



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, June 21, 2011

Electricity

Willow Fire Threatens Two APS 345 kV Electric Power Lines in Arizona June 21

The Willow fire, not to be confused with the still-burning large Wallow fire, is currently burning on 305 acres near Bear Lake on the Sitgreaves side of the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests on the Black Mesa Ranger District in Arizona. The human-caused fire, which started burning on June 19, is currently ten percent contained. Firefighters are working to prevent the fire from spreading to two nearby Arizona Public Service company 345 kV electric power lines. Some roads have been closed due to the fire, which is moving in a northeasterly direction.

<http://www.inciweb.org/incident/2346/>

<http://www.paysonroundup.com/news/2011/jun/21/crews-fight-rim-wildfire/>

<http://www.azein.gov/azein/Lists/Announcements/DispForm.aspx?ID=1809&Source=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.azein.gov%2Fazein%2Fdefault.aspx>

http://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet!/ut/p/c4/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os3gDfxMDT8MwRydLA1cj72BTfXdjAwjQL8h2VAQAlu7VZA!!/?ss=110301&navtype=TOPNAVIGATION&cid=6846&navid=12000000000000&pnavid=null&position=Alerts&tttype=alerts&pname=Apache%20and%20Sitgreaves%20National%20Forests-%20Alerts%20&%20Notices

Update: Several Thousand Navopache Electric Customers Still Without Power in Arizona as the Wallow Fire Advances Toward TEP and EPE 345 kV Transmission Lines June 21

According to recent reports, the Wallow fire is burning at low intensities, and light winds are allowing firefighters to make progress slowing the fire's advance towards transmission lines owned by Tucson Electric Power (TEP) and El Paso Electric (EPE). One portion of the fire is just three quarters of a mile from two TEP transmission lines; the fire has also advanced to within 13 miles El Paso Electric's 345 kV transmission line near Springerville, Arizona. Firefighters used bulldozers on June 20 to scrape away vegetation and create a containment line around 75 to 100 acres of burning forest. Parts of Navopache Electric's service territory remains without power in order to protect the safety of firefighters. The fire, which is estimated to be 56 percent contained, is the largest in Arizona history at approximately 519,319 acres.

<http://www.navopache.org/>

<http://www.epelectric.com/about-el-paso-electric/article/update-arizona-wildfires-june-20-2011>

<http://hken.ibtimes.com/articles/166583/20110621/arizona-wallow-fire-56-contained-grows-to-520-000-acres-and-may-trigger-flooding.htm>

<http://www.inciweb.org/incident/2262/>

http://www.pnm.com/customers/az_fire_concerns_06-9-2011.htm?source-graphic060911

Thunderstorms Leave 47,000 Oncor Customers in the Dark in Texas June 21

At least two people were hurt as thunderstorms and strong winds swept through Texas. Oncor reported a peak of 47,000 customers without power. As of latest reports, 16,881 customers are still waiting to be restored.

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

<http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/ap/tx/7619677.html>

Constellation's 835 MW Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Unit 2 in Maryland Reduced to 25 Percent by June 21

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of June 20 the unit was operating at full power. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Dominion's 871 MW Millstone Nuclear Unit 2 in Connecticut Shut June 20

According to a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), operators initiated a manual reactor trip at the unit following the loss of the "B" main feedwater pump on June 20. The NRC reported that on the morning of June 20 the unit was operating at 30 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20110621en.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: Dominion's 815 MW Surry Nuclear Unit 2 in Virginia Shut by June 21

A tornado on April 16 forced units 1 and 2 offline. Unit 1 was restarted after the tornado and has been running at full power, while unit 2 remained shut due to a claim of asbestos exposure. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of June 20 the unit was operating at 94 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Reliant's 775 MW Ormond Beach Gas-Fired Unit 2 in California Reduced by June 20

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment by 375 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201106201515.html>

NRG's 864 MW Limestone Coal-Fired Unit 2 in Texas Shutting Down June 20-22

According to a filing with state regulators, the unit is going offline to repair a hydrogen leak in the generator.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=155893>

Alternate Energy Holdings Receives Rezoning Approval to Build 2,800 MW Idaho Energy Complex Nuclear Plant in Payette County, Idaho by June 20

The company hopes to begin commercial operations at the plant in 2018.

