



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, May 30, 2013

Electricity

FERC Directs NERC to Submit Reliability Standards to Protect Grid from Solar Flares

The U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has directed the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) to submit reliability standards that would help protect the power grid from failure in case of a major geomagnetic disturbance caused by solar flares. The FERC, under the direction of the Department of Energy and the Federal Power Act, asked the NERC to implement its directive in two parts. First, NERC has 6 months from the rule's effective date to submit "one or more reliability standards that require owners and operators of the bulk-power system to develop and implement operational procedures to mitigate the effects of geomagnetic disturbances consistent with the reliable operation of the bulk-power system." Second, NERC has 18 months to develop one or more reliability standards that require owners and operators of facilities connected to the power grid to conduct initial and on-going assessments of the potential impact of "benchmark" geomagnetic disturbances on their equipment and on the grid as a whole. The rule is effective July 22.

<http://www.courthousenews.com/2013/05/30/58039.htm>

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2013-05-23/html/2013-12141.htm>

Powerful Thunderstorms Cut Power to 45,000 National Grid Customers and More Than 1,000 NYSEG and RG&E Customers in New York May 29

Powerful thunderstorms pounded Syracuse and Central New York Wednesday night, cutting power to about 45,000 National Grid customers throughout the Capital Region. As of 3:30 p.m. EDT today, 14,243 National Grid customers remained without power. The utility hoped to fully restore power to affected customers by 11:00 p.m. tonight, but said it was still making assessments. New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) and Rochester Gas & Electric reported scattered outages Wednesday, including 665 NYSEG and RG&E customers in Cayuga County, and more than 400 NYSEG customers in Columbia County.

<https://www1.nationalgridus.com/PowerOutageMap-NY-RES>

<http://saratogian.com/articles/2013/05/30/news/doc51a742cb799d6806395845.txt>

<http://auburnpub.com/more-than-cayuga-county-residents-without-power-after-storm.html>

http://www.registerstar.com/news/article_8c2d134e-c8e7-11e2-b49f-0019bb2963f4.html

Update: OG&E Restores All Customers That Can Accept Power in Tornado-Damaged Areas of Oklahoma by May 29

Oklahoma Gas & Electric (OG&E) said it has nearly restored power to those customers in tornado-damaged areas that are able to accept electric service, local media reported Wednesday. A devastating 2-mile wide tornado cut power to more than 41,000 OG&E customers in Moore, Oklahoma and surrounding areas on May 20. As of 2:00 p.m. EDT today, the utility reported 1,891 customers remained without power, including 689 customers in Moore. The company has nearly 1,000 employees, contractors, and crews from neighboring utilities working to replace or repair nearly 1,000 structures. Line construction efforts will continue in the weeks ahead to return the OG&E system to normal operating conditions.

<http://www.elp.com/articles/2013/05/og-e-tornado-restoration-nears-completion.html>

Penelec Continues Vegetation Management Work to Enhance System Reliability in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania Electric Company (Penelec) on Wednesday reported it continues to conduct vegetation management work across its service area in Pennsylvania as part of its ongoing efforts to help enhance system reliability. To date, Penelec tree contractors have trimmed more than 1,500 circuit miles of electric lines, with an additional 3,000 expected to be completed by year end.

https://www.firstenergycorp.com/content/fecorp/newsroom/news_releases/penelec-continues-vegetation-management-work-to-enhance-system-r.html

Update: Constellation's 1,120 MW Nine Mile Point Nuclear Unit 2 in New York Ramped Up to 79 Percent by May 30

Constellation cut output on its Nine Mile Point Unit 2 to 65 percent on Wednesday to carry out maintenance on a feedwater system and control rods, a spokeswoman said. While the unit is operating at reduced rates, operators were planning to remove a pump from service to investigate abnormal indications on a water-level control valve. The company has not said how long it expects the maintenance to continue.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-05-29/dominion-reactor-shutdown-sends-u-s-nuclear-output-lower.html?cmpid=yhoo>

Update: Exelon's 619 MW Oyster Creek Nuclear Unit in New Jersey at Full Power by May 30

Exelon cut output at Oyster Creek to 70 percent on Wednesday while operators made repairs to a water flow regulator valve, a spokeswoman said.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-05-29/dominion-reactor-shutdown-sends-u-s-nuclear-output-lower.html?cmpid=yhoo>

Update: Constellation's 835 MW Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Unit 2 in Maryland Ramped Up to 91 Percent by May 30

Calvert Cliffs Unit 2 is returning from an outage that began May 21, when operators tripped the reactor from full power after the No. 22 steam generator feed pump exhibited high vibrations and signs of coupling damage.

