



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, May 19, 2011

Electricity

Bird Knocks out Power to 31,000 TEP Customers in the Tucson Area, Arizona for 20 Minutes May 18

According to a Tucson Electric Power (TEP) spokesperson, the outage was caused when a bird entered into equipment at the company's Irvington Road facility. Power shut off at 12:45 p.m., and was restored 20 minutes later.
<http://www.fox11az.com/news/local/Power-outage-hits-Tucson-122185549.html>

Update: FPL's 839 MW Saint Lucie Nuclear Unit 2 in Florida Ramped Up to 75 Percent by May 19

The unit was shut on May 16 while coming out of a refueling outage. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of May 18 the unit was operating at 11 percent.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-05-19/u-s-nuclear-output-rises-to-most-in-almost-7-weeks-on-starts.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Update: FPL's 693 MW Turkey Point Nuclear Unit 4 in Florida Ramped Up to 71 Percent by May 19

According to previous reports, the unit was shut for refueling and maintenance from March 21 to May 2, then was shut again on May 6. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of May 18 the unit was operating at 48 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Update: Progress Energy's 872 MW Brunswick Nuclear Unit 1 in North Carolina Ramped Up to 88 Percent by May 19

According to previous reports, the unit was shut on May 14. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of May 18 the unit was operating at 31 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Update: Constellation's 565 MW Nine Mile Point Nuclear Unit 1 in New York Ramped Up to 60 Percent by May 19

According to new reports, the unit was shut on May 3 after running at 47 percent capacity since April 27 for feedwater pump system repairs. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of May 18 the unit was not operating.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-05-19/u-s-nuclear-output-rises-to-most-in-almost-7-weeks-on-starts.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Update: Entergy's 653 MW Pilgrim Nuclear Unit 1 in Massachusetts Ramped Up to 38 Percent by May 19

The unit was shut on May 13. It had previously tripped offline on May 9 while powering up from a refueling outage. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of May 18 the unit was not operating.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-05-19/u-s-nuclear-output-rises-to-most-in-almost-7-weeks-on-starts.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Update: BPA Limits Output of Non-Hydroelectric Energy in U.S. Pacific Northwest for Five Hours May 18, Including 200-350 MW of Wind Power

According to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), high river flows generating an oversupply of hydroelectricity caused the BPA to limit the output of non-hydroelectric energy from midnight until 5 a.m. on May 18. Wind farms and coal- and natural gas-fired plants reduced output to the minimum necessary to protect equipment and the electric grid. A total of 200 to 350 MW (totaling about 1,400 MWh) of wind generation were limited during the time period. The BPA said that the curtailment was required to protect salmon and steelhead, maintain the reliability of the power grid, and avoid shifting costs to BPA's customers.

<http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/BPANews/ArticleTemplate.cfm?ArticleId=article-20110518-01>

<http://info.bpa.gov/afterhours.aspx>

<http://www.kivitv.com/Global/story.asp?S=14670585>

California Energy Commission Approves Construction of PG&E's Proposed 200 MW Mariposa Natural Gas-Fired Power Plant in California May 18

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) will build the Mariposa facility in northeastern Alameda County near the town of Byron. The plant will only run on days when there is high demand for electricity. Commercial operations are set to begin in mid-2012. For an update about the approval of another proposed PG&E power plant in California, see the Energy Notes section.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_18090578?nclink_check=1

SDG&E Announces Plan to Add 125 MW of Solar Energy in California May 18

San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) announced that it has contracted with Soitec Solar Development, LLC to provide photovoltaic solar modules. The new generating capacity will be located near SDG&E electric substations in San Diego county.

<http://www.soitec.com/en/news/press-releases/article-660/>

http://public.sempra.com/newsreleases/viewpr.cfm?PR_ID=2606&Co_Short_Nm=SDGE

Update: State PSC Approves of Entergy's Plans to Cancel Proposed Conversion of Little Gypsy Power Plant in Louisiana from Burning Natural Gas to Petroleum Coke May 17

Entergy Louisiana's original plans to convert a generator at the Little Gypsy power plant from natural gas to petroleum coke were approved by the Louisiana Public Service Commission (PSC) in November 2007. However, the company no longer wishes to carry out the conversion due to the fall in natural gas prices over recent years. The 4-0 vote by the PSC on Tuesday officially ended the proposed project.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Little-Gypsy-conversion-apf-3354328513.html?x=0&.v=1>

Petroleum

Update: State DNR Reports Oil and Gas Production Curtailed in Louisiana amid Rising Mississippi River Levels May 19

According to a Louisiana Department of Natural Resources representative, rising Mississippi River water levels have had the following effects on oil and gas production in Louisiana:

- 169 out of 592 producing wells in the potential inundation area are reported shut-in.
- 120 out of 124 producing wells in the Atchafalaya Basin are reported shut-in.
- 3,778 out of a total 19,278 b/d of oil and condensate production in the inundation area (including the Atchafalaya Basin) are reported shut-in.
- 32 out of a total 253 MMcf/d of natural gas production in the inundation area (including the Atchafalaya Basin) are reported shut-in.

http://dnr.louisiana.gov/assets/news_releases/shut-in/shutin-report.pdf

Update: Magellan Midstream Partners Reopens Docks at 2.8 Million Barrel Heavy Oil Storage Terminal in Marrero, Louisiana May 17

The docks at the Marrero terminal were closed on May 13. The company's 50,000 barrel storage terminal in Gibson, Louisiana will remain shut for the time being.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/19/usa-flooding-refineries-idUSN1927875320110519>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/18/magellan-idUSL4E7GI08O20110518>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-05-18/gulf-gasoline-weakens-as-docks-open-mississippi-level-holding.html>

ConocoPhillips Shuts Underground Products Pipeline May 18 after Discovering Gasoline Leak in Ponca City, Oklahoma

According to a filing with regulators, the leak was discovered at the Cherokee pump station. The company blamed "equipment failure" as the cause of the spill – it is not known how much gasoline was spilled.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=976668

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-05-19/conoco-oklahoma-pipeline-shut-after-gasoline-leak-nrc-says.html>

Update: Cenovus Running 22,000 b/d Pelican Lake Heavy Oil Field in Alberta at 4,000 b/d as Storage Tanks Reach Capacity May 19

Cenovus Energy may completely shut its Pelican Lake heavy oil field this afternoon as the company's storage tanks reach their capacity limits. The company is currently storing oil in tanks since Plains All American's 187,000 b/d Rainbow crude oil pipeline is shut due to the ongoing threat of wildfires in the region.

http://www.calgaryherald.com/business/Cenovus+shutting+Pelican+Lake+production/4810012/story.html?cid=megadrop_story

Natural Gas

See the Petroleum section for a story about shut-in natural gas production in Louisiana.

Other News

Engineers Warned NRC of Flawed Hydrogen Venting System Design at U.S. Reactors Five Years Before Similar Vents Failed at Japanese Nuclear Facility

According to the New York Times, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) was warned five years ago of design flaws in systems used to vent hydrogen and keep containment structures intact at U.S. nuclear power plants. A similar design problem at Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s (TEPCO) Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in Japan led to the failure of the venting system and at least two hydrogen explosions. Both Entergy and Duke Energy have indicated that the U.S. nuclear industry may need to retrofit reactors to prevent this type of failure.

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/19/science/earth/19nuke.html?_r=1

<http://ecocentric.blogs.time.com/2011/05/18/fukushima-are-faulty-vents-a-global-danger/>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-05-19/u-s-reactor-owners-see-retrofits-to-avoid-japan-style-blasts.html>

EQM Technology & Energy Recently Restarts 12 MMGal/Yr. Biodiesel Plant in Cleburne, Texas

The plant was able to start up again after the company raised \$2.5 million in working capital.

<http://www.biodieselmagazine.com/articles/7803/cleburne-plant-restarts-after-convertible-note-issuance>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices May 19, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	98.66	97.80	68.76
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.15	4.23	4.42

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Underground Electrical Transformer Vault Explodes in Westwood Neighborhood of Los Angeles, California May 17

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-westwood-explosion-20110518,0,5831729.story>

Update: California Energy Commission Approves Construction of PG&E's Proposed 624 MW Oakley Natural Gas-Fired Power Plant in California May 18 – Plant Will Go Online in 2016 or Later

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_18090578?ncllick_check=1

Perpetual Energy Announces Best Estimate Recoverable Bitumen Reserves of 108.2 Million Barrels at Panny Area in Northeast Alberta May 16

<http://www.perpetualenergyinc.com/en/investor/pmt-2011-05-16-v2.pdf>

Update: Wolverine Power Plans to Power Five Percent of its Proposed 600 MW Coal-Fired Power Plant in Rogers City, Michigan with Biomass

<http://michiganmessenger.com/49111/env-groups-object-to-new-wolverine-power-plant>

Pennsylvania DEP Fines Chesapeake Energy Over \$1 Million for Both Contaminating Drinking Water with Natural Gas in 2010 and a February 23, 2011 Explosion at a Condensate Storage Tank in Avella, Pennsylvania

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/newsroom/14287?id=17405&typeid=1>

NOAA Predicts “Above Normal” Atlantic Hurricane Season May 19, Including 12 to 18 Named Storms, 6 to 10 of which are Predicted to Become Hurricanes

<http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=atlantic-hurricane-season-above-nor>

NOAA Assistant Secretary Says Solar Storm Intensity Is Expected to Peak in 2013 – Countries Should Plan for “Potentially Devastating Effects”

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/us-official-solar-storms-expected-to-peak-in-2013-with-potentially-devastating-effect/2011/05/17/AF9IHh5G_story.html

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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