<http://www.alternateenergyholdings.com/news/06202011.aspx>

http://www.alternateenergyholdings.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=Rz_tj-a23gY%3d&tabid=7233

CPS Energy Plans to Decommission 871 MW JT Deely Coal-Fired Power Plant in San Antonio, Texas by 2018

The company announced plans on June 20 to shut the two-unit facility, which has operated since the 1970s, due to the prospect of stricter federal pollution regulations. The Deely facility was originally set to be retired in 2030, but the company decided to shutter it rather than install costly scrubbers to decrease emissions. American Electric Power (AEP) also reported earlier this month that it plans to retire one of three units at its Welsh coal-fired power plant in Texas as part of its plans to retire nearly 6,000 MW of coal-fired generation across the U.S. in anticipation of stricter environmental regulations. It is not clear which unit AEP plans to retire – unit 1 has a capacity of 558 MW, while units 2 and 3 each have a capacity of 528 MW.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/San-Antonio-coal-plant-to-be-apf-71946223.html?x=0&.v=2>

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN1E75J24420110620?pageNumber=2&virtualBrandChannel=0>

Power Outage Impacts Emergency Response Systems at FirstEnergy's 1,235 MW Perry Nuclear Unit 1 in Ohio June 20

According to a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, an unplanned power outage led to the unavailability of the Safety Parameter Display System (SPDS), the Emergency Response Data System (ERDS), and the automatic mode calculation of the Computer Aided Dose Assessment Program (CADAP). A preliminary investigation revealed indicated that the power loss was caused by a "spurious high temperature alarm."

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20110621en.html>

Petroleum

Update: BP Restarting Gasoline-Making FCCU-1 at 437,080 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery Following Maintenance Work June 20-21

According to a filing with state regulators, the company planned to restart the fluid catalytic cracking unit 1 (FCCU-1) from June 20-26. BP previously reported that the unit's electrostatic precipitator stack tripped offline due to an equipment malfunction on June 13.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=155747>

Grass Fire Causes Power Outage, Flaring at Alon USA's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery June 20

The company will start up all affected units "in a short period of time."

DJN, 09:03 June 21, 2011

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=155903>

Update: Mid-March Oil Pipeline Blast Has Cost Yemen \$1 Billion in Revenues

According to a senior official on June 21, the country has lost almost \$1 billion in revenue since the pipeline was damaged by the blast, cutting off the supply of oil from Maarib province to the export terminal at Ras Isa on the Red Sea. Tribesmen were blamed for causing the explosion as part of their attempts to oust the country's president, though tribal sources denied that they were responsible. Due to conflict between the government and the opposition, there is no firm timeframe for fixing the pipeline, which normally carries half of the country's 260,000 b/d of oil production.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/international-news/yemen-losses-near-1-billion-after-pipeline-blast/article2069066/>

Natural Gas

Update: PG&E Agrees to Pay \$26 Million Fine for December 24, 2008 Natural Gas Explosion in Rancho Cordova, California

Regulators announced on June 20 that Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) will both pay the fine and acknowledge safety violations in the deadly natural gas explosion destroyed one home in a Sacramento suburb, killing one and injuring five others. Investigators found that PG&E installed the incorrect pipe during a 2006 repair job. PG&E agreed that it installed inadequate, unauthorized pipes, and that the company's response to the leak was "unreasonably delayed and not effective."

<http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?id=8202422§ion=news/local/peninsula>

Texas Governor Signs Fracking Fluid Chemical Disclosure Law

The law represents the first rule requiring that oil and natural gas producers disclose the chemicals that are mixed with sand and water and pumped into wells as part of the hydraulic fracturing (fracking) process. However, companies will still be able to keep some chemicals undisclosed to protect trade secrets. The law will go into effect in 2013.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/blog/2011/06/perry-signs-fracking-disclosure-law.html>

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2011/06/20/texas-fracking-law/>

<http://www.chron.com/dispatch/story.mpl/business/energy/7589685.html>

Other News

Bionol Clearfield's 110 MMGal/Yr. Clearfield, Pennsylvania Corn-to-Ethanol Plant to Temporarily Shut for Economic Reasons

The Clearfield plant opened in early 2010. The company will temporarily idle the plant due to rising corn costs and flat prices for ethanol. It is not clear when the plant will restart.

<http://www.centredaily.com/2011/06/21/2788918/ethanol-plant-to-shut-for-summer.html>

<http://www.wjactv.com/news/28239568/detail.html>

U.S. Supreme Court Says Only EPA, Not Courts, Can Regulate Greenhouse Gases June 20

Six states, New York City, and other plaintiffs had argued that greenhouse gases constituted a public nuisance under federal common law, and requested that a federal court order four private companies and the Tennessee Valley Authority to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from their power plants. However, in *American Electric Power Co. v. Connecticut*, the Supreme Court ruled the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has sole authority to regulate emissions of greenhouse gases.

