19, 2009

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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