



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

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, August 17, 2010

## *Electricity*

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### **Update: Both Units Shut Automatically at Exelon's 2,315 MW Braidwood Nuclear Power Plant in Illinois August 16**

Both units at Exelon's 2,315 MW Braidwood nuclear power plant in Illinois – the 1,161 MW Unit 1 and the 1,154 MW Unit 2 – shut automatically on August 16, the company said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Unit 2 shut at 2:06 AM local time after a “generator lockout relay actuation” led to “a turbine generator trip,” and Unit 1 shut about 13 minutes later after the “loss of condenser vacuum” caused a “turbine trip,” according to the filing. The units remained out of service on August 17, Exelon said in a news release. The company was still working to determine what forced Unit 1 offline, but said that “an electrical fault on Unit 2's main generator system” had caused Unit 2's shutdown.

[http://www.exeloncorp.com/Newsroom/Pages/pr\\_pr\\_2010%2008%2017\\_nuclear\\_Braidwood%20outage20100817\\_nuclear\\_Braidwoodoutage.aspx](http://www.exeloncorp.com/Newsroom/Pages/pr_pr_2010%2008%2017_nuclear_Braidwood%20outage20100817_nuclear_Braidwoodoutage.aspx)

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20100817en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Update: TVA's 1,125 MW Watts Bar Nuclear Unit 1 in Tennessee at Full Power by August 17**

The unit experienced “a valid auxiliary feedwater system actuation” on August 15 “during power reduction for turbine maintenance,” the company said in a previous filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that on the morning of August 16 the unit was operating at 15 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20100816en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Entergy's 813 MW FitzPatrick Nuclear Unit in New York Reduced to 37 Percent by August 17**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 16 the unit was operating at 99 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Exelon's 802 MW Three Mile Island Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Reduced to 56 Percent by August 17**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 16 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/2010/>

### **Update: AES's 495 MW Alamosa Gas-Fired Unit 6 in California Returns to Service by August 16**

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

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201008161515.html>

### **AES's 498 MW Alamos Gas-Fired Unit 5 in California Reduced by August 16**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 248 MW by August 16.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201008161515.html>

### **Update: SCE's 200 MW Eastwood Hydro Unit in California Returns to Service by August 16**

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

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201008161515.html>

### **Update: Dominion's 1,130 MW Millstone Nuclear Unit 3 in Connecticut Ramped Up to 17 Percent by August 17**

Dominion shut the unit on August 13 "to repair a small leak in the residual heat removal system connected to the reactor coolant system," it said in a previous filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that on the morning of August 16 the unit was not operating.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20100816en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Bruce Power Restarts 750 MW Nuclear Unit 3 in Ontario by August 17**

The unit shut on August 14 "due to high lake water temperature," Reuters said.

Reuters, 08:58 August 17, 2010

### **Update: TVA Exceeds River Temperature Limit at 3,391 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant in Alabama August 16**

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20100817en.html>

### **Update: Xcel to Retire 900 MW of Coal-Fired Capacity and Repower Nearly 1,000 MW of Gas-Fired Capacity in Colorado**

Xcel Energy plans to retire 900 MW of coal-fired capacity, repower nearly 1,000 MW of gas-fired capacity, and retrofit two power plants with new emissions controls, the company said on August 13. Specifically, the company expects to:

- Retire its 186 MW Valmont power plant by the end of 2017 and shutter its 717 MW Cherokee power plant by the end of 2022.
- Convert the Cherokee power plant to run on natural gas. The new facility would generate 883 MW of power.
- Convert the 111 MW Arapahoe Unit 4 to run on natural gas.
- Install modern emission control technology on approximately 950 MW of coal-based capacity, combined, at the 505 MW Pawnee power plant and the 446 MW Hayden power plant

[http://www.xcelenergy.com/Minnesota/Company/Newsroom/Pages/10-13-2010-](http://www.xcelenergy.com/Minnesota/Company/Newsroom/Pages/10-13-2010-XcelEnergyrecommendsCleanAirCleanJobsPlan.aspx)

[XcelEnergyrecommendsCleanAirCleanJobsPlan.aspx](http://www.xcelenergy.com/Minnesota/Company/Newsroom/Pages/10-13-2010-XcelEnergyrecommendsCleanAirCleanJobsPlan.aspx)

### **ERCOT Breaks Electricity Demand Record for Third Time in One Month August 16**

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas, Inc. (ERCOT) set a new peak electric demand of 64,805 MW between 3 and 4 PM on August 16, 2010, breaking its own demand record for the third time in August. The 64,805 MW total exceeded the previous record of 63,830 MW, set on August 10. An ERCOT official attributed the new record to high temperatures across much of the state.

