



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, May 25, 2011

Electricity

Severe Weather Knocks Out Power to Nearly 150,000 Customers in North Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas May 24-25

Severe weather, including thunderstorms, funnel clouds, and tennis-ball-sized hail, knocked out power to approximately 149,000 customers in the Northern Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas overnight May 24-25. Oncor's service territory in the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan area was the hardest hit with a peak outage of 70,000 customers. As of the afternoon on May 25, more than 20,000 customers remained without power. Severe storms have impacted electric power service across a wide swath of the country since Sunday. On May 22-23, severe storms knocked out 238,000 customers and on May 23-24, new storms knocked out an additional 367,000 customers.

Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas Customer Power Outages			
May 24-25			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Oncor	TX	70,000	20,777
Oklahoma Gas & Electric (OG&E)	OK	45,177	19,727
Public Service Co. of Oklahoma (PSO)	OK	12,562	400
Oklahoma Electric Cooperative	OK	15,000	4,000
Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative	OK	1,246	1,124
Entergy	AR	5,097	2,340
TOTAL*		149,082	48,368

*Total outages only represent electric utilities listed in this table.

Sources:

TX

Oncor: <https://maps.oncor.com/summary.asp>

<http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/article/Texas-storms-damage-cars-roofs-prompt-outages-1395004.php>

<http://www.oncor.com/community/outages/#>

OK

http://www.ok.gov/OEM/Emergencies_&_Disasters/2011/Severe_Weather_Event_20110524/20110524_Situation_Update_2.html

OG&E: <http://public.oge.com/systemwatch/>

PSO: <https://www.psoklahoma.com/outages/Default.aspx>

Oklahoma Electric Cooperative: <http://normantranscript.com/new/x57647463/Area-residents-remain-without-power>

Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative: <http://www.neelectric.com/>, <http://power.neelectric.com/>

AR

Entergy: <http://viewoutage.entergy.com/ar.aspx>

Thunderstorms Knock Out Power to 192,000 Dominion Power Customers in Southeastern Virginia May 24

Strong thunderstorms with winds gusts reaching 80 mph ripped through the Hampton Roads area of Virginia late Tuesday afternoon, causing significant damage and interrupting service to 192,000 Dominion Virginia Power customers. More than 1,200 Dominion personnel and contractors are currently working to restore service. As of midday May 25, roughly 49,000 customers remained without power in Dominion's service area in Virginia.

<http://www.dom.com/storm-center/index.jsp>

<http://www.dom.com/storm-center/dominion-electric-outage-summary.jsp>

Transmission Line Failures and Substation Outage Knock Out Power to 42,300 Penn Power Customers in Western Pennsylvania May 24

Penn Power, which serves customers in the Pittsburgh area, reported that 42,300 customers lost power when one of the company's main transmission substations lost power at around 7:35 PM EDT Tuesday night. The outage was caused when two transmission lines serving the substation went down. According to a Penn Power spokesman, it is unclear why the two lines went down and the weather was likely not the cause. The company said it had restored power to all affected customers by 7:55 AM EDT Wednesday morning.

<http://www.wtae.com/r/28012824/detail.html>

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/11145/1148904-54.stm>

Update: Thousands Remain Without Power in Tornado-Impacted Areas in Missouri and Minnesota

The Empire District Electric Company, which serves customers in tornado-devastated southwestern Missouri, reported that 14,000 customers remained without power as of 9:00 PM CDT May 24, down from 17,000 outages reported earlier in the day. By utilizing storm path data from FEMA, Empire has established that approximately 10,000 customers are within the tornado-devastated area in Joplin, MO. A substantial number of these customers will not be able to accept service from Empire for the foreseeable future. Xcel Energy reported 5,105 customers still without power in tornado-impacted north Minneapolis, MN, on Wednesday morning. The utility expects to restore the "vast majority" of customers to be repaired Wednesday but full restoration is not expected until Thursday. Xcel had difficulty getting crews into damaged areas immediately on Sunday because of debris left by the tornado. Both Missouri and Minnesota were hit by tornadoes on May 22.

