



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, July 25, 2011

Electricity

Heat and Multiple Storms Knock Out Power to a Peak of 160,000 ComEd Customers in Illinois July 22-24

According to a press release, at least 160,000 Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) customers were without power at the height of a storm on July 23. ComEd reports it has restored power to 99 percent of the 395,000 total customers who lost power between July 21 and July 24 due to both storms and high heat. As of the evening of July 24, only 9,000 customers remained without power, 3,000 of which lost service due to the storm system which moved through ComEd's service territory that morning.

<https://www.comed.com/sites/newsroom/Pages/stormcenter.aspx>

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/ComEd-Quickly-Mobilizes-Crews-prnews-2466232425.html?x=0&.v=1>

<http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local&id=8268385>

<http://twitter.com/#!/ComEd/status/95281817359355904>

Heat Wave Leaves Peak of 84,000 Consolidated Ed Customers without Power in New York July 22-25 as Region's Grid Fails

Consolidated Edison (Con Ed) reported multiple bouts of power outages across the New York City area over the weekend as the region's electrical network failed amid high heat. According to reports, a peak of at least 84,000 customers lost power. As of latest reports, only 183 customers are without power. The company reduced voltage in at least 69 New York neighborhoods to handle high demand over the weekend. On July 22, the company reported all-time record power usage, as did NYSEG and Rochester Gas and Electric.

http://www.ny1.com/content/top_stories/143556/con-ed-crews-work-to-restore-power-outages

<http://apps.coned.com/weboutageinfo/stormcenter/default.aspx>

http://www.coned.com/newsroom/news/pr20110722_5.asp

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-naw-heat-wave-20110725,0,756630.story>

http://capitalregion.ynn.com/content/top_stories/551150/record-power-use-due-to-last-week-s-high-temperatures/

Progress Energy and Duke Energy Remotely Cycle Residential Air Conditioning Units in the Carolinas to Reduce Grid Stress amid High Heat Last Week

Progress Energy briefly turned off household air conditioning units for 63,000 customers in the Carolinas for a three hour period on July 22. Duke Energy also briefly turned off air conditioning units on two afternoons last week for 170,000 customers in the Carolinas.

<http://www.wtkr.com/news/sns-ap-nc--airconditioning-utilities.0,3227836.story>

Constellation's 835 MW Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Unit 2 in Maryland Reduced to 79 Percent by July 24, at Full Power by July 25

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of July 23 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: TVA's 1,125 MW Sequoyah Nuclear Unit 1 in Tennessee at Full Power by July 24

According to a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the reactor tripped automatically on July 20 "due to negative rate trip following rapid turbine load reduction." The NRC reported that on the morning of July 22 the unit was operating at 12 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

TVA's 1,155 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 1 in Alabama Reduced to 77 Percent by July 23

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of July 22 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/>

Progress Energy's 710 MW Robinson Nuclear Unit 2 in South Carolina Reduced to 50 Percent by July 23

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of July 22 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/>

FirstEnergy's 1,235 MW Perry Nuclear Unit 1 in Ohio at Full Power by July 23

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of July 22 the unit was operating at 90 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

San Diego Gas & Electric's 566 MW Palomar Energy Center Gas-fired Unit in California Returns to Service by July 24

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned curtailment of 136 MW.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201107241515.html>

Elk Hills Power's 552 MW Elk Hills Gas-fired Unit in California Reduced by July 24

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 327 MW on July 24.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201107241515.html>

AES's 225 MW Huntington Beach Gas-fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by July 22

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201107221515.html>

RRI Energy Mandalay's 130 MW Mandalay Gas-fired Unit 3 in California Shut by July 22, Returns to Service by July 23

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage on July 22.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201107221515.html>

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201107231515.html>

Luminant's 593 MW Big Brown Coal-Fired Unit 2 in Texas Shut to Repair Boiler Tube Leak July 23; Unit Restarts July 24

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=157095>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=157094>

Bruce Power's 822 MW Bruce Nuclear Unit 6 in Ontario Shut by July 22

Reuters, 10:58 July 25, 2011

Xcel Brings Online New 168 MW Gas-Fired Unit 3 at Jones Generating Station near Lubbock, Texas by July 20

The generator was brought online earlier than its scheduled 2012 start date. The company filed last week to build another unit at the plant by summer 2013, which would be nearly identical to the new unit 3. Units 1 and 2 each have a capacity of 243 MW.

<http://lubbockonline.com/local-news/2011-07-20/new-gas-generator-outside-lubbock-only-beginning-company-says>

[http://www.xcelenergy.com/About Us/Our Company/Power Generation/Jones Generating Station](http://www.xcelenergy.com/About%20Us/Our%20Company/Power%20Generation/Jones%20Generating%20Station)

Update: Operators Retract June 4 NRC Notification Regarding Chillers at PPL's Susquehanna Nuclear Units 1 and 2 July 22

On June 4, operators of the plant filed a report with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that chillers 'A' and 'B' were both down for 35 minutes. On July 22, operators retracted the notification, indicating that upon further investigation, the two chillers were not inoperable at the time.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20110725en.html>

Operators Report Fire Suppression Pumps Inoperable at OPPD's 478 MW Fort Calhoun Nuclear Unit in Nebraska July 22

According to a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), both fire suppression pumps are not operable at the Omaha Public Power District plant because required monthly surveillance tests were not completed for June and July. The tests will be completed once Missouri River flood waters recede.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20110725en.html>

Operators Discover Tritium Release into Septic System from Xcel's Prairie Island Nuclear Plant in Minnesota July 23

According to a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), operators "discovered that water containing tritium from a secondary system steam leak has been periodically disposed of via the septic system versus the normally monitored turbine building sump effluent path."

