



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, August 06, 2012

Major Developments

Severe Storms Cut Power to More Than 320,000 Utility Customers in Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan August 4–5

Severe storms and high winds knocked out power to hundreds of thousands of utility customers in Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan over the weekend. The storms cut power to more than 273,000 utility customers along the shore of Lake Michigan Saturday evening, including more than 200,000 ComEd customers in Chicago, 60,000 Northern Indiana Public Service Co (NIPSCO) customers in Northwest Indiana, and 13,000 Indiana-Michigan Power customers in Northwest Indiana and Southwest Michigan. ComEd and NIPSCO expected to restore power to the majority of their customers by the end of Monday night, with the remaining restored on Tuesday. Indiana-Michigan expected to fully restore power to its affected customers by Sunday night. On Sunday morning, strong storms cut power to more than 48,000 customers in Central Indiana, including 35,000 Indianapolis Power & Light (IPL) customers and 13,000 Duke Energy customers. An IPL spokesman said the utility expected to fully restore power by Tuesday afternoon.

<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2012/08/05/roughly-50200-without-power-after-storms/>

<https://www.comed.com/customer-service/outage-information/Pages/storm-center.aspx>

<http://www.thestarpress.com/article/20120805/NEWS06/120805011/UPDATED-Indiana-storms-leave-thousands-without-electricity-?odysey=tab|topnews|text|Frontpage>

<http://www.nipsco.com/en/Stay-Safe/outage-center.aspx>

<http://www.theindychannel.com/news/31332654/detail.html>

<http://www.indianasnewscenter.com/news/local/120805-power-outages-165054296.html>

Electricity

Thunderstorms Cause Tree to Fall on Two Transmission Lines, Knocks Out Power to Nearly 36,000 CL&P Utility Customers in Southern Connecticut August 6

An 85-foot tree knocked down two transmission lines in southern Connecticut Monday morning in the wake of severe thunderstorms the night before, knocking out power to virtually every utility customer in Greenwich. Just before 11:00 AM EDT, Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) reported 27,805 of its 27,910 customers in Greenwich—more than 99 percent—were without power. The utility reported an additional 8,000 of its customers were without power in Stamford—about 14 percent of that city's customers. The tree fell at about 4:00 AM EDT, but the initial fall appears not to have caused numerous power outages. At about 10:00 AM, however, branches from the same tree fell onto a second transmission line, knocking out power to virtually the entire town, according to a CL&P spokesman. As of 4:00 PM EDT time Monday, 6,110 customers remained without power in Greenwich. The utility expected to fully restore power by 8:00 PM tonight, according to a spokesman.

<http://www.greenwichtime.com/news/article/More-than-27K-without-power-in-Greenwich-3765378.php>

<http://nuwnotes1.nu.com/apps/mediarelease/clp-pr.nsf/0/033BF1500855D03785257A52005411B5?OpenDocument>

<http://www.cl-p.com/outage/outagemap.aspx?sec=fb>

Storms Cut Power to 40,000 Xcel Energy Customers in Southeast Minnesota August 3–4

Powerful storms struck southeast of Minneapolis overnight Friday–Saturday, with wind gusts up to 60 miles per hour uprooting trees and knocking out power to nearly 40,000 Xcel Energy customers, according to local reports.

<http://www.kare11.com/news/article/985633/396/Severe-storms-leave-mark-on-Red-Wing#shine>

Update: Con Edison Lifts Voltage Reductions in New York City August 3

Consolidated Edison said it lifted the voltage reduction it implemented in areas of the Bronx and Manhattan last Thursday by early Friday morning. The utility had implemented a 5-percent voltage reduction while crews made repairs to electrical equipment.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/03/utilities-conedison-idUSL4E8J35S820120803?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43>

NV Energy and California ISO to Study Potential for Developing Transmission Facilities Between California and Nevada

NV Energy, Inc. announced today that, together with California Independent System Operator Corporation (ISO), it will jointly study the potential for developing transmission facilities between the two systems, as well as sharing conventional and renewable energy resources for the benefit of the respective customer groups. The joint study could begin as early as this August.