<https://www.empiredistrict.com/DocHandler.ashx?id=5192>

<http://wjon.com/more-than-5000-people-still-without-power-in-north-minneapolis/>

Update: TVA's 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 2 in Alabama Ramped Up to 21 Percent by May 25

All three units at the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) plant were shut on April 27 after losing outside power due to thunderstorms and tornadoes throughout the U.S. South. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of May 24 the unit was operating at 9 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: TVA's 1,125 MW Watts Bar Nuclear Unit 1 in Tennessee Ramped Up to 80 Percent by May 25

The unit exited an outage and ramped up to 30 percent by May 22, but was then reduced by May 23. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of May 24 the unit was operating at 53 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Cabrillo Power's 104 MW Encina Gas-Fired Unit 2 in California Returns to Service by May 24

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage by May 24.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201105241515.html>

Loss of Power to 32 Emergency Sirens Reported by Operators of TVA's 3,391 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant in Alabama May 24

According to a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), tests "indicated a loss of communications with the Lawrence County siren activation system" in Alabama. The Browns Ferry nuclear plant has three units: Unit 1 has a capacity of 1,155, while Unit 2 and Unit 3 each have a capacity of 1,118 MW.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20110525en.html>

Over 2,500 MW of New and Refurbished Power Generating Capacity Is Due to Come Online in Ontario over Next 18 Months: Independent Electricity System Operator

Reuters, 19:11 May 24, 2011

Update: Energy Companies Restarting O&G Production as Plains All American Plans to Reopen 187,000 b/d Rainbow Crude Pipeline in Alberta

About 150,000 boe/d were shut down last week in Alberta due to both wildfires and the shutdown of the southern leg of the Rainbow crude oil pipeline after it lost power last week. Power has been restored to the pipeline. Although Plains All American Pipeline announced on May 24 that it planned to reopen the pipeline Tuesday afternoon, the pipeline remained closed Tuesday evening according to news reports.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/globe-investor/after-oil-spill-fires-rainbow-resumes-partial-service/article2032940/>

Update: Following Power Restoration. Enbridge's 217,000 b/d Ozark Oil Pipeline in Missouri Returns to Normal Operations May 25

Storms knocked out power to a pump station by May 23. The line runs from Cushing, Oklahoma to Wood River, Illinois.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFWEN364720110525>

Danish Commandoes Believed to Have Arrived at Cairn Energy's Leiv Eiriksson Oil Rig Offshore Greenland to Prevent Interference by Environmentalists

The Danish navy is currently shadowing the Greenpeace ship Esperanza in the Davis Strait near the oil platform.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/may/24/danish-commandoes-greenpeace-arctic-oil>

Valero Restarts Wet Gas Compressor K-6300 Following Trip at 287,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery May 25

The company said that the upset would cause no material impact on production.

Reuters, 10:09 May 25, 2011

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110525-709805.html>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=154883>

Update: Operations Restored at PdVSA's 945,000 b/d Paraguana Refinery Complex in Venezuela May 24

The complex is composed of the 640,000 b/d Amuay refinery and the 305,000 b/d Cardon refinery. An electrical failure on May 12 forced the complete shutdown of Cardon, and the partial shutdown of Amuay. Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PdVSA), production levels have been over 750,000 b/d over the past four days. In addition, the catalytic cracker unit at the Cardon refinery is operating "normally" after the unit was shut for 12 hours following reports of an explosion.

DJN, 10:33 May 25, 2011

http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110525-709523.html?mod=WSJ_Energy_middleHeadlines

Update: ExxonMobil Reopening Mississippi River Docks at 504,500 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana Refinery May 24

The docks were shut on May 11 due to flooding.

Reuters, 00:25 May 2011

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/25/usa-flooding-refineries-idUSN2527333520110525>

Brief Operational Malfunction Occurs at Suncor's 93,000 b/d Commerce City, Colorado Refinery May 23

The malfunction sent a plume of yellow smoke to vent from the refinery.