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2011/06/20/20greenwire-high-court-blocks-states-lawsuit-over-coal-pla-60218.html>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/06/21/science/earth/21warming.html>

Pipeline Operators and Trade Organizations Funded and Influenced PHMSA's Pipeline Safety Studies: Hearst Newspapers Investigation

According to a news report published on June 19, Hearst Newspapers found that pipeline operators and their trade organizations have "enormous influence" over the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration's (PHMSA) pipeline safety studies. Two thirds of the PHMSA's 174 safety studies of land-based pipelines in the past decade were partially funded by pipeline operators. More than half (89) were paid for with funding from five industry trade organizations which perform lobbying on behalf of the pipeline industry.

<http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/local/article/Pipeline-industry-influences-safety-research-1431183.php#ixzz1PvIMqMa3>

Interior Secretary Salazar Extends Temporary Moratorium on New Uranium Mining in 1 Million Acres of Public Land near Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona for Another Six Months

The temporary moratorium started July 21, 2009 and now goes through January 21, 2012. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is currently underway to analyze a proposed withdrawal of these lands for 20 years. The EIS is expected to be completed in the fall of 2011.

<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/Secretary-Salazars-Remarks-from-Mather-Point-at-the-Rim-of-the-Grand-Canyon.cfm>

http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/upload/06-20-11_Grand_Canyon_fact_sheet_correct.pdf

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
June 21, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	93.10	99.00	74.49
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.37	4.59	5.17

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

OPPD Says 11,600 Nebraska Customers Lose Power Due to High Winds June 20-21 – 300 Remain in the Dark as of Latest Reports

<http://oppdstorminfo.blogspot.com/2011/06/storm-cleanup-june-21-2011.html>

<http://ww3.oppd.com/pom/Default.aspx>

TransCanada Completes 192-Mile, 30-Inch, 820 MMcf/d Guadalajara Natural Gas Pipeline in Mexico June 20

<http://www.transcanada.com/5776.html>

ConocoPhillips Reports Upset, Flaring at Coker Unit at 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery June 21

Reuters, 11:04 June 21, 2011

ExxonMobil Reports Furnace Failure at 234,000 b/d Joliet, Illinois Refinery by June 21 – Furnace Will Be Shut Down for Repairs

DJN, 10:59 June 21, 2011

Update: BP's 475,000 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery "Substantially Restored" June 21 after Averaging Half Capacity for the Quarter Following April 25 Power Outage – Operators Expect to Hit Full Rates in August

<http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFL3E7HL2IM20110621>

Westinghouse Electric to Begin Shipping First Fuel for New U.S. Nuclear Reactor in 15 Years – TVA Will Receive and Store the Fuel for its Proposed 1,180 MW Watts Bar Nuclear Unit 2 in Tennessee

<http://westinghousenuclear.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=276>

Two Workers Hospitalized Following Fire at Southcross Energy Natural Gas Processing Plant near Gregory, Texas June 18 – Company Begins Investigation into Cause

<http://www.caller.com/news/2011/jun/18/gregory-natural-gas-plant-fire-hospitalizes-two/>

PHMSA Says New Pipeline Control Room Safety Regulations Will Go into Effect 16 Months Earlier than Planned

<http://ohsonline.com/articles/2011/06/18/new-rules-coming-for-pipeline-control-rooms.aspx?admgarea=news>

Driver Killed After Tanker Truck Filled with Fuel Overturns and Catches Fire near Calumet, Oklahoma June 17

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/20efcf0877824df0921c3b1d18be8750/OK--Fatal-Tanker-Accident/>

FTC to Investigate Whether Oil & Gas Companies Engaged in Anti-Competitive Behavior, Manipulative Practices, or Provided False Information to Federal Officials June 20

<http://thehill.com/images/stories/blogs/energy/ftc.pdf>

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/167411-federal-trade-commission-opens-probe-of-possible-oil-market-manipulation>

Underground Fueling Pipeline Spills 1,500 Gallons of Diesel in California June 20 – Kinder Morgan Pipeline in the Area May Be to Blame

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/MALHaz.nsf/f1841a103c102734882563e200760c4a/b3c5098bff5d3fcd882578b5005b3cb0?OpenDocument>

AGI Units #1 and #2 Shut, Restart Due to High First Stage Temperature Shutdown at Tilden Gas Plant in Texas June 20

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=155891>

Equipment Failure Forces Boyd C-21 Unit to Shut at Boyd Compressor Station in Texas June 20

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=155901>

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

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. EST. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at:
<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

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