



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, July 19, 2011

Electricity

Multiple Storms and Heat Wave Leave Over 130,000 Customers in the Dark across Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania July 18-19

The following utilities reported outages in Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania:

- Lightning storms knocked out power to 71,000 DTE Energy customers in metro Detroit July 18. As of latest reports, 35,000 are still without electricity,
- FirstEnergy reported about 55,000-60,000 Ohio customers lost power on July 18. About 30,000-35,000 of those customers were left in the dark due to a likely problem with a circuit breaker at a substation, mostly likely caused by many customers using air conditioning to deal with high heat. The remaining customers likely lost power due to storms. FirstEnergy restored all but about 3,000 customers later July 18.
- A new wave of FirstEnergy outages occurred on July 19 amid heavy rains and a substation flood in Brooklyn, Ohio. About 40,000 of the utility's customers were without power. As of latest reports, fewer than 2,000 are still without power across the state, and the substation is back online. FirstEnergy has asked its customers to limit electrical usage.
- PPL reported over 11,900 Pennsylvania customers lost power late July 18 due to a thunderstorm. Just 836 customers are currently without power.

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110719/NEWS05/110719009/Longest-heat-wave-since-1995-bakes-Detroit-power-still-out-thousands?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|FRONTPAGE>

http://www.cleveland.com/sunpostherald/index.ssf/2011/07/flooded_substation_causes_powe.html

http://www.newsnet5.com/dpp/news/local_news/cleveland_metro/power-outage-leaves-thousands-of-northeast-ohioans-in-the-dark

<http://www.wtam.com/cc-common/news/sections/newsarticle.html?feed=122520&article=8845830>

<http://www.wkyc.com/news/article/198269/45/Northeast-Ohio-Less-than-2000-now-without-power>

https://www.firstenergycorp.com/outages/outages.do?state_code=OH

http://dailyitem.com/0100_news/x1241067311/Fast-moving-storm-knocks-out-power

<https://selfserv.pplelectric.com/EUSelfServ/Outage/OutageMap.aspx>

Update: Over 31,000 Ontario and Quebec Customers Still Without Power July 19

A strong storm knocked out power to about 86,000 Hydro-Québec customers in Quebec and 55,000 Hydro One customers in Ontario. The Montreal Gazette said that 195,000 Hydro-Québec customers in fact lost power in the storm, but no other reports indicated such a high number. As of latest reports, Hydro-Québec is working to restore power to 25,000 Quebec customers, and Hydro One still has 6,162 Ontario customers to restore.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/ottawa/story/2011/07/19/ott-quebec-power-outages.html>

http://montreal.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20110718/mtl_power_110718/20110718/?hub=MontrealHome

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/todays-paper/Thousands+still+waiting+power+restored/5122265/story.html>

<http://www.hydroone.com/stormcenter/>

Update: Wisconsin Public Service Restores Power to All but About 179 Northeastern Wisconsin Customers July 19

New reports indicate that storms and winds knocked out a peak of 35,000 Wisconsin customers July 17-18, higher than was previously reported. The remaining 179 outages are expected to be fixed today.

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20110719/GPG0101/107190512/Keep-your-cool-sweltering-temps-show-us-how-you-do-it>

<http://www.htrnews.com/article/20110719/MAN0101/107190453/Severe-thunderstorms-accompany-sweltering-temps-eastern-Wisconsin>

<http://www.wisconsinpublicservice.com/outagesummary/view/outagegrid.aspx>

Update: PSE&G's 1,092 MW Salem Nuclear Unit 2 in New Jersey Ramped Up to 17 Percent by July 19

According to previous reports, the unit was shut July 14 due to a reactor coolant leak. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of July 18 the unit was not operating.

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2011/07/15/nj-nuclear-plant-taken-offline-due-to-water-leak/>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Entergy's 510 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Unit in Vermont Reduced to 75 Percent by July 19

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of July 18 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: Federal Judge Will Not Require Entergy's 510 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Unit in Vermont Remain Open During a Lawsuit Regarding its Future

The facility's initial 40-year license to operate will expire in March, 2012, but operators received a 20-year license extension from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Entergy will argue at trial that the federal license renewal supersedes the state government's desire to shut the plant.

http://www.fox11online.com/dpps/green/national_green/vt-judge-denies-bid-to-keep-nuke-plant-open-nt11-jpe_3884371

Internal NRC Emails Reveal Worries about Earthquakes at U.S. Nuclear Plants: Wall Street Journal

