



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, May 27, 2014

## Electricity

---

### **Tucson Electric Fully Restores Power after Substation Circuit Breaker Trip Cuts Power to 50,000 Customers in Tucson, Arizona May 26**

Tucson Electric Power (TEP) reported that a power outage left 50,000 of its customers without power for over an hour on Monday. At about 1:30 p.m. local time, a circuit breaker in a substation tripped, causing other circuit breakers at other substations to trip because of the sudden increase in electrical load. TEP couldn't find a clear cause for the trip, but it suspects that high winds in the area may have been a factor in the outage. Power was restored to all customers by 3:00 p.m. local time, a spokesman said.

<http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/25613933/tep-power-outage-affects-midtown-west-side>

### **Severe Thunderstorms Cut Power to 36,000 CenterPoint Customers in Texas May 27; 3,900 Customers Remain Without Power**

CenterPoint Energy is working to restore power in the Houston area after severe thunderstorms Tuesday morning cut power to 36,000 customers. As of 4:15 p.m. EDT today, 3,906 customers remained without power. Local reports yesterday said that severe weather was causing intermittent outages throughout the evening on Monday. CenterPoint reported between 3,000 and 15,000 homes were without electricity at various times that night.

<https://twitter.com/CNPalerts>

<http://gis.centerpointenergy.com/outagetracker/index.html>

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Week-of-wet-weather-ahead-5505800.php>

### **Dominion's 871 MW Millstone Nuclear Unit 2 and 1,130 MW Nuclear Unit 3 in Connecticut Shut Due to Loss of Offsite Power May 25**

Dominion reported that at 7:02 a.m. EDT Sunday morning, Millstone Units 2 and 3 tripped due to a loss of offsite power, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Operators declared an Unusual Event at 7:15 that morning. The loss of offsite power was due to a localized issue in the Millstone switchyard—one main line coming into the plant shorted. The surrounding areas were not affected. Power was being supplied to all emergency busses by the emergency diesel generators until offsite electrical power was restored to both Unit 2 and Unit 3 by 1:30 p.m. that afternoon. Operators terminated the Unusual Event at 2:14 p.m. that afternoon. Both units remained shut on the morning of May 27.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2014/20140527en.html>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/20140527ps.html>

### **FPL's 693 MW Turkey Point Nuclear Unit 4 in Florida Shut Due to Turbine Trip on Loss of Condenser Vacuum May 25; Unit Remains Shut for Planned Maintenance**

Florida Power & Light (FPL) reported that at 5:36 a.m. EDT Sunday morning, Unit 4 experienced a loss of condenser vacuum as operators lowered the unit's power as part of a planned maintenance outage to repair a leaking check valve inside the containment building, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Unit 4 power level had been lowered to 19 percent when the loss of condenser vacuum occurred, triggering an automatic turbine trip signal, which initiated a reactor trip signal as required. Unit 4 is currently in Mode 3 and stable. The loss of vacuum is under investigation at this time. All other plant systems are working as designed. Unit 3 was not affected and continues to operate at 100 percent power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/20140527ps.html>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2014/20140527en.html>

## **Constellation's 480 MW Ginna Nuclear Unit in New York Shut by May 25; Restarts and Ramps Up to 48 Percent by May 26**

Constellation's Ginna nuclear plant was returning from a refueling outage and operating at 78 percent on the morning of May 24. On the morning of May 25 the unit was not operating.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/20140524ps.html>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/20140525ps.html>

## **Update: Xcel's 522 MW Prairie Island Nuclear Unit 2 in Minnesota Restarts by May 24, Ramps Up to Full Power by May 25**

Xcel Energy Corp. restarted its Prairie Island Unit 2 on Saturday after shutting it May 18 due to an obstruction in drain piping from a pump. Unit 1 continued to operate at full power while Unit 2 was shut.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/20140524ps.html>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/20140525ps.html>

## **AES's 336 MW Alamos Gas-fired Unit 4 in California Shuts by May 25, Returns to Service by May 26**

The unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201405251515.html>

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201405261515.html>

## **Update: NextEra Energy Resources to Complete 250 MW Silver State South Solar Project in Nevada by Late 2016**

First Solar, Inc. on Tuesday announced that it has completed the sale of the 250 MW Silver State South Solar project in Clark County, Nevada to a subsidiary of NextEra Energy Resources. Pre-construction activity has begun at the site, and the project is expected to be complete in late 2016. The project is adjacent to the 50 MW Silver State North project, which was developed and built by First Solar and commissioned in 2012.

