



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, July 20, 2015

Electricity

Strong Storms Knock Out Power to 276,000 Customers in Minnesota, Wisconsin July 18

A major line of thunderstorms knocked out power to 250,000 Xcel customers in Minnesota and Wisconsin and 26,000 We Energies customers in Wisconsin. The storms brought heavy rain, frequent lightning, and winds as high as 60 mph. By 5 p.m. CDT Saturday, Xcel had restored power to about 190,000 customers. As of 2:30 p.m. EDT Monday, Xcel said nearly all customers had power restored. We Energies said it restored power to all customers by Sunday afternoon.

http://www.xcelenergy.com/Emergency_Notices/Severe_thunderstorms_affecting_power_to_customers_across_Minnesota_and_Wisconsin

[http://www.xcelenergy.com/Company/News/News_Releases/Xcel_Energy_crews_continue_to_restore_power_in_ake_of_severe_storms](http://www.xcelenergy.com/Company/News/News_Releases/Xcel_Energy_crews_continue_to_restore_power_in_wake_of_severe_storms)

<https://www.facebook.com/XcelEnergyMN>

<http://www.outagemap-xcelenergy.com/outagemap/>

<https://www.facebook.com/WeEnergies?ref=ts>

<http://www.we-energies.com/outagemapext/>

Thunderstorms Knock Out Power to Over 20,000 Customers in California July 18

Thunderstorms knocked out power to 16,000 Southern California Edison (SCE) and 4,729 Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) customers in California on Saturday. SCE reports about 2,600 customers remained without power as of 11 a.m. PDT Sunday and LADWP reported the majority of its customers had power restored on Sunday. SCE said more outages were expected on Monday as remnant rainstorms from Tropical Storm Dolores moved through the area. As of 3:30 p.m. EDT Monday, 6,781 SCE and 24 LADWP customers remained without power.

<https://twitter.com/LADWP>

<https://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/faces/header/outageinformation>

<https://twitter.com/SCE>

<https://www.sce.com/wps/portal/home/outage-center/outage-map!/ut/p/b1/>

<http://abc7.com/news/lightning-thunderstorms-shut-down-southland-beaches-16k-without-power/861985/>

Con Edison Reports Over 19,000 Customers without Power in New York City July 20

Con Edison reported 19,079 North Shore and Mid-Island customers were without power as of 4 p.m. EDT Monday. A Con Edison spokeswoman said that the utility is having distribution feeder issues that were affecting two main Staten Island distribution networks and that restoration times were pending. Earlier in the day, Con Edison asked customers in Richmond Hill, Woodhaven, Ozone Park, South Ozone Park, Kew Gardens, areas of East New York, Howard Beach, and Broad Channel to conserve energy while company crews work to repair equipment problems. Con Edison also reduced voltage by 8 percent in those areas as a precaution to protect equipment and maintain service as repairs are made.

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

<http://www.coned.com/newsroom/news/pr20150720.asp>

http://www.silive.com/news/index.ssf/2015/07/nearly_12000_islanders_without.html

Thunderstorms Knock Out Power to 18,000 Duke Energy Customers in South Carolina July 18–19

Thunderstorms and wind gusts up to 67 mph knocked out power to nearly 18,000 Duke Energy customers in South Carolina Saturday night and into Sunday. As of 9:20 a.m. EDT Monday, less than 250 customers remained without service with complete restoration anticipated by 6 p.m. EDT Monday.

<http://outagemap.duke-energy.com/ncsc/default.html>

<http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2015/07/19/duke-energy-thousands-without-power-upstate/30379119/>

Downed Transmission Line Knocks Out Power to 14,000 CenterPoint Energy Customers July 19

CenterPoint Energy said approximately 14,000 customers were without power for a few hours on Sunday after a transmission line fell to the ground. The company said all power was restored by about 10 a.m. CDT Sunday.