<https://nvenergy.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=8838&item=131223>

Idaho Power Plans Hearings on Proposed 500-kV Transmission Line from Oregon to Idaho

Idaho Power is holding a series of public hearings this month to discuss a proposed route for a new 500-kV, 300-mile transmission line between Boardman, Oregon and Melba, Idaho. Utility officials have said the new line is needed to provide additional power capacity for customers in both states.

<http://www.ktvb.com/home/Idaho-Power-plans-hearings-on-proposed-power-line-165069756.html>

Update: NRG Restarts 893 MW Limestone Coal-Fired Unit 1 in Texas August 3 after Water Wall Tube Repairs

NRG Energy Inc. reported it was planning to restart its Limestone Unit 1 Friday night following repairs on a water wall tube leak, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators shut the unit July 31 to make repairs. Emissions related to startup procedures were possible through August 5, the filing said.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=171900>

Exelon's 619 MW Oyster Creek Nuclear Unit in New Jersey Reduced to 79 Percent by August 5

On the morning of August 4 the unit was operating at 95 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Update: Exelon's 1,163 MW Byron Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois Ramped Up to 96 Percent by August 6

On the morning of August 5 the unit was operating at 80 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

FirstEnergy's 1,235 MW Perry Nuclear Unit 1 in Ohio Reduced to 60 Percent by August 4

On the morning of August 3 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Update: APS's 1,247 MW Palo Verde Nuclear Unit 3 in Arizona at Full Power by August 5

On the morning of August 4 the unit was operating at 81 percent. Palo Verde Unit 3 had been operating at around 80-percent power since July 30, when Arizona Public Service reduced power to allow workers to make repairs following a feedwater leak.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

AES's 175 MW Redondo Gas-Fired Unit 6 in California Shut by August 5

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201208051515.html>

Wind Power Generates Nearly 57 Percent of Electricity Provided by Xcel Energy in Colorado Overnight April 15, Setting U.S. Record; National Average is 3 Percent

http://money.cnn.com/2012/08/06/news/economy/wind-power-Colorado/index.htm?source=yahoo_quote

Update: Diesel Hydrotreater Fire at HollyFrontier's 125,000 b/d Tulsa, Oklahoma Refinery August 2 Will Affect Production – Refinery Official

HollyFrontier Corp. on Friday said fuel production at its Tulsa refinery would be affected in the near term due to damage caused by a fire that broke out in a diesel hydrotreater last Thursday, according to a company official. The refinery's environmental manager could not say how long the hydrotreater will be out of commission, and he said the company will have to decide whether to shift some of its diesel product for processing at its Tulsa West facility, ship it to other HollyFrontier refineries, or sell the untreated fuel to other refineries. The refinery was working to make adjustments, and it was still investigating the cause of the fire, the official said.

http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/article.aspx?subjectid=49&articleid=20120804_49_E1_CUTLIN922301

Update: Valero Restarting Downstream Units at Its 125,000 b/d Meraux, Louisiana Refinery by August 6; Expects Crude Unit to Resume Operation by August 31

Valero Energy Corp. on Monday said it had begun restarting downstream units at its Meraux refinery and expected the crude unit to resume operation by the end of the month, according to a spokesman. Valero shut all units at the refinery July 23, when a fire broke out in the crude unit.

Reuters, 10:08 August 6, 2012

Update: Sunoco Restarts Point Breeze FCCU at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery July 30 – Filing

Sunoco Inc. restarted fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) No. 868 at the Point Breeze section of its Philadelphia refinery on July 30, according to a filing with Philadelphia pollution regulators. Operators shut the unit July 23 due to high vibrations. A source familiar with refinery operations said late last week that operators had slightly cut rates to the Point Breeze FCCU for a brief period on Thursday, August 2, but soon after resumed normal rates.

Reuters, 16:13 August 3, 2012

Update: Valero Restarts FCCU at Its 144,000 b/d Benicia, California Refinery by August 6; Expects to Resume Planned Rates within Days

Valero Energy Corp. on Monday said it had begun restarting the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Benicia refinery and expected the unit to be at planned rates within a few days, according to a spokesman. Valero shut the unit July 26 after a compressor malfunction.