<http://www.nexteraenergyresources.com/news/contents/2014/052714.shtml>

## **Update: Southern Power and Turner Renewable Energy to Begin Operations at 50 MW Macho Springs Solar Power Plant in New Mexico by May 30**

<http://investor.firstsolar.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=850310>

<http://www.southerncompany.com/news/iframe-pressroom.cshtml>

## ***Petroleum***

---

### **Minnesota Imposes Safety Fee on Railroads, Oil Pipeline Companies to Help First Responders Train for Emergencies**

Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton on May 20 signed into law a measure requiring railroad and oil pipeline companies operating in the state to help pay for training and programs to prepare for emergencies. The law empowers the state to collect a total of \$2.5 million annually from railroad and oil pipeline companies until July 1, 2017. That money will help first responders get ready for derailments and spills involving oil and other hazardous substances.

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/bills/billnum.asp?billnumber=HF+2881>

[http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci\\_25801735/minnesota-imposes-safety-fee-railroads-oil-pipeline-companies](http://www.twincities.com/localnews/ci_25801735/minnesota-imposes-safety-fee-railroads-oil-pipeline-companies)

### **Officials Say Bullet May Have Damaged a TransCanada Oil Pipeline in Elm Creek, Manitoba May 15**

TransCanada Pipeline officials on May 15 contacted police to investigate a section of its oil pipeline in the Rural Municipality of Grey, just north of Elm Creek, Manitoba, where an inspector noticed superficial damage to an above-ground portion of the oil pipeline. While not conclusive, the damage is suspected to have been caused by a bullet, according to a press release from officials investigating the incident. Initial investigation shows that the suspect was not near the pipe, but outside of the station's security fence. It is not clear whether this damage was done intentionally or not.

<http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/mb/news-nouvelles/2014/carman-pipeline-oleoduc-20140522-eng.htm>

## **Valero Restores Normal Operations at Its 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery May 25 after Light Ends Unit Malfunction Causes Flaring May 24**

Valero Energy Corp. reported a light ends unit malfunctioned on Saturday caused flaring from the west plant of its Corpus Christi refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. A disruption of the gas supply from a third-party provider triggered the malfunction, the filing said. Flaring continued until the following morning.

Reuters, 17:43 May 25, 2014

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=198770>

## **Operational Upset Causes Flaring at Shell's 156,400 b/d Martinez, California Refinery May 23**

Royal Dutch Shell Plc on Friday reported that an operational upset on an unspecified unit at its Martinez refinery had resulted in flaring. The refinery reported a compressor loss on Friday, according to a filing with state pollution regulators.

Reuters, 14:51 May 23, 2014

## **Lightning Strike Blamed for Fire in Two Oil Tank Batteries in Texas May 26**

A lightning strike reportedly caused two oil tank batteries to ignite in Pleasanton, Texas early Monday morning. Crews contained the fire and said they would let it burn itself out.

<http://www.ksat.com/news/firefighters-battling-reported-oil-tanker-fire-in-pleasanton/26170460>