<http://www.click2houston.com/news/centerpoint-transmission-line-fell-caused-power-outage-for-14k-customers/34243030>

Update: Entergy's 966 MW River Bend Nuclear Unit 1 in Louisiana Ramps Up to 95 Percent by July 20

On the morning of July 19 the unit was operating at 84 percent, increased from 70 percent on July 16. The unit was reduced to 63 percent on July 13 from full power on July 12.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

Update: Exelon's 802 MW Three Mile Island Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania at Full Power by July 18

On the morning of July 17 the unit was operating at 85 percent, increased from 47 percent on July 16. The unit was reduced to 40 percent on July 15 from full power on July 14.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

AES's 179 MW Redondo Gas-fired Unit 5 in California Shut by July 19

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201507191515.html>

Petroleum

Update: Energy Regulator Issues Clean-Up Order After Nexen Energy Pipeline Spill in Northern Alberta

Alberta's energy regulator has issued Nexen Energy an environmental protection order after the company discovered an emulsion leak from a ruptured pipeline near its Long Lake oilsands facility on July 15. The company said that the order was expected after working closely with the regulator to develop a remediation plan, and is committed to fully comply with all aspects of the order. According to the company's website, the 1.3 million gallon emulsion spill, a mixture of heavy bitumen, water, and sand, was stabilized on July 16 and the affected area was about 172,000 square feet along the pipeline's route corridor. A berm was constructed to help further contain the impacted area, a roadway was upgraded to enable site access for heavy equipment, a small tank farm was constructed to temporarily store collected, toxic fluids, and environmental monitoring is ongoing. A small, unnamed lake also sits near the spill site and is being monitored for any seepage. The energy regulator said the emulsion has not yet flowed into a body of water, but did spill into a wetlands area. Vacuum trucks are removing surface fluid off the muskeg in preparation for a more intensive effort of digging up and removing contaminated soil. Nexen continues to investigate why a relatively new section of the pipe leaked and why an automated warning system failed to alert operators.

<http://www.nexencoold.com/en/Operations/OilSands/PipelineBreak.aspx>

Reuters, 3:07 July 20, 2015

Reuters, 15:32 July 18, 2015

Reuters, 15:02 July 17, 2015

Barge Collision, Naphtha Fire Prompts Partial Shutdown of Intercoastal Waterway in Houston, Texas July 20

A barge carrying 1 million gallons of petroleum naphtha collided with another barge and caught fire along the Intercoastal Waterway (ICW) near the Houston Ship Channel shortly after 1:00 a.m. CDT on Monday morning. According to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), the collision occurred when one tug pulling the barges lost power. The USCG said it took over four hours to extinguish the blaze on the barge that was hauling the naphtha, but that no injuries were reported. The USCG and the Texas General Land Office said it was unclear if any of the naphtha spilled into the waterway. A Coast Guard spokesman added that naphtha evaporates quickly and that the 20,000 gallons spilled in the Ship Channel earlier this year evaporated in three hours. The incident has not affected traffic along the Ship Channel, but the USCG did close a section of the ICW from mile marker 348 near Bolivar Peninsula in Galveston, Texas. The ICW connects to the Houston Ship Channel, which supplies the nation's busiest petrochemical port. For Gulf Coast U.S. refiners, the ICW is primarily used to ship refined products like gasoline, diesel, gas oil and naphtha to other plants. The Houston Ship Channel itself remained open and was unaffected shortly after the collision, despite earlier, erroneous media reports that a channel section had been closed. A source familiar with Gulf Coast refinery production said there was likely to be little impact to production from the ICW section shutdown. According to a company spokesman, operations were normal and unaffected at Exxon Mobil Corp's 560,500 b/d Baytown, Texas refinery. A dispatcher for the Houston ship pilots association said vessels moving on the Ship Channel near the ICW entrance were moving at slower speeds early on Monday morning, but that there were no major problems.

Reuters, 13:06 July 20, 2015

Reuters, 12:33 July 20, 2015

Reuters, 9:47 July 20, 2015

Phillips 66 Shuts Hydrotreater Due to Leak at Its 238,000 b/d Linden, New Jersey Refinery July 17 – Source

Phillips 66 shut a 58,000 b/d hydrotreater associated with its fluid catalytic cracker Friday at its Linden, New Jersey refinery after a leak was discovered, according to a source familiar with the plant's operations. The leak was first discovered Thursday but the unit was not shut down until Friday, the source said.

Reuters, 16:14 July 17, 2015

ExxonMobil Reports No Impact on Production at Its 502,500 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana Refinery July 20 after Emissions July 17

Reuters, 9:03 July 20, 2015

Reuters, 10:06 July 20, 2015

Citgo Reports Safety Valve Malfunction at Its 427,800 b/d Lake Charles, Louisiana Refinery July 19

Citgo Petroleum Corp reports a release of C3 mix due to process safety valve malfunction on Sunday at its Lake Charles, Louisiana refinery.

