



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, June 17, 2011

Electricity

Fire at Puget Sound Energy Electrical Substation Results in 25,000 Customer Outages in Redmond, Kirkland and Woodinville, Washington on June 16

As much as 15,000 gallons of mineral oil that filled the 10-year-old transformer caught fire at around 12:20 pm Thursday. PSE also shut down two other transformers in the area as a precaution. A PSE spokesperson indicated the cause of the fire was still under investigation. No injuries have been reported. 1,500 customers were without power as of mid-Thursday afternoon and currently no customers remain without power in the PSE service area as of 4:00 pm.

<http://sam.pse.com/TextView2.aspx>

<http://www.seattlepi.com/local/sound/article/Electrical-substation-fire-causes-25-000-power-1427690.php>

<http://bellevue.patch.com/articles/explosion-reported-at-puget-sound-energy-substation>

<http://www.seattlepi.com/local/komo/article/Electrical-substation-burns-in-Redmond-1427460.php>

Storms Knock Out Power for About 18,000 Alabama Power Customers in Mobile County, Alabama on June 16

Heavy rain and hail pounded Mobile County for about an hour, flooding the central portion of the city of Mobile. According to Alabama Power, there were 30 customers without power at around 10:15 pm Thursday night.

<http://twitter.com/#!/alabamapower>

http://www.wkrg.com/alabama/article/street-flooding-power-outages-in-mobile/1207675/Jun-16-2011_4-39-pm/

Update: Utilities Make Progress in Restoring Power to the 360,000 Customers Left Without Power from Thunderstorms in the U.S. South June 15

Powerful storms passed through Georgia, the Carolinas, and Florida the evening of June 15, with high winds, lightning, and rainstorms that downed many trees and power lines.

- Georgia Power reports 1,165 customers are without power in Georgia as of 2:00 pm Friday, down from a peak of 150,000 June 15.
- Duke Energy reports 7,655 North Carolina customers are without power as of 4:00 pm Friday, down from 29,200 at 9:45 pm June 15. Duke Energy also reports 148 South Carolina customers are without power as of 4:00 pm Friday, down from 41,077 at 8:30 pm June 15.
- South Carolina Electric & Gas reports 14 customers without power in South Carolina as of 4:00 pm Friday, down from a peak of 10,264 June 15.

Georgia Power: <http://twitter.com/#!/georgiapower>

South Carolina Electric & Gas Co: <http://www.sceg.com/en/storm-center/outage-map/>,

http://www.thetandd.com/news/local/article_c05bdae4-986d-11e0-ab0a-001cc4c03286.html

Duke Energy: <http://www.duke-energy.com/south-carolina-business/outages/current.asp#outagedata>,

http://www.smokymountainnews.com/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=4220

Update: Dominion's 815 MW Surry Nuclear Unit 2 in Virginia Ramped Up to 30 Percent by June 17

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of June 16 the unit was operating at 2 percent. A tornado on April 16 forced units 1 and 2 offline. The unit 1 nuclear reactor was restarted after the tornado and has been running at full power.

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/b38a46f665554021bf7d9a19ae3f2188/VA--Power-Plant-Restart/>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: FirstEnergy's 1,235 MW Perry Nuclear Unit 1 in Ohio at Full Power by June 17

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of June 16 the unit was operating at 84 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Faulty Reactor Requires Electrostatic Precipitator Transformer Rectifier to be De-Energized at, Luminant's 2,379 MW Martin Lake Coal-fired Plant in Texas on June 16

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=155748>

Update: AES's 225 MW Huntington Beach Gas-Fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by June 16

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

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201106161515.html>

Calpine's 561 MW Los Medanos Energy Center Aggregate Gas-Fired Unit in California Shut by June 16

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage on June 16.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201106161515.html>

Duke's 756 MW Moss Landing Unit 7 Gas-Fired Unit in California Reduced by June 16

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 300 MW on June 16.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201106161515.html>

Associated Press Investigation Indicates Radioactive Tritium Has Leaked from 75 Percent of U.S. Commercial Nuclear Power Sites

The report notes that the number and severity of the leaks has been escalating and leaks from at least 37 of the investigated facilities contained concentrations exceeding the federal drinking water standard. Some sites have had levels hundreds of times greater than the limit. Most leaks are contained within the plant boundaries, though some have affected areas offsite. None of the leaks have reached public water supplies.

<http://gazettenet.com/2011/06/17/75-percent-of-nuke-sites-have-leaked-tritium>

Update: FERC Approves Duke Energy's Request to Build 20 Mile-long Natural Gas Pipeline to its 560 MW Gallagher Coal-Fired Power Plant in Indiana June 15

The pipeline would allow the company to convert half the generation units at the Gallagher plant from coal to gas. The 20-inch-diameter pipeline will connect the Texas Gas Transmission's mainline facilities to the power plant.