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20110725en.html>

Operators of Exelon's Dresden Nuclear Plant in Illinois Report Inoperable Emergency Siren July 24

According to a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), a siren malfunctioned while undergoing normal testing July 24. The siren was declared inoperable.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20110725en.html>

State DEP Grants Air Quality Permit for Advanced Power Services' Proposed 350 MW Brockton Clean Energy Natural Gas-Fired Plant in Brockton, Massachusetts July 20

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued the permit on Wednesday. The company aims to open the plant in 2014.

<http://www.enterpriseneews.com/answerbook/brockton/x633528851/State-grants-air-permit-on-proposed-Brockton-power-plant>

http://articles.boston.com/2011-07-22/news/29804004_1_power-plant-massachusetts-environmental-officials-stiff-local-opposition

Update: Entergy Plans to Move Forward with Refueling at 510 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant in Vermont July 25

The company decided to go ahead with its planned refueling in October even though its current operating license will expire in March. The plant received a 20-year license extension from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, but the Vermont state government has refused to issue a certificate of public good to continue operating beyond March 21, 2012. The issue is currently being litigated in federal court.

http://files.shareholder.com/downloads/ETR/1335122565x0x485369/c5fea82d-daad-4885-9a9e-57027a129428/VY_REFUEL.pdf

<http://www1.whdh.com/news/articles/local/12004929632384/vt-nuclear-plant-to-refuel-despite-uncertainty/>

FERC Approves New Rule Setting Guidelines for Planning and Paying for Electric Transmission Lines July 21

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) passed the new rule unanimously on Thursday. The rule lays out general guidelines for transmission planning and cost allocation, though it does not specify exact formulas.

<http://www.ferc.gov/industries/electric/indus-act/trans-plan.asp>

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/07/22/science/earth/22grid.html?_r=3

Entergy Substation Explodes in Montgomery County, Texas, Causing Fire July 21

It was not clear what caused the explosion, which began when 400 capacitors containing over 2,000 gallons of mineral oil exploded.

http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/east_montgomery/news/article_0247cc5d-8ec3-5a7c-8a5c-d988e226efb1.html

Petroleum

Iraq Begins Pumping Oil through 250-Mile Al-Ahdab Pipeline from China National Petroleum's 60,000 b/d Al-Ahdab Field to Toba Oil Storage Facility in Basra July 23

Volumes are expected to reach 60,000 b/d within days; exports are due to begin August 1. The Al-Ahdab oil field began production on July 1 with a capacity of 60,000 b/d, though officials plan to double its capacity by the end of the year.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jwrcv9jTkPlvJBnB8Yd0QaTk-7Lg?docId=CNG.92f5d89415b102936c7ce02a3c5403b5.2b1>

ConocoPhillips Restores Operations July 25 after Reporting Power Dip Shuts Some Process Units at 120,200 b/d Rodeo, California Refinery July 23

It was not clear which units were shut, or if the shutdowns impacted production.

Reuters, 12:08 July 25, 2011

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/MALHaz.nsf/f1841a103c102734882563e200760c4a/427f125f55a85e18882578d700108f5a?OpenDocument>

Valero Reports Power Blip at Compressor Associated with Coker Unit at 214,000 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery

The company reported that the coker remains in operation.

Reuters, 12:54 July 25, 2011

SRU Fixed after Trip at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery July 22

Alon reported on July 25 that production was not impacted by the trip at the sulfur recovery unit (SRU).

Reuters, 11:19 July 25, 2011

PBF Energy Reports Two Compressors Go Offline Due to "High Liquids Level" at 182,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery

It was not clear when the compressors went down or which if any units were affected.

Reuters, 21:25 July 24, 2011

Sunoco Reports Boiler Shutdown at 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery

The boiler is located in the Girard Point section of the refinery. It was not clear when the shutdown occurred.

Reuters, 16:12 July 22, 2011

Faulty Valve Causes Flaring at ExxonMobil's 238,600 b/d Joliet, Illinois Refinery

<http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20110725/business/110729888/>

Natural Gas

TransCanada's 30-Inch, 477 MMcf/d, Wyoming-to-North Dakota Bison Natural Gas Pipeline Ruptures in Wyoming July 20

A blast ripped open a 60-foot section of pipe and released 50 million cubic feet of gas into the air about 30 miles west of Gillette, Wyoming. The gas did not ignite, and no one was injured. The line, which began operations in January of this year, was carrying 365 MMcf/d of gas at the time, lower than its rated capacity of 477 MMcf/d. TransCanada was able to deliver half of this amount on July 21 through interconnected lines, but then shut all shipments on July 22 to perform repairs on the line.