Operators restarted the unit by May 23.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

Update: Progress Energy's 872 MW Brunswick Nuclear Unit 1 in North Carolina Restarts by May 29, Ramps Up to 60 Percent by May 30

Brunswick 1 is returning from an outage that began by May 18. On the morning of May 29 the unit was operating at 9 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

FPL's 839 MW Saint Lucie Nuclear Unit 2 in Florida Reduced to 88 Percent by May 30

On the morning of May 29 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

NRG's 320 MW Etiwanda Natural Gas-Fired Unit 3 in California Shut by May 29

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201305291515.html>

Petroleum

Delek Restarts SRU and SCOT Unit after Unexpected Operational Snag at Its Tyler, Texas Refinery May 28

Delek US Holdings reported it was restarting a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) and a shell claus offgas treatment (SCOT) unit after an unexpected operational fluctuation at its Tyler refinery Tuesday night, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The incident led to excess sulfur dioxide emissions from the No. 1 Boiler Flare, the No. 2 Cat Flare, the SRU 1/2 incinerator, the SRU 1/2 Tail Gas Incinerator, and the Sulfur Recover Plant.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=183361>

Shell Reports Leak on Light Naphtha Pump at Its 270,000 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery May 29

Royal Dutch Shell Plc reported a release of materials due to a seal leak on a light naphtha pump at its Norco refinery Wednesday morning, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were cleaning up the liquid and monitoring the air around the area.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1048602

Chevron Discovers Line Dripping Gasoline at Its 330,000 b/d Pascagoula, Mississippi Refinery May 30

Reuters, 00:12 May 30, 2013

Valero Plans to Build Rail Offloading Facility at Its 265,000 b/d Quebec, Montreal Refinery and Expand Montreal East Facility to Bring In More Western Canadian Crude

Valero Energy Corp. on Wednesday said it plans to build a rail offloading facility at its Jean Gaulin refinery in Levis, Quebec, and expand the terminal at its Montreal East facility, to enable the Gaulin refinery to process more Western Canadian crude if Enbridge Inc. proceeds with its plan to reverse its 300,000 b/d Line 9B crude oil pipeline to bring western oil to Montreal. Valero would process more light, sweet Western Canadian crude, which is less expensive than imports. The Jean Gaulin refinery currently receives all its crude by ship, mostly from foreign sources, but also a limited amount via Valero's license to ship Eagle Ford crude from its Texas operations to Quebec. Valero intends to move more crude by rail in both the U.S. and Canada, and expects to have its own fleet of more than 12,000 rail cars by 2015.

Reuters, 18:02 May 29, 2013

Update: ExxonMobil on Target to Complete 110,000 b/d Expansion at Its Kearl Oilsands Project in Alberta by 2015

ExxonMobil Corp. said work to expand its Kearl oilsands project in Alberta is 30 percent complete and remains on target for startup in 2015. The company brought the first phase of the project online late last month. Production of mined diluted bitumen from the first of three froth treatment trains began late last month. Startup of two additional bitumen froth trains will proceed in sequence as planned, bringing production from the initial development to an expected 110,000 b/d later in 2013. The expansion project will bring on an additional 110,000 b/d of bitumen production. ExxonMobil plans for Kearl to have a production capacity of approximately 345,000 b/d by about 2020. http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/126762/ExxonMobil_Kearl_Oil_Sands_Project_Remains_On_Target

Natural Gas

Nothing to report.

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Iraq Says It Averted al Qaeda Tanker Truck Attack on Major Oil Facility in Baghdad

Iraq averted an al Qaeda plot to attack a key Baghdad oil facility, a senior security official and oil sources said. Saboteurs had planned to pack explosives into tankers transporting crude oil from southern Basra oilfields to the main oil storage depots inside the major oil facility of Baghdad, where the bombs would be detonated. The security official declined to name the facility because the investigation was ongoing but oil ministry officials said the security forces were on high alert following a series of recent attacks on the Kirkuk-Ceyhan export pipeline in northern Iraq. A senior anti-terrorism official said a key local leader of al Qaeda who organized the plan had been arrested.

Reuters, 09:26 May 30, 2013

Pemex Reports Normal Operations at Its 330,000 b/d Salina Cruz, Mexico Refinery after Hurricane Barbara Hits Southern Mexico May 29

State-owned Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) reported normal operations at its 330,000 b/d Salina Cruz, Mexico refinery after Hurricane Barbara hit the country's southern Pacific coast on Wednesday. The storm was at one point just 80 miles east of the port of Salina Cruz in Oaxaca state before it began to weaken and move north-northeast. The U.S. National Hurricane Center said the storm had weakened Thursday to a Tropical Depression.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/05/29/mexico-barbara-idUSL2N0EA11X20130529>

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/sns-rt-us-mexico-barbarabre94t0ns-20130530.0.5387797.story>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
May 30, 2013			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	93.74	94.54	87.83
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.15	4.10	2.50

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 & 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

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

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