



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, July 27, 2012

Major Developments

Severe Storms, Destructive Winds Knock Out Power to Nearly 516,000 Utility Customers in Ohio Valley and U.S. Northeast July 26

Hundreds of thousands of utility customers lost power Thursday night after a line of severe storms with wind gusts reaching nearly 75 miles per hour, lightning, and hail swept across the Ohio Valley and Eastern United States. At peak the storms knocked out power to nearly 516,000 customers, including approximately 224,700 customers in Pennsylvania and nearly 107,000 customers in New York. As of 3:00 PM EDT Friday, approximately 110,237 customers remained without power. FirstEnergy said its West Penn Power and Pennsylvania Electric Company (Penelec) utilities serving western and central Pennsylvania were hit hardest by the storm. Both utilities expected to restore power to the majority of their affected customers by Sunday. New York State Electric & Gas Corp. (NYSEG) reported this morning that it expected customers in the hardest hit areas of its service region to be without power for a few days, according to an executive. More than 26,000 NYSEG customers remained without power Friday afternoon.

Ohio Valley and U.S. Northeast Customer Power Outages			
July 26–27, 2012			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Connecticut Light & Power Co	CT	13,000	876
United Illuminating Co	CT	6,500	212
Jersey Central Power & Light (FirstEnergy)	NJ	9,000	376
Public Service Electricity & Gas (PSE&G)	NJ	10,700	2,000
Consolidated Edison Inc.	NY	4,800	63
Long Island Power Authority (LIPA)	NY	284	33
Niagara Mohawk Power Corp. (National Grid)	NY	845	0
New York State Electric & Gas Corp. (NYSEG)	NY	52,000	26,318
Orange and Rockland Utilities	NY	15,000	1,024
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp	NY	34,000	4,050
AEP Ohio	OH	53,000	8,300
FirstEnergy (OH)	OH	13,200	733
Duke Energy (OH)	OH	3,000	178
Dayton Power & Light	OH	2,000	24
South Central Power Company	OH	11,000	270
PECO Energy Co (Exelon)	PA	25,000	4,000
FirstEnergy (PA)	PA	119,000	50,237
PPL Electric Utilities	PA	75,600	6,902
Duquesne Light	PA	5,100	400
Appalachian Power (AEP)	WV	10,660	602
Allegheny Power (FirstEnergy)	WV	6,184	0
AEP Ohio (WV)	WV	1,424	2,493
Detroit Edison (DTE)	MI	16,000	500
Consumers Energy	MI	21,000	0
Baltimore Gas and Electric	MD	7,611	646
TOTAL*		515,908	110,237

*Total outages only represent electric utilities listed in this table.

Sources:

CL&P: <http://www.stamfordadvocate.com/news/article/Conn-storms-bring-power-outages-no-major-damage-3738082.php>
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FirstEnergy (OH): <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-07-27/east-coast-storms-ground-planes-cut-power-to-thousands.html?cmpid=yhoo>
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BG&E: <http://www.bge.com/customerservice/stormsoutages/currentoutages/pages/default.aspx>

Southern Shuts 830 MW Farley Nuclear Unit 1 in Alabama July 27 to Test Diesel Generator after Repairs

Southern Nuclear reported Unit 1 of the Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Plant was taken offline at 3:03 AM CT this morning to allow operators to conduct post-maintenance testing on a diesel generator, according to a press release. On July 20, during routine maintenance activities for the 1B diesel generator, Plant Farley workers discovered that the diesel generator did not perform as expected. While investigating the issue, workers learned that an engine cooling valve did not function correctly. Employees have since completed the diesel generator repairs and are in the process of post-maintenance testing. The 830 MW Plant Farley Unit 2 continues to operate at 100 percent power.
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>
http://www.southerncompany.com/news/dyn_pressroom.aspx?s=43&item=2607

WPL to Retire at Least 260 MW of Coal-Fired Generation, Install Emission Controls at Power Plants in Wisconsin

Wisconsin Power and Light Company (WPL), a subsidiary of Alliant Energy Corporation, today outlined the next steps of its energy resources plan, which will transition the company's generating fleet to meet current and future energy needs and comply with state and federal environmental standards. The utility reported it will install emission controls at its Columbia coal-fired Units 1 and 2 and Edgewater coal-fired Unit 5. It will retire by the end of 2015 its Nelson Dewey coal-fired Units 1 and 2, whose combined generating capacity is 200 MW, and its 60 MW Edgewater coal-fired Unit 3. WPL must still decide whether to repower its 330 MW Edgewater coal-fired Unit 4 to burn natural gas or retire it by the end of 2018. The utility will work with the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator to determine the final timing of these retirements and possible fuel switch.
<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/wisconsin-power-light-company-outlines-120000004.html>

TMPA Restarts 453 MW Gibbons Creek Coal-Fired Unit 1 in Texas July 26 after Boiler Tube Repairs

The Texas Municipal Power Authority (TMPA) planned to restart its Gibbons Creek Unit 1 Thursday night after repairing a boiler tube leak, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators shut the unit by July 25 to make unplanned repairs.
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=171480>
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=171482>
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=171483>

Constellation's 835 MW Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Unit 2 in Maryland Reduced to 77 Percent by July 27

On the morning of July 26 the unit was operating at full power.
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Update: Entergy's 813 MW FitzPatrick Nuclear Unit in New York at Full Power by July 27

