



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

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, July 17, 2009

## ***Electricity***

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### **Severe Thunderstorm Knocks Out Power to More than 38,000 National Grid Customers in New York July 16**

Strong winds and hail caused damage to a major transmission line, knocking out power to customers during the afternoon of July 16. By the afternoon of July 17, National Grid New York reported power had been restored to all but 3 customers.

<https://www1.nationalgridus.com/niagaramohawk/storm/OutagesByCounty.aspx>

<http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=820890>

<http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=820668&category=REGION>

### **Strong Thunderstorms Knock Out Power to Nearly 30,000 Oklahoma Gas & Electric Customers in Oklahoma July 16**

Most of the outages were in the Oklahoma City metro area. According to the company website, 3,056 customers remain without power as of the afternoon July 17.

<http://public.oge.com/systemwatch/>

<http://www.kten.com/Global/story.asp?S=10742585>

<http://www.newson6.com/Global/story.asp?S=10742839>

<http://www.newson6.com/Global/story.asp?S=10740894>

### **Update: Exelon's 619 MW Oyster Creek Nuke Unit in New Jersey Ramped Up to 72 Percent by July 17**

The unit shut on July 12 due to the loss of offsite power caused by a severe electrical storm. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of July 16 the unit was not operating.

Reuters, 07:49 July 17, 2009

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

### **Cabrillo Power's 104 MW Encina Gas-fired Unit 2 in California Shut by July 16**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage by July 16.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200907161515.html>

### **Southwestern Public Service Company's 360 MW Harrington Coal-fired Unit 1 in Texas Shut on July 17**

According to a filing with state regulators, the unit is shutting down the afternoon of July 17 to repair a tube leak.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=126823>

### **NRG's 893 MW Limestone Coal-fired Unit 1 in Texas Returns to Service Following Trip on July 16**

According to a filing with state regulators, the unit shutdown July 16 due to the trip of a boiler feed pump but returned to service later on the same day.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=126881>

## **Delmarva Power Seeking \$93 Million in Federal Stimulus Funds from DOE for Smart Grid Technology in Delaware and Maryland**

The utility is seeking federal grants totaling \$93 million (\$53 million for Delaware and \$40 million for Maryland) to help cover the cost of advanced metering infrastructure, distribution automation, and direct load control equipment in its service territories.

<http://www.delmarva.com/welcome/news/releases/archives/2009/article.aspx?cid=1213>

## **Update: NRC Investigates Recent Oyster Creek Shutdown in New Jersey**

On July 16, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission started a special investigation into an emergency shutdown of Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, which shut down over the weekend of July 11-12 when severe thunderstorms knocked out power to the area. A regional administrator with the Commission said in a statement that the performance of humans and machines during the outage need to be looked into more closely. Oyster Creek got a new 20 year license in April. It will be 60 years old when this license expires. The NRC plans to issue a report on its findings within 45 days of the completion of the special inspection.

[http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/state/new\\_jersey/20090716\\_ap\\_nrclaunchspecialprobeofoystercreekoutage.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/state/new_jersey/20090716_ap_nrclaunchspecialprobeofoystercreekoutage.html)

## ***Petroleum***

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### **Update: Total Restarting Unit at its 232,000 b/d Port Arthur, Refinery July 17**

According to a filing with state regulators, Total Petrochemicals is restarting unit 810 at its Port Arthur refinery. The restart is expected to last 24 hours.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=126917>

Reuters, 20:25 July 16, 2009

### **Shell Considers Staff Cuts at its Refineries and Chemical Plants Located in U.S. Gulf Coast as Measure to Reduce Costs during Recession**

Shell Oil said on Thursday it was considering staff cuts at its refineries and chemical plants located throughout the Gulf Coast of the U.S. as the company tries to reduce costs during the economic recession. Among the plants where reductions are being considered are the refineries Shell operates jointly with Saudi Aramco as well as its Deer Park refinery operated jointly with Pemex. A spokesperson for Shell said the company has no plans to sell any of its refineries contrary to industry rumors.

Reuters, 00:52 July 17, 2009

### **Update: No Estimate for Return to Service Date for Crude Unit its 185,000 b/d St. Charles, Louisiana Refinery, Valero Says**

Valero said July 17 it has no estimate for when a crude unit would return to service at its St. Charles refinery following a fire in early June.

Reuters, 10:30 July 17, 2009

### **Update: No Estimate for Return to Service Date for Crude Unit, FCC Unit at its 87,400 b/d Ardmore, Oklahoma Refinery, Valero Says**

Valero said July 17 it has no estimate for when the a crude unit and a gasoline-making fluidic catalytic cracker (FCC) unit would return to service at its Ardmore refinery following a July 4 fire.

Reuters, 10:30 July 17, 2009

### **ConocoPhillips to Restart Hydrodesulfurization Unit at its 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery July 17**

According to a filing with state regulators, ConocoPhillips plans to restart a hydrodesulphurization unit at its Sweeny refinery following the shutdown to replace its catalyst.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=126810>

Bloomberg News, 08:29, 2009

### **Update: Canadian Pipeline Bomber Sends ‘Threat’ Letter to B.C. Newspaper**

The Dawson Creek Daily News newspaper Wednesday received a second letter linked to a string of natural gas pipeline bombings in the Dawson Creek, British Columbia area dating back to last fall. The sender gives the one of area's largest O&G producer, EnCana Corporation, a deadline for removing its oil and gas facilities in the area.