## **Natural Gas**

---

### **Portions of Viking's 24-inch Natural Gas Pipeline Shut after Rupture in Minnesota May 26**

Viking Gas Transmission reported a rupture on its 24-inch mainline in Marshall County, Minnesota occurred Monday morning between mainline valves No. 2203 and 2204. Viking transports gas from Canada from TransCanada Corp's pipeline near Emerson, Manitoba, to serve local natural gas distribution companies in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. In an operating alert posted Tuesday morning, Viking reported it had isolated the affected line segment and would not allow any flow through this segment until repairs are made. Meters within the line segment that have been impacted include the cities of Argyle, Warren, and Thief River Falls in Minnesota. Receipt nominations for Emerson and St. Vincent for delivery past mainline valve 2203 will not be confirmed during this outage. Viking anticipates all firm deliveries at demand meters south of mainline valve 2204 will continue to be supplied during this outage. Viking requests shippers move their receipt point south of the mainline restriction for the duration of the outage. An assessment of the damage to Viking facilities is ongoing and a repair plan is being developed. Viking has a capacity of 500 MMcf/d, according to a U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission filing in 2012.

Reuters, 09:09 May 27, 2014

<http://www.vgt.nborder.com/>

### **Fire Damages Atlas Energy Natural Gas Compressor Station in Indiana May 23**

Atlas Energy LP reported a fire early Friday morning damaged a natural gas compressor station owned by a unit of the company in Widner Township in southwest Indiana, according to a spokesman. The company was investigating the cause of the fire, which was put out within an hour or so. The spokesman could not immediately say how much gas moves through the station each day or which pipeline system the plant feeds into; nor could he say when the compressor station would likely return to service or whether any gas was now stranded due to the fire.

Reuters, 14:28 May 23, 2014

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/fire-damages-atlas-energy-natgas-182829424.html>

### **Lightning Strike Shuts Southern Union's Keystone Gas Plant in Texas May 24**

Southern Union reported that lightning hit the amine rebiller Saturday morning, causing the amine treater to shut down and subsequently the entire plant shut in, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The filing said a final report would be made when repairs were complete.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=198772>

## Other News

---

Nothing to report

## International News

---

### Update: Colombia's 220,000 b/d Cano Limon-Covenas Oil Pipeline Restarts May 25

Ecopetrol reported it had restarted the 485-mile Cano Limon pipeline in Colombia on Sunday, upon completion of repairs. The pipeline had been shut since March 25, when it was damaged in an attack allegedly perpetrated by the country's second-largest rebel group, ELN. Repairs to the pipeline were delayed by subsequent bomb attacks and protests by the indigenous community. The shutdown forced the company to declare force majeure on at least 25 contracts. It is now expected to lift the force majeure clause on affected deliveries. The reopening of the pipeline will also enable U.S. oil company Occidental to restart pumping oil at the Cano Limon and Caricare fields, which use it to transport 67,000 b/d output.

Reuters, 12:06 May 26, 2014

<http://colombiareports.co/colombias-longest-oil-pipeline-restored-2-months-alleged-guerilla-attack>

### Libya Oil Guards' Protests Disrupt Operations at Hariga Port, Force Shutdown of Sarir Oilfield and Reduction at Messla Oilfield

A brigade from Libya's Petroleum Facilities Guard has been protesting at the country's Hariga port to demand salary payments and disrupting operations there, an official from state-run oil company AGOCO said on Tuesday. The official said the protest was interrupting work at the port, where full storage tanks have forced a stoppage of production at Sarir oilfield and a reduction at Messla oilfield. Port shutouts and other protests have cut Libya's output to 160,000 b/d from 1.4 million b/d the country was producing before the strikes and blockades began.

Reuters, 09:57 May 27, 2014

## Energy Prices

---

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
May 27, 2014			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b>			
<b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	104.81	102.90	93.97
<b>NATURAL GAS</b>			
<b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	4.38	4.51	4.15

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](http://www.eia.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html)

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM ET every Wednesday.

***Natural Gas Weekly Update*** from EIA

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

Updated after 2:00 PM ET every Thursday.

## **ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY**

*Energy Assurance Daily* provides a summary of public information concerning current energy issues. Published Monday through Friday to inform stakeholders of developments affecting energy systems, flows, and markets, it provides highlights of energy issues rather than a comprehensive coverage. *Energy Assurance Daily* is updated online Monday through Friday after 5:00 p.m. ET. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at:

<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

Please direct comments and questions to: [ead@oe.netl.doe.gov](mailto:ead@oe.netl.doe.gov)