Reuters, 23:50 May 24, 2011

<http://www.kwgn.com/news/kdvr-refinery-malfunction-in-commerce-city-send-plumes-of-yellow-smoke-20110524,0.7597871.story>

Shell Shuts Unspecified Unit Due to Upset at 327,000 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery

Reuters, 00:24 May 25, 2011

Natural Gas

DCP Midstream Shuts Natural Gas Gathering System Due to Power Outages Caused by Wildfires near Seminole, Texas May 24-25

According to a filing with state regulators, Chevron said it will be forced to flare gases from its North Riley Central Battery until DCP is once more able to receive produced gas.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=154879>

<http://www.cbs7kosa.com/news/details.asp?ID=25813>

Other News

Update: Coal Shipments Delayed, Export Docks Closed Due to Mississippi River Flooding by May 24

According to the president of Canadian Natural's IC Rail Marine Terminal, between 300,000 and 600,000 tons of coal shipments have been delayed after flood waters shut the company's coal export dock near New Orleans, Louisiana. According to previous reports, the company declared force majeure on May 15, delaying two coal cargoes bound for the United Kingdom totaling 150,000 short tons. A Kinder Morgan spokesman also said by May 24 that high water has interrupted operations at several of the company's coal terminals upriver. St. James Stevedoring, a mid-river transloader, has reported some delayed ships but has not declared force majeure.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/24/usa-flooding-coal-idUSN2427405920110524>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/24/usa-flooding-coal-idUSWEN357720110524>

Update: USCG Reopens Mississippi River Near Baton Rouge, Some Restrictions Remain kMay 24

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) reopened a nine mile stretch of the Mississippi River to southbound traffic on Tuesday, after closing it following the sinking of three barges near Baton Rouge, Louisiana on May 20. According to USCG District 8, "southbound traffic can only transit during daylight hours with a tow of no more than 20 barges with a minimum of 300 horsepower per barge. Also, all southbound traffic must utilize a towing-assist vessel when transiting through Wilkinson Point with a minimum of 5,000 horsepower. Northbound restrictions remain in place."

<http://www.d8externalaffairs.com/go/doc/425/455751/>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/25/usa-flooding-refineries-idUSN2527333520110525>

High Cost of Crops Prompts Osage Bio Energy to Try to Sell 65 MMGal/Yr. Appomattox Ethanol Plant in Hopewell, Virginia May 23

The plant is ready for production and is designed to run primarily from barley stock, though it has done some test runs using corn as stock as well.

<http://www.ethanolproducer.com/articles/7806/osage-officials-break-silence-leave-many-questions-unanswered>

<http://southeastfarmpress.com/grains/virginia-ethanol-plant-wont-open-planned-sale>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
May 25, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	100.78	99.90	64.48
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.37	4.25	4.08

Source: Reuters

Environmental Law Suit Settled by May 24 over Buena Vista's Proposed 18.5 MW Buena Vista Biomass Power Plant in Calaveras County, California

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20110525/A_NEWS/105250311

Continental U.S. Power Output for Week Ended May 21 Was 68,743 GWh, 3.2 Percent Lower than Same Week Last Year: Edison Electric Institute

Reuters, 11:55 May 25, 2011

AGI Compressor Shuts, Restarts Due to Debris Clogging Filter Screen at Waha Gas Plant in Texas May 24

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=154880>

Membrane Separation Unit Shut Due to Equipment Failure at Amerada Hess's Seminole Gas Processing Plant in Texas May 24-25

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=154866>

Pressure Relief Valve Experiences Mechanical Failure at Carrizo Springs Compressor Station in Texas May 24

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=154868>

Update: TEPCO Reports Reactors 2 and 3 Also Had Fuel Rod Meltdowns in March at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Facility in Japan

Reuters, 11:02 May 25, 2011

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/05/24/japan-tepco-reactors-idUSL3E7GO03B20110524>

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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