[http://www.ercot.com/news/press\\_releases/2010/nr-08-16-10](http://www.ercot.com/news/press_releases/2010/nr-08-16-10)

### **Update: Enbridge Reduces Capacity by about 39,200 b/d along 490,000 b/d, 30-Inch, 645-Mile, Wisconsin-to-Ontario Line 5**

Enbridge reduced capacity by about eight percent, or 39,200 b/d, along its 490,000 b/d, 30-inch, 645-mile, Wisconsin-to-Ontario Line 5 last week, the company said on August 16, in an effort to decrease pressure along its pipeline system. Line 5 is the primary alternative for Canadian refiners to Enbridge's still-shut, 190,000 b/d 30-inch, Indiana-to-Ontario Lakehead System Line 6B. Enbridge shut Line 6B after it spilled about 19,000 barrels of oil on July 26 into a creek near the company's Marshall, Michigan pump station. Separately, Enbridge expected that "70 percent of the voluntary evacuation within the red zone" would be lifted on August 16. Line 6B's extended shutdown has impacted numerous refineries, according to Reuters:

- United Refining has reduced rates by 35 percent at its 70,000 b/d Warren, Pennsylvania refinery
- BP/Husky have reduced rates at their 127,500 b/d Toledo, Ohio refinery
- Sunoco has reduced rates at its 160,000 b/d Toledo, Ohio refinery
- Imperial Oil has seen a minimal impact at its 121,000 b/d Sarnia, Ontario refinery and 112,000 b/d Nanticoke, Ontario refinery
- Suncor has seen a minimal impact at its 80,000 b/d Sarnia, Ontario refinery.
- Shell is operating its 75,000 b/d Sarnia, Ontario refinery at normal rates, but the incident has led to delays in sourcing oil.

<http://response.enbridgeus.com/response/main.aspx?id=13047>

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/Enbridge+spill+creates+backlog/3407203/story.html#ixzz0wsBly1O8>

Reuters, 17:09 August 16, 2010

### **Update: Interior to Limit Use of Categorical Exclusions for Offshore Oil and Gas Development**

The Department of Interior (DOI) plans to restrict its use of categorical exclusions for offshore oil and gas development to activities involving limited environmental risk, it said on August 16, while it undertakes a comprehensive review of its National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process and the use of categorical exclusions for exploration and drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf. Categorical exclusions are actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and for which neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required. The process was established to reduce the amount of unnecessary paperwork and delay associated with NEPA compliance. The DOI's decision to curb the process followed the release of the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) report on the former Minerals Management Service's NEPA program. The report found, among other things, that the categorical exclusions used for approvals related to BP's recently blown-out Macondo well were established in 1981 and 1986, before deepwater drilling became widespread. The DOI intends to conduct a new environmental analysis in the Gulf of Mexico; it expects that review to help provide information to guide future leasing and development decisions. To read the CEQ report, click on the first link below.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ceq/20100816-ceq-mms-ocs-nepa.pdf>

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/Press\\_Releases/August\\_16\\_2010](http://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/eop/ceq/Press_Releases/August_16_2010)

<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/Categorical-Exclusions-for-Gulf-Offshore-Activity-to-be-Limited-While-Interior-Reviews-NEPA-Process-and-Develops-Revised-Policy.cfm>

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/17/science/earth/17drill.html?\\_r=1&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/17/science/earth/17drill.html?_r=1&hp)

### **Update: BP to Restart Unit at 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery August 16-20**

BP expected to restart an ultracracker on August 16-20 at its 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas refinery, the company said in a filing with state regulators. The unit "experienced an upset of a unit subsystem" on August 12, the company said in a previous filing with state regulators. The incident triggered flaring from the ultracracker and a desulfurization unit, and operators "initiated site wide fuel gas shed" to halt the emissions, according to the earlier filing. The incident lasted about 9 hours. It was not clear if there was any impact to production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143579>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143487>

<http://english.capital.gr/news.asp?id=1028968>

## **Pump Snag Triggers Leak at Flint Hills Resources' 288,126 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery August 16**

"A pump seal failure... on the Contact Condensor Bottoms pump" led to a leak at Flint Hills Resources' 288,126 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery, the company said in a filing with state regulators. "The leak was stopped and isolated" within hours, according to the filing. It was not clear if there was any impact to production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143640>

## **ConocoPhillips Reports Pinhole Leak at 247,000 b/d Belle Chasse, Louisiana Refinery August 13**