Reuters, 10:08 August 6, 2012

Phillips 66 Reports Flaring at Its 120,000 b/d Rodeo, California Refinery August 5

Phillips 66 reported a flaring event led to sulfur dioxide emissions at its Rodeo refinery, according to a filing with the California Emergency Management Agency. The filing does not specify which unit was involved in the incident.

Reuters, 21:18 August 5, 2012

Valero Reports Hydrogen Sulfide Release at Its 455,790 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery August 5

Valero Energy Corp. reported a pressure relief valve lifted at its Texas City refinery Sunday afternoon, releasing hydrogen sulfide, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators had secured the release and were investigating the incident, the filing said.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1020048

Valero Reports Flaring Due to Compressor Maintenance at Its 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery August 3

Valero Energy Corp. reported flaring at its Corpus Christi refinery Friday night was due to maintenance on a compressor, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The filing lists a coking unit as one source of emissions.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=171903>

Natural Gas

Slurry Sinkhole Bends 36-Inch Natural Gas Pipeline, Threatens Others in Louisiana

A massive slurry sinkhole that appeared Friday morning near Bayou Corne, in Assumption Parish, Louisiana has bent at least one natural gas pipeline underground in the area and is threatening others, according to officials. A 36-inch pipeline operated by Crosstex Energy was discovered bent but not leaking Saturday evening, officials said. Two 20-inch natural gas pipelines owned by Acadian Gas that run parallel to the Crosstex pipeline are also at risk. Parts of Highway 70 were closed Sunday and were expected to remain shut until Monday afternoon, to allow Crosstex to depressurize all the lines in the area. Officials were still investigating the source of the sinkhole, but they have said it has not grown since Saturday night.

<http://www.wafb.com/story/19197202/assumpt-officials-say-slurry-not-growing>

<http://www.examiner.com/article/bayou-corne-disaster-extra-security-called-methane-bubble-tsunami-revisited>

<http://www.hazardonthenet.net/article/52315/Louisiana-sinkhole-threatens-gas-pipeline-explosion.aspx?AreaID=2>

Other News

Freight Train Carrying Coal Derails in Southern West Virginia August 2 after Bridge Collapses

A CSX freight train carrying coal derailed in Raleigh, West Virginia at about 2:00 PM local time on Thursday after a bridge the train was traveling over collapsed. CSX officials said the train had four locomotives and 75 freight cars carrying coal. Six of those cars derailed and spilled coal into a creek below the bridge.

<http://www.mariettatimes.com/page/content.detail/id/248572/Coal-train-derails-in-southern-W-Va--town-.html?isap=1&nav=5019>

International News

Rebel Attack in Turkey Halts Flows on Kirkuk-Ceyhan Crude Oil Pipeline August 5

Rebels in Mardin province, north of Turkey's border with Syria, attacked a pipeline carrying crude oil from Iraq's Kirkuk oilfields to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan late Sunday night, halting flows on the pipeline. Only one of two parallel pipes was damaged in the attack, and flows may resume on the undamaged pipe later on Monday, according to Turkish officials. Repairs to the damaged line are expected to take up to 10 days. A source with the Iraqi North Oil Company (NOC) said exports at the port of Ceyhan were unaffected by the blast because of reserves held at the port, but an unnamed shipper there said that no vessels in Ceyhan were loaded on Monday because only 430,000 barrels were in storage, less than the capacity of the next tanker waiting for crude. Exports along the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline have been running at around 300,000 b/d, the Iraqi official said. The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) is believed to be responsible for the attack, the second such incident in two weeks. The PKK were also believed to be behind a similar explosion on the Iraqi-Turkish pipeline on July 20, which shut down oil flows from Iraq for days.

Reuters, 12:09 August 6, 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/explosion-at-pipeline-in-turkey-forces-shut-down-of-oil-flow-from-iraq/2012/08/06/6fb34b1e-dfc4-11e1-8d48-2b1243f34c85_story.html

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
August 6, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	91.97	89.70	87.00
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.91	3.10	4.20

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

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