8:43 July 20, 2015

Motiva Reports Unit Upset at Its Norco Manufacturing Complex in Louisiana July 18

Motiva Enterprises reported its Norco, Louisiana manufacturing complex experienced an operational upset in one of its units Saturday. Motiva houses a 238,000 b/d refinery at the complex.

Reuters, 22:30 July 19, 2015

ExxonMobil Reports Minimal Production Impact after Unit Upset at Its 560,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery July 18

ExxonMobil Corp reported minimal impact to production after reducing feed rate to unit D-320 on Saturday, following an upset, at its Baytown, Texas refinery. The company identified the flexicoker as one of the source of emissions in the filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Reuters, 21:25 July 19, 2015

Update: Small CDU Back in Production at Valero's 335,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery July 17 – Sources

Valero Energy Corp returned the 75,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) to production on Friday morning at the company's Port Arthur, Texas, refinery, said sources familiar with plant operations. Energy industry intelligence service Genscape said the CDU, which is the smaller of two at the Port Arthur refinery, shut down on Thursday morning. The smaller CDU went down due to the failure of a pump in a cooling tower on the unit, the sources said. The refinery's 260,000 b/d CDU remained in operation while the smaller unit was shut. CDUs do the initial refining of crude oil coming into a refinery and provide feedstock for all other production units.
Reuters, 18:51 July 17, 2015

Phillips 66 Says Its 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery Running at Reduced Rates July 17

Phillips 66 says unscheduled maintenance at the Borger, Texas refinery was causing fuel production from the refinery to be less than normal during ordinary operations.
Reuters, 12:02 July 20, 2015

Tesoro Reports Spill Due to Equipment Failure at Its 120,000 b/d Anacortes, Washington Refinery July 19

Tesoro Corp reported a discharge of hydraulic oil due to equipment failure on Sunday at its Anacortes, Washington refinery. The company reported the hoist used to lower vessels into the water at the facility had an equipment failure causing the spill.
Reuters, 8:54 July 20, 2015

Shell Reports Unit Shut Due to Upset at Its 156,400 b/d Martinez, California Refinery July 20

Reuters, 12:26 July 20, 2015

Oklahoma Issues New Oil, Gas Drilling Regulations in Response to Earthquakes

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission Oil and Gas Conservation Division (OGCD) issued new directives Friday to take action on over 200 more oil and gas wastewater disposal wells. In March, the OGCD issued a directive covering more than 300 disposal wells that inject into the Arbuckle formation as "areas of interest." The latest OGCD directive expands the total size of the areas covered and applies to 211 more such wells. Under the latest directive, the operators of the wells will have until August 14 to prove they are not injecting below the Arbuckle formation. There is broad agreement among seismologists that disposal below the Arbuckle poses a potential risk of causing earthquakes, as it puts the well in communication with the "basement" rock.

<http://earthquakes.ok.gov/news/>

<http://earthquakes.ok.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/DIRECTIVE-2.pdf>

Natural Gas

Southern Union Reports Unit Shut at Its Keystone Gas Plant in Texas July 18

Southern Union reported unit no. 24 went down for maintenance and repair after a crack was found in the piping. The company said the compressor would not be able to be put back online until the piping is re-welded.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=217449>

Vectren to Begin Gas Pipeline Upgrades in Troy, Ohio

Vectren Energy Delivery reported crews would begin replacing gas mains and service lines in Troy as part of the company's pipeline replacement program, which is a multi-year program to replace about 700 miles of bare steel and cast iron pipeline infrastructure throughout Ohio. In Troy, \$2.4 million will go toward replacing four miles of gas main and more than 440 service lines in 2015. In most cases, a polyethylene (plastic) system is being installed to replace the current bare steel and cast iron gas pipeline system. First, the gas main will be replaced within the right-of-way, and then the service lines running directly to homes and businesses will be replaced.

<http://www.vectren2.com/evision/troybsci071515.pdf>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
July 20, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	50.06	52.29	102.87
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.84	2.75	4.03

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 & 1:00 PM ET every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

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

Updated after 2:00 PM ET every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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