



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, July 18, 2012

Electricity

Update: Con Edison Reduces Voltage in New York City July 18

Due to the current heat wave, Consolidated Edison Inc. reduced the power voltage by 5 percent in some Manhattan neighborhoods Wednesday to ease the stress on the city's electrical system. It had reduced voltage 5 percent in some areas of Manhattan on Monday also. Reduction in voltage does not cause power outages. As of 3:00 PM EDT, Con Ed was reporting 2,992 customers without power in its service territory, including more than 2,000 in the Bronx.

<http://www.coned.com/newsroom/news/pr20120718.asp>

http://apps.coned.com/stormcenter_external/default.html

Reuters, 10:11 July 18, 2012

Constellation's 565 MW Nine Mile Point Nuclear Unit 1 in New York Shut by July 18

Unit 1 at Constellation Energy Nuclear Group LLC's Nine Mile Point nuclear power plant in New York shut July 17 following an automatic reactor scram due to high neutron flux, according to a report filed with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The unit is currently in Hot Shutdown, with the reactor water level and pressure maintained within normal bands. This event did not have any impact on the adjacent 1,120 MW Unit 2, which was operating at 60 percent Wednesday morning.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2012/20120718en.html>

Reuters, 7:22 July 18, 2012

Exelon Shuts 1,130 MW Limerick Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania July 18

According to a report filed with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Exelon Corp. shut the unit after an electrical fault in a transformer on the non-nuclear side of the plant. This caused a loss of power to generator cooling equipment. Unit 1 will remain offline until repairs, inspections and testing can be completed. Unit 2 was not affected by the malfunction.

http://www.exeloncorp.com/Newsroom/pr_20120718_nuclear_Limerick_Unit1_offline.aspx

Reuters, 12:00 July 18, 2012

Constellation's 825 MW Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Unit 1 in Maryland Reduced to 10 Percent July 17

Constellation Energy Nuclear Group's Unit 1 reactor at its Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant is back online early Wednesday, after being reduced to 10 percent on July 17 when operators identified a pressure boundary leak from the instrument line. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of July 17 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/2012/>

<http://nucpros.com/content/calvert-cliffs-technical-specification-required-shutdown-due-small-rs-pressure-boundary-ins>

Reuters, 10:53 July 18, 2012

Update: Duke Energy's 846 MW Oconee Nuclear Unit 1 in South Carolina Shut by July 18

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of July 17 the unit was operating at 1 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Update: Entergy Agrees to Actions to Restart Its 730 MW Palisades Nuclear Unit in Michigan

According to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Entergy Corp. has agreed to take certain actions to provide assurance that an apparent leak in the safety injection refueling water storage tank and a potential leak in the control room do not affect public health and safety. These actions include measuring and trending daily leakage from the tank, declaring the tank inoperable if the leakage reaches 38 gallons per day, and taking actions to repair any tank actively leaking in accordance with applicable safety standards. Entergy reported its Palisades nuclear unit shut down June 12 after water was discovered leaking from the Safety Injection Refueling Water tank. The NRC has determined that the plant is safe to operate, but will schedule a meeting shortly to discuss Entergy's plans to monitor the plant's actions.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2012/12-030.iii.pdf>

Dynegy Moss Landing, LLC's 510 MW Moss Landing Power Block 1 Gas-fired Unit in California Returns to Service by July 17

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned curtailment of 260 MW.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201207171515.html>

Panda Power to Begin Construction on 758 MW Gas-fired Power Plant in Temple, Texas

Panda Power Funds announced Wednesday that it will begin immediate construction on a 758 MW natural gas-fueled, combined-cycle power plant in Temple, Texas. Commercial operation is slated to begin at the end of 2014, supplying power to approximately 750,000 homes in the Central and North Texas regions.

http://www.pandafunds.com/Portals/0/Press%20Releases/Temple%20Close_final.pdf

Reuters, 9:07 July 18, 2012

Operations Begin at Southern Co.'s 100 MW Nacogdoches Biomass Power Plant in Texas July 18

Southern Company announced Wednesday that its 100 MW power plant in Nacogdoches, Texas is operational and has begun providing electricity to Austin Energy through a 20-year power purchase agreement. The Nacogdoches Generating Facility is a 165-acre facility that will be fueled by non-merchantable wood waste.

http://www.southerncompany.com/news/dyn_pressroom.aspx?s=43&item=2603

Reuters, 11:03 July 18, 2012

Petroleum

Petrobras Restarting Units at Its 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery July 17 after Weather-Related Power Outage

Petrobras said it was bringing units back online on Tuesday after experiencing a brief power outage, which shut the refinery. The power interruption was caused by bad weather.