Duke must convert the Gallagher plant to gas by December 31, 2012, or it must retire the units. A Duke spokeswoman has indicated the pipeline is a backup plan in case regulators do not approve Duke's current plan to retire the two units.

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/Coal/6191872>

Baryonyx Corporation Submits Applications to the US Army Corps of Engineers for Three Offshore Wind Farms Totaling 3 GW in South Texas by June 16

The wind farms are planned to be built on more than 60,000 acres of submerged land leased by the Texas General Land Office. Once completed, the wind farms combined could generate enough electricity to power around 1.2 million homes.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/even-green-energy-wind-farms-are-bigger-in-texas-124034984.html>

EnXco's 110 MW Catalina Solar Project and 140 MW Pacific Wind Project Under Development Will Supply Power to San Diego Gas & Electric

The Catalina Solar project will be capable of generating of 50 MW by the end of 2012 and the remaining 60 MW will begin commercial operation in June 2013. The 140 MW Pacific Wind Project is planned to begin operating in the summer of 2012.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/sdgc-adds-more-than-235-mw-of-solar-power-to-its-renewable-portfolio-124002519.html>

Southern Company's 2,200 MW Expansion Project at Vogtle Nuclear Plant Likely to be Delayed: Georgia Public Service Commission Official

The project risks overrunning its \$6.1 billion budget and could also miss critical deadlines, such its planned commercial operation dates scheduled for 2016 and 2017. Southern Company is experiencing delays in receiving Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) approval of the Westinghouse AP 1000 reactor design. Delays with vendors are also contributing to the project setbacks.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303499204576390092809767506.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

Petra Solar Completes Installations of 20 MW of the total 40 MW of Solar Panels and Smart Grid Technology on Utility Poles in New Jersey by June 17

Petra Solar is installing 1,200 225-watt solar panels weekly under a contract with the Public Service Enterprise Group Inc. and has installed about half of the planned 40 MW of solar power in six cities and 300 rural and suburban communities. The installed panels generate enough electricity to power 3,250 homes. PSE&G obtained approval for the solar panels in 2009 through the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities.

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/petra-solar-turns-cities-into-sun-power-farms-2011-06-16?pagenumber=2>

Petroleum

Hydrogen Sulfide Released Due to Sulfur Recovery Unit Failure at Frontier's 130,000 b/d El Dorado, Kansas Refinery June 15

The Company is shutting down the sulfur recovery unit to make repairs.
Reuters, 00:08 June 17, 2011

Update: Valero Expects Operations at its 287,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery to Return to Normal by June 18-19

The coker unit was shut due to a lightning strike and power outage June 6. The crude unit at the site has been operating at reduced rates since the incident occurred.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110616-712081.html>

Natural Gas

New Jersey Natural Gas Submits Filing with State Regulators Requesting Approval for Construction of Compressed Natural Gas Vehicle Refueling Stations in Monmouth, Ocean and Morris Counties in New Jersey June 16

The utility plans to invest up to \$15 million in the project to help the state achieve its goals in the draft Energy Master Plan. Upon approval, the utility could begin construction immediately, but no later than December 31, 2012.

<http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/11/0616/2054/>

Other News

Department of Energy Awards Calisolar Inc. \$275 Million Conditional Loan Guarantee for 16,000 tons/yr Solar Silicon Factory in Ontario, Ohio June 16

The facility will produce "silicon for solar cells at half the cost of existing production facilities" and at full production, the site will produce enough solar silicon to build "more than two gigawatts of solar power generation per year -- enough to light up 800,000 homes."

<http://www.energy.gov/news/10376.htm>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-06-16/calisolar-awarded-275-million-loan-guarantee-for-silicon-plant.html>

<http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/business/stories/2011/06/16/thousand-solar-jobs-coming-to-mansfield-area.html?sid=101>

Update: Department of Energy to Announce Award of \$150 Million Loan Guarantee to 1366 Technologies for Development of Solar Cell Silicon Wafers June 17

The company has developed a new way to make inexpensive silicon wafers for solar cells. The company plans to use a portion of the loaned funds to build a factory. One of the company's customers has indicated that "1366's innovations will fundamentally change solar manufacturing."