According to a Wall Street Journal report, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has been studying seismic hazards at nuclear plants in the U.S. since 2005, and has identified serious concerns about two dozen reactors. The greatest concern is for plants in the central and eastern parts of the country, including the New Madrid seismic zone, which could be affected by rare but powerful earthquakes.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702303795304576453842076898316.html>

Luminant's 765 MW Monticello Coal-Fired Unit 3 in Texas Shuts Due to High Temperatures on the Main Turbine Bearing July 18-19

Reuters, 09:50 July 19, 2011

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=156922>

Petroleum

Connacher Oil and Gas Begins SAGD Project at Great Divide Sands Project in Alberta July 16 – Proposes 24,000 b/d Expansion

The pilot project began on July 16 at steam-assisted gravity drainage (SAGD) wells 203-2 and 203-3 on Algar Pad 203 at Great Divide. According to the company, Connacher has the potential to produce over 70,000 b/d from its Great Divide reserves, and has applied to regulators to expand capacity by 24,000 b/d.

<http://www.connacheroil.com/en/investor/cil-2011-07-18.pdf>

Ultracracker Resuming Normal Operations at BP's 437,080 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery July 19-22

A filing with state regulators did not indicate when or why the unit shut.

Reuters, 09:32 July 19, 2011

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=156910>

Total's 232,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery Experiences Power Loss, Causing PSA Compressor and "Other Critical Equipment" to Shut July 18

All equipment was restarted just over one hour later.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=156941>

SCOT Unit Shut for Unplanned Maintenance on the Stripper Reboiler at Delek's 60,000 b/d Tyler, Texas Refinery July 17-18

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=156901>

NuStar Logistics Says 60-Mile, 30,000 b/d Oil Pipeline in Texas Restarts by July 19

The pipeline, which carries Eagle Ford shale oil from Pettus to Corpus Christi, was reactivated as part of an agreement with Koch Pipeline Company.

Reuters, 12:20 July 19, 2011

Valero Shuts Crude Unit Due to Leak at 214,000 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery by July 18

The company plans to restart the unit next week. The plant's other two crude units are operating, though a company representative said overall crude rates are "at less than plan."

Reuters, 11:48 July 19, 2011

South Oil Company Plans 900,000 b/d Oil Loading Terminal at Basra Port in Iraq July 19

The "single point mooring" (SPM) buoy, which will have a capacity of 900,000 b/d, is due to be built by December of this year. It is being built as part of a larger project to raise Iraq's export capacity from 1.8 million b/d now to 4.5 million b/d by the end of 2012.

DJN, 10:38 July 19, 2011

Natural Gas

Trunkline Gas Company Announces Completion of Initial Phase of Construction to Provide Bi-directional Flow on its South Texas System July 18

The company is also working to integrate DCP's South and Central Texas area gathering systems and six processing plants with Trunkline's 165-mile South Texas system.

<http://www.southernunionco.com/press/071811.htm>

Other News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
July 19, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL			
West Texas Intermediate U.S.	97.94	96.41	76.06
\$/Barrel			
NATURAL GAS			
Henry Hub	4.60	4.35	4.68
\$/Million Btu			

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Puget Sound Energy Shuts Northlake Way Substation in Kitsap County, Washington for Repairs after Thieves Steal Copper Wires for Second Time in One Month July 15

<http://www.kitsapsun.com/news/2011/jul/17/copper-thieves-leave-pse-substation-dark/>

Pirates Release Endeavor Marine Agency's Aegean Star Oil Tanker July 18 after Seizing the Greek-Operated, Liberian-Flagged Vessel Offshore Benin while Carrying Oil from Ghana to Benin July 16

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ifziPKAcIdGHLI52Q-yDMg4fot2Q?docId=CNG.cb180817b2ff542e99883215ba4f5f71.451>
<http://blogs.voanews.com/breaking-news/2011/07/18/greek-oil-tanker-hijacked-off-nigeria/>
<http://english.ruvr.ru/2011/07/19/53403962.html>

Acid Gas Compressor Unexpectedly Shuts Due to Programming Work on its Controller at Big Lake Gas Plant in Texas July 18

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/occeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=156917>

Four Engines Go Down on "Underspeed" at Andrews Booster Station in Texas July 18

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/occeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=156915>

Update: Due to Continued Problems, DCP Midstream Unable to Handle Produced Gas from XTO Energy's Univ N Tank Battery in Texas July 18-19

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/occeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=156920>

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 EDT every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

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

Updated after 2:00 PM EDT every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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

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