Reuters, 20:33 July 17, 2012

Update: Citgo Says Two Units Remain Shut at Its 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery July 17 after Flash Fire

Citgo Petroleum Corp. said Tuesday that units at the East plant of its 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery remain shut due to a flash fire that occurred Monday evening. However, the company said there was minimal impact to production. Firefighters put the fire out and were investigating the cause. Officials said it was likely started with a compressor.

Reuters, 16:53 July 17, 2012

Valero Reports No Material Impact to Production after SRU Malfunction at Its 171,000 b/d McKee, Texas Refinery July 17

Valero Energy Corp. said there was no material impact to production after a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) tripped offline at its McKee refinery Monday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were repairing a sulfur recovery system after a malfunction, the filing said.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1018015

Reuters, 14:41 July 17, 2012

SRU Upset Reported at Shell's 145,000 b/d Anacortes, Washington Refinery July 8

Shell Oil Co. reported that an analyzer was down in sulfur recovery unit 3 on July 8, according to a filing made July 17 with the Northwest Clean Air Agency.
Reuters, 15:22 July 17, 2012

Natural Gas

Heat Wave, Power Plant Closures Lead to 8 Percent Jump in U.S. Natural Gas Futures July 18

An extended heat wave over much of the United States and the closing of four nuclear power plants on the East Coast led to an 8 percent increase in natural gas futures July 18. Total nuclear power plant outages were running approximately 9,200 MW, or 9 percent, Wednesday, up from 7,500 MW on Tuesday. The idle nuclear plant outages totaled 3,500 MW, feasibly increasing demand for gas by as much as 700 MMcf/d.

Reuters, 11:33 July 18, 2012

Other News

U.S. Ethanol Output Falls to 802,000 b/d; Lowest Production in Two Years - EIA

Near record high corn prices and dropping fuel demand caused ethanol output to fall 19,000 b/d to 802,000 b/d in the week ending July 13, the lowest level since June 2010 when the Energy Information Administration began tracking ethanol production. This is the fifth straight week that production has dropped.

Reuters, 11:09 July 18, 2012

BP Plans 36 MMGal/Year Cellulosic Ethanol Plant in Florida

BP Plc said July 17 that it will plant energy grasses to feed a 36 million gallon-a-year cellulosic ethanol plant in Florida. The goal is to have the plant commercially available by 2014. The company is also looking at sites in Texas, Florida, and Louisiana where it could farm energy grasses and build new plants.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-07-17/bp-targets-commercial-availability-of-two-new-biofuels-by-2014>

Smart Grid is Vulnerable to Cyberthreats Says Industry Report

McAfee today announced a report detailing the thoughts of industry leaders on the state of energy security. The report, "Getting Smarter About Smart Grid Cyberthreats", looks at how legacy smart grids are vulnerable to attack and how security needs to be built into these critical systems.

Reuters, 8:00 July 18, 2012

<http://www.mcafee.com/us/resources/reports/rp-smarter-protection-smart-grid.pdf>.

International News

Petrochina, Total, Petronas Begin Output of 100,000 b/d at Halfaya in Iraq July 18

Petrochina, Total, and Petronas began production of oil on Wednesday at the Halfaya oil field in Iraq. Currently production is at 100,000 b/d, with approximately 16 billion barrels of oil in place. Production is expected to increase to 200,000 b/d in 2013, 400,000 b/d in 2014, and 600,000 b/d by 2016.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20120718-704992.html>

<http://english.capital.gr/News.asp?id=1561626>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
July 18, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	89.63	85.54	98.35
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.83	2.87	4.60

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 and 1:00 PM Eastern Time every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

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

Updated after 2:00 PM Eastern Time every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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

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