<http://www.nasdaq.com/aspx/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=201107221651dowjonesdjonline000484&title=transcanada-wyoming-natural-gas-pipeline-ruptured>

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=14136603>

<http://wyofile.com/2011/07/natural-gas-pipeline-ruptured-in-campbell-county/>

http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_bf92ebda-4f4a-5181-bd52-09eadd5cd49.html

Other News

TVA Says Groundwater Contaminated by Coal Ash at Fossil Power Plants

According to a report from the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Office of Inspector General, contamination levels from some tested sites could cause health hazards.

<http://www.tennessean.com/article/20110725/NEWS11/307250034/Coal-ash-taints-groundwater-at-TVA-sites-report-finds>

Union Pacific Expects to Approximately Quadruple Quantity of Oil the Company Carries this Year from the Bakken Shale in North Dakota to the U.S. Gulf Coast

The company moved about 4,400 carloads of crude oil from the Bakken Shale in 2010, and expects to move over 16,000 carloads in 2011. A typical unit train of 100 cars carries a batch of 60,000 barrels of oil or more.

Reuters, 15:13 July 22, 2011

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
July 25, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	98.94	95.11	78.65
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.46	4.49	4.67

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Thunderstorms Knock Out Power to at Least 18,593 APCO Customers in West Virginia July 22-23 – 1,246 Customers Remain in the Dark July 25

<http://www.register-herald.com/todaysfrontpage/x967742292/Sudden-storm-slams-region>

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

Storms and High Winds Kill Power to 18,000 NB Power Customers in New Brunswick July 23 – 2,000 Remain in the Dark July 24

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/story/2011/07/24/nb-storm-power.html>

<http://timetranscript.canadaeast.com/news/article/1426353>

Over 17,000 Duke Energy Customers Lose Power Due to Thunderstorms in Triangle Area, North Carolina July 23 – 2,374 North Carolina Customers Currently Lack Power

<http://www.wral.com/weather/story/9899511/>

<http://www.duke-energy.com/north-carolina/outages/current.asp>

Up to 10,000 FirstEnergy Customers in Ohio Lose Power for Three Hours Due to Faulty Equipment at a Substation July 23

<http://www.wkyc.com/news/article/198946/45/Eastlake-Power-restored-for-thousands>

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

Edison Mission Group Dedicates 30 MW Community Wind North Wind Farm in Lincoln County, Minnesota July 22

<http://www.edison.com/pressroom/pr.asp?bu=&year=0&id=7656>

AMP Begins Construction of 35 MW Willow Island Locks and Dam Hydroelectric Project on the Ohio River in West Virginia July 21 – The Plant is Due to Come Online in Late 2014
<http://www.waterpowermagazine.com/story.asp?sectioncode=130&storyCode=2060214>

Update: Georgia Power Says on July 22 it Could Complete its First New Nuclear Reactor at Plant Vogtle in Georgia Two Months Early in April 2016
<http://www.ajc.com/business/georgia-powers-nuclear-project-1036443.html>

Truck Hauling 7,000 Gallons of Gasoline and Diesel Leaks Unknown Quantity of Fuel, Shutting U.S. 40 in Colorado for Hours July 21
http://www.denverpost.com/breakingnews/ci_18523094

DOE Proposes Fining Savannah River Nuclear Solutions \$243,750 for June 14, 2010 Incident that Violated DOE's Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Regulations at its Savannah River Site in South Carolina July 22
<http://www.energy.gov/news/10439.htm>

Tanker Truck Overturms, Spilling 4,000 Gallons of Diesel and Forcing Road Closure in Inyo County, California July 23
<http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/MALHaz.nsf/f1841a103c102734882563e200760c4a/b1ceadfa946788e5882578d70023a196?OpenDocument>

Operators Report 732 Unit Compressor Briefly Trips Offline at Houston Refining's 280,390 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery July 24
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=157146>

Update: USCG and BOEMRE Delay Release of Final Report on BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill for Further Consideration July 22
Reuters, 15:01 July 22, 2011

Sudan Demanding South Sudan Pay Pipeline Transit Fees of \$22.80 per Barrel of Exported Oil July 25
Reuters, 11:15 July 25, 2011

Wells Shut at Dollarhide Gas Plant in Texas after P-12 Unit Goes Down July 23-25
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=157141>

DCP Midstream Repairing Gas Line Leak, Affecting GLDU Station 14 in Texas July 22-25
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=157131>

Operators Shut 201 Compressor to Replace Valves after Finding Broken Springs Inside at Welch CO2 Gas Processing Facility in Texas July 22-25
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=157134>

Inclement Weather Causes Power Failure, Briefly Forcing Shut Units at Carrizo Springs Compressor Station in Texas July 22
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=157138>

Amine Plant and AGI Compressor Shut, Restart Due to Power Outage at Waha Gas Plant in Texas July 22-23
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=157139>

Operators Report Flaring Due to Lack of Compression at Keystone Gas Plant in Texas July 22-23
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=157129>

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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