Natural Gas Intelligence's Daily Gas Price Index July 17, 2009 <http://intelligencepress.com/>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1629391620090716>

<http://www.energeticcity.ca/news/07/16/09/rcmp-says-encana-threat-letter-blackmail-local-communities>

### **Williams Announces Open Season on 230,000 Dth/d Expansion Project for its Transco Pipeline to Serve Markets in Southeastern U.S.**

Williams' Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (Transco) announced July 16 it is holding a nonbinding open season through August 19 for an expansion to provide up to 230,000 Dth/d of firm service to markets throughout the southeastern U.S. The proposed in-service date for the expansion is September 2012.

Natural Gas Intelligence's Daily Gas Price Index July 17, 2009 <http://intelligencepress.com/>

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/williams-announces-open-season-for-mid-south-expansion-project?newsid=965139968&dist=bigchartssymb%3DWM&sid=5429>

## Other News

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### **Explosion Reported at Columbus Food Company's Biodiesel Plant near Chicago, Illinois Two Workers Injured July 17**

According to Chicago Fire Department authorities, an explosion has damaged a commercial biodiesel production plant in Chicago the morning of July 17 and injured two workers. The facility handles between 20,000 and 40,000 lbs of biodiesel fuel each day. Chicago Fire Department authorities report an investigation into the cause of the explosion is underway.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSTRE56G63820090717>

Dow Jones Newswires, 12:42 July 17, 2009

### **Update: In Self-Assessment to EPA, TVA Raises Hazard Rating at its Coal Ash Sites in Tennessee and Alabama**

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) significantly raised the potential for hazard for several of its coal ash sites located in Tennessee and Alabama. In a self-assessment reported to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), TVA reported that it reassessed the potential for harm for those citizens living near the Bull Run and Cumberland coal-fired plants in Tennessee as well as its Colbert and Widows Creek coal-fired plants in Alabama. The potential for harm was increased from "low" to "high" following the reassessment. A "high" hazard ranking under the EPA regulations means if a disaster occurred at the site, it would likely result in economic and environmental damage and "will probably cause loss of human life."

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/07/16/ap/national/main5166871.shtml>

### **Coal Train Operated by Union Pacific Railroad Derails in Colorado July 16**

Thirty-four cars of a Union Pacific Railroad coal train reportedly derailed in northeast Colorado in the afternoon of July 16. A spokesperson for Union Pacific Railroad said no injuries were reported after the eastbound train cars went off the track, the caused of the derailment remains unknown.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,533400,00.html>

### **Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory Study Reports U.S. Wind Power Market Fastest-Growing Wind Power Market in the World in 2008**

In a recently released study by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory titled, "Wind Technologies Market Report" the study says the U.S. has the fastest-growing wind power market in the world, for the fourth consecutive year with U.S. wind power capacity additions increasing by 60 percent in 2008. The report analyzes trends in wind power capacity growth, examines factors impacting the domestic wind power market, including grid integration, transmission issues, and policy drivers. The report concludes with a preview of possible near- to medium-term

<http://newscenter.lbl.gov/press-releases/2009/07/16/new-wind-power-market/>

[http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress\\_alerts.cfm?pa\\_id=207](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm?pa_id=207)

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices July 17, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	63.83	59.30	133.93
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	3.21	3.36	11.15

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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**Update: Valero's 20,000 b/d Coker Unit at its 142,500 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery Shut for Unplanned Work will not Return to Service Until Margins Improve, Spokesperson Says**

Reuters, 09:28 July 17, 2009

**FERC Approves 200,000 Dth/d Capacity Increase for Rockies Express Natural Gas Pipeline Segment in Wyoming and Colorado**

<http://www.platts.com/Natural%20Gas/News/6454760.xml?p=Natural%20Gas/News&sub=Natural%20Gas>

**Valero Builds 33-Turbine Wind Farm at its Sunray Refinery in Texas**

<http://ethanol-news.newslib.com/story/6938-32801/>

**Update: BP Moves into Full Construction on 200 MW Phase II of Fowler Ridge Wind Farm in Indiana**

<http://www.bp.com/genericarticle.do?categoryId=2012968&contentId=7054830>

**Department of Energy Encourages Development of Hydropower Resources in Every State, Saying Potential Energy Adds Up to 30,000 MW per Year**

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/g/a/2009/07/16/hearstmaggreen397387.DTL>

**POET Energy Plants Will Convert Corn Cobs into Cellulosic Ethanol, Ammonia Fertilizer**

[http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jRnkn\\_FZpolC7BcD-bTG1SeEiPCAD99FEM9G0](http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jRnkn_FZpolC7BcD-bTG1SeEiPCAD99FEM9G0)

**Atlantic City Electric to Apply for \$19 Million in Federal Stimulus Funds to Add New Distribution Automation Technologies to its Service Area in New Jersey**

<http://www.atlanticcityelectric.com/welcome/news/releases/archives/2009/article.aspx?cid=1214>

**Scare at Babcock & Wilcox's Nuclear Facility in Lynchburg, Virginia Reportedly Non-Threatening, NRC Spokesperson Says July 17**

Reuters, 11:17 July 17, 2009

## Links

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***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](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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