On the morning of July 26 the unit was operating at 82 percent.
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Exelon's 1,134 MW Limerick Nuclear Unit 2 in Pennsylvania Reduced to 62 Percent by July 27

On the morning of July 26 the unit was operating at full power.
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Update: FPL's 839 MW Saint Lucie Nuclear Unit 1 in Florida Ramped Up to 89 Percent by July 27

Saint Lucie Unit 1 is returning from an outage that began by July 19. Florida Power & Light (FPL) has not yet indicated why the reactor was shut. The unit was ramped up to 85 percent power by July 25, reduced to 29 percent power by July 26, and increased again to 89 percent power by July 27.
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Update: Con Edison, Union Reach Tentative Labor Agreement July 26

Consolidated Edison Inc. on Thursday reached a tentative 4-year contract agreement with the leadership of Utility Union of America Local 1-2, according to a press release. The contract must still be ratified by Local 1-2 union members who work for Con Edison in New York and Connecticut. The utility locked out 8,500 union members July 1 after failing to reach an agreement on wages, pensions, and health benefits. Union employees temporarily reported to work Thursday night to assist with power restoration efforts in New York after severe storms yesterday.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-07-26/cuomo-says-3-000-con-ed-workers-return-to-prepare-for-storm-1-.html?cmpid=yahoo>

http://www.coned.com/newsroom/news/pr20120726_3.asp

Calpine's 135 MW Gilroy Gas-Fired Unit in California Shut by July 26

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201207261515.html>

PG&E's 407 MW Helms Hydro Unit 1 in California Shut by July 26

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201207261515.html>

Petroleum

Update: TransCanada Receives Final Permit to Build Gulf Coast Project Pipeline in Oklahoma and Texas; Construction Set to Begin This Summer

TransCanada Corporation today announced it has now received the final of three key permits it needed from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to advance the 485-mile Gulf Coast Project in Texas and Oklahoma. TransCanada is now in a position to start construction of the oil pipeline in the coming weeks, with an in-service date of mid-to-late 2013. The Gulf Coast Project will construct a crude oil pipeline running from Cushing, Oklahoma to Nederland, Texas. The pipeline is intended to eventually connect to TransCanada's proposed Keystone XL pipeline, which will transport 830,000 b/d of crude oil from Hardisty, Alberta to U.S. Gulf Coast refineries. The U.S. Department of State is currently reviewing TransCanada's application for a Presidential Permit to proceed with the 1,179-mile Keystone XL pipeline and is expected to make a decision in the first quarter of 2013.

<http://www.transcanada.com/6074.html>

Valero Shuts FCCU to Repair Compressor at Its 144,000 b/d Benicia, California Refinery July 26

Valero Energy Corp. reported emissions at its Benicia refinery on Thursday resulted when operators shut a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) to repair a compressor. Operators expected the FCCU would remain down for several days.

Reuters, 09:56 July 27, 2012

SRU, SCOT Unit Shutdowns Lead to Emissions at Valero's 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery July 26

Valero Energy Corp. reported the shutdown of a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) and a shell claus off-gas treating (SCOT) unit led to sulfur dioxide emissions at its Port Arthur refinery Thursday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The filing does not indicate why the two units were shut down. The cause of the emissions was under investigation, the filing said.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=171566>

FCCU Snag Briefly Triggers Flaring at BP's 455,790 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery July 26

BP Plc reported a snag in a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) briefly triggered flaring at its Texas City refinery Thursday morning, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators were investigating the cause of the flaring at the time of the filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=171554>

Alon Reports Flaring during Compressor Repairs at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery July 26

Alon USA Energy reported flaring at its Big Spring refinery Thursday morning was caused when operators were correcting an electrical issue on a compressor, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. There was no significant impact on operations, the filing said.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=171560>

Kirby Corp. Ships Bakken Crude Oil to Louisiana by Barge on the Mississippi River

Barge operator Kirby Corp. on Thursday said that it is shipping Bakken Shale crude oil, which arrived at its terminal in St. Louis by rail from North Dakota, to refiners in Louisiana via the Mississippi River. The company is believed to be the first barge operator to ship Bakken crude oil via the Mississippi River.

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3067176/Latest-News/Bakken-crude-reaching-Louisiana-refiners-by-barge.html>

Natural Gas

Enbridge Restarts Its Tilden Gas Plant in Texas July 26 after Repairs to Injection Well; Reports Flaring, AGI Unit Snags during Restart

Enbridge reported its Tilden Plant shut down overnight Thursday for repairs to an injection well, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. As restart procedures began early Friday morning, operators had problems restarting both acid gas injector (AGI) units due to a lack of gas flow. Operators attempted several times to re-circulate gas to keep the AGI units operating. Operators responded immediately to correct situation.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=171570>

Engine Snag Leads to Flaring at Southern Union's 140 MMcf/d Keystone Gas Plant in Texas July 25

Southern Union Gas Services reported it was flaring low-pressure gas overnight July 25–26 after the Engine No. 23 Cat went down, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=171535>

Other News

Nothing to report

International News

Nothing to report

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
July 27, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	90.04	91.17	98.00
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.13	2.99	4.43

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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Please direct comments and questions to: ead@oe.netl.doe.gov