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/17/business/energy-environment/17guarantee.html?_r=2&src=busln
http://www.boston.com/business/technology/articles/2011/06/17/150m_loan_lets_solar_firm_think_big/
<http://www.1366tech.com/v2/press-releases-news-96/113-1366-raises-20m-series-b-financing-round>
<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/10/19/a-cheaper-route-to-solar-cells/>

On June 16 U.S. Senate Voted 73-27 to Eliminate the \$5 Billion Annual Subsidy for Ethanol

In addition to the subsidy elimination, the Senate also repealed the 54 cent-a-gallon tariff on ethanol imports. The amendment is attached to the Economic Development and Revitalization Act which has been reported to have little change of winning the Senate's approval.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110617/ap_on_bi_ge/us_ethanol_tax_credits;_ylt=Apel7PmEup3j0..te6hBmyJI2ocA;_ylu=X3oDMTJ0cHJhcTF2BGFzc2V0A2FwLzIwMTEwNjE3L3VzX2V0aGFub2xfdGF4X2NyZWVpdHMEcG9zAzE1BHNIYwN5bl9wYWdpbmF0ZV9zdW1tYXJ5X2xpc3QEc2xrA3NlbnF0ZXZvdGVzdA--
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-06-16/senate-votes-to-end-tax-break-for-ethanol.html>
http://www.washingtonpost.com/business/economy/senate-approves-cut-in-ethanol-subsidies-votes-for-feinstein-amendment/2011/06/16/AGwrfhXH_story.html

Fire at Twentymile Coal Mine Electrical Substation Shuts Down Mining Operations and Results in Outages for Yampa Valley Electric Association Customers on June 14

Officials worked to fix the blown transformer after fire crews extinguished the fire at 9:30 p.m. Tuesday evening. It is unknown when mining operations might resume. It is suspected that an animal climbed into the transformer equipment, resulting in the fire. Yampa Valley Electric Association's power lines in the area were tripped due to the fire, but power has been restored to customers in the area.

<http://www.craigdailypress.com/news/2011/jun/15/power-outage-shuts-down-mining-operations-twentymi/>

70 Security Agencies Perform Daylong Exercise in Ohio to Enhance Preparedness Against Terrorist Attacks on Gas Pipelines, Power Plants, and Transportation System on June 15

400 security and law enforcement officers from Ohio, Kentucky and West Virginia took part in the training exercise that covered 5,000 square miles of dams, gas-compressor stations for gas pipelines, and power plants. Agencies utilized Black Hawk helicopters, bomb-sniffing dogs, and other resources to ensure that current security strategies will keep infrastructure safe in the event of a terrorist attack.

http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2011/06/15/law-agencies-collaborate-in-anti-terrorism-training.html?sid=101

Corsa Coal's Coal Preparation Plant near Somerset, Pennsylvania Commences Operations June 16

The plant is currently producing low volatile coking coal and the first train shipments from the site are planned to start in July 2011. The plant has a name plate capacity of 400 raw tons of coal an hour and at full capacity the plant has the ability to produce up to 1.8 to 2 million clean tons of metallurgical coal each year. Processing of coal from the plant surface mine will start in July 2011 and processing of coal from the nearby Hastings surface mine will begin in September 2011.

http://www.marketwatch.com/story/corsa-coal-wash-plant-commences-operating-2011-06-16?reflink=MW_news_stmp

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
June 17, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	92.05	99.40	76.38
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.54	4.92	5.13

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Storms Knock Out Power to Over 15,000 Customers in Central Virginia, Northern Maryland and the District of Columbia June 16 – 777 Dominion Virginia Power and PEPCO Customers Remain Without Power 1:00 pm June 17

<http://www.pepco.com/home/emergency/maps/stormcenter/>

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

http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/post_now/post/storms-cause-thousands-to-lose-power/2011/06/16/AGe4yDYH_blog.html

Shutting Down Nuclear Power Plants Will Have Significant Economic and Environmental Consequences: Carnegie Mellon Report

http://www.cmu.edu/news/archive/2011/June/june17_nuclearplants.shtml

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/shutting-down-us-nuclear-plants-would-have-daunting-effect-on-economy-and-environment-says-carnegie-mellon-expert-124067744.html>

Bad Gasoline at Stations along the I-95 Corridor from Guilford to Fairfield, Connecticut Suspected to be Received from Terminal in New Haven

<http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/news/business/conn-cars-being-damaged-by-bad-gasoline>

Auto Collision Damages Switch Gear Hardware Resulting in Outages near San Vitores Substation in Guam on June 17

http://www.pacificnewscenter.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14938:auto-collision-damages-gpa-switch-gear-causes-outage-in-parts-of-tamuning&catid=45:guam-news&Itemid=156

U.S. Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Announces New Start Date of Regulations to Improve Management of Pipeline Control Rooms June 15 – New Procedures Target Training Improvements, Mitigation of Employee Fatigue

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=26946

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 EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://www.eia.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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