



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, July 24, 2013

Electricity

93,000 PSO Customers Without Power after Storms Hit Tulsa, Oklahoma July 23-24

Damaging storms swept through the Tulsa area late Tuesday and early Wednesday morning knocking out power to Public Service Company of Oklahoma (PSO) customers. As of 10:30 a.m. Central Wednesday, July 24, approximately 93,000 customers in the Tulsa metro area were without electric service. As of 4:00 p.m., 72,258 were still without power. Extra crews from around the region have been called in to help assess the damage and restore power but PSO reports it could be days before full restoration.

<https://www.psoklahoma.com/outages/details.aspx?stormName=July%202023-24%20Storm>

<https://www.psoklahoma.com/outages/>

Update: PPL's 1,105 MW Susquehanna Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania at Full Power by July 24

Operators had disconnected Unit 1 at the Susquehanna nuclear power plant in northeastern Pennsylvania from the regional power grid on Sunday to repair one of four valves that control the amount of steam going into the turbine. On Tuesday morning the unit was operating at 90 percent, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

Update: First Solar's 290 MW Aqua Caliente Solar Unit in Arizona Returns to Service by July 23

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201307231515.html>

Petroleum

Update: New HCU Operating at Planned Rates at Valero's 270,000 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery July 22

Valero Energy Corp on Monday said the new hydrocracker unit (HCU) at its St. Charles refinery in Norco, Louisiana was operating at planned rates. The new HCU has a throughput of 60,000 b/d, according to Valero. Reuters, 11:34 July 23, 2013

Leaky Valve Reported at Valero's 270,000 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery July 22

Valero Energy Corp on Monday reported the release of sulfuric acid due to a leaky valve at a storage tank at its St. Charles refinery in Norco, Louisiana, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Reuters, 2:28 July 23, 2013

Flint Hills Reports Benzene Release at its 260,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery July 24

Flint Hills Resources reported a release of benzene and volatile organic compounds during reactor maintenance at its Corpus Christi refinery, according to a filing with regulators. The company will continue monitoring the release which is not yet secured, the filing with U.S. National Response Center said. Reuters, 2:28 July 24, 2013

Flaring Reported at Valero's 83,000 b/d Houston Refinery July 23

Valero Energy Corp reported flaring in the northwest portion of its Houston refinery, according to a message posted on a community information line. Reuters, 17:33 July 23, 2013

Natural Gas

Walter Oil & Gas Corp.'s Hercules 265 Jack-up Rig in Gulf of Mexico Has Loss of Well Control, Catches Fire July 23; Partially Collapses July 24

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and the U.S. Coast Guard are continuing to oversee Walter Oil & Gas Corporation's response efforts to secure the natural gas well and extinguish the subsequent fire that started after the operator's loss of well control Tuesday morning. Walter Oil & Gas Corporation experienced a loss of control of Well A-3 at approximately 8:45 a.m. local time, Tuesday, on an unmanned platform at South Timbalier Block 220 while doing completion work on the sidetrack well to prepare the well for production. The operator reported the safe evacuation of 44 personnel from the Hercules 265 jack-up rig. Both BSEE and Coast Guard conducted overflights this morning to assess the situation. Coast Guard confirmed that the fire began at 10:45 p.m. local time, Tuesday. There was no observed sheen on the water surface. As the rig fire continued, the beams supporting the derrick and rig floor collapsed over the rig structure. Two firefighting vessels were in the area and relocated to a safe distance from the fire and a third vessel equipped with fire-fighting capability and improved monitoring system was enroute. Under BSEE's direction, Walter Oil & Gas has begun preparations to move a jack-up rig on location to potentially drill a relief well. BSEE continues to review and approve all operational plans and procedures. BSEE and the Coast Guard have set up a Command Center to respond to the event, which is happening 55 miles offshore Louisiana in 154 feet of water. BSEE's investigation into the cause of the loss of well control is underway in coordination with Coast Guard.

<http://www.bsee.gov/BSEE-Newsroom/Press-Releases/2013/Press07242013a/>
<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=192573&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1840432&highlight=>

Update: Destin Completes Work at 1 Bcf/d Pascagoula, Mississippi Gas Plant, Lifts Force Majeure on 1.2 Bcf/d Gulf of Mexico Pipeline System July 23

Destin Pipeline Company LLC completed emptying the Pascagoula Liquids Handling Facility earlier than planned and lifted the Force Majeure Tuesday evening. The company said in a notice on its website that it was accepting nominations subject to a Destin ramping sequence across connected platforms based on the company's risk assessment of potential liquid movements. The startup of some platforms may be delayed one week or more. Destin will be contacting each offshore receipt point to communicate instruction for startup. The startup sequence will be determined in a manner that Destin determines is optimal for allowing the processing of the liquids remaining in the Destin 36" pipeline as well as the running of pigs from various laterals. The Destin Pipeline has a capacity of 1.2 Bcf/d. The Pascagoula Gas Plant has a gas processing capacity of 1 Bcf/d and liquid removal capacity of 10,000 b/d.
<http://www.destin-pipeline.com/>

SRU Shut, Inlet Gas Rates Curtailed at Enbridge's Teague Gas Plant in Texas July 22

The Teague gas plant experienced an emissions event as a result of a malfunction on the thermal oxidizer flame scanner resulting in the sulfur recovery unit (SRU) shutting down. During this time, the plant transitioned to 0.3 long ton per day (LTPD) operation as allowed by permit. Technicians curtailed inlet sour gas rates and diagnosed and repaired the flame scanner. Upon completion of repairs, the plant transitioned to greater than 0.3 LTPD operation at which time the facility increased the inlet sulfur levels to achieve SRU operational parameters.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ear/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=185830>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices July 24, 2013			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	105.23	105.89	88.40
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.68	3.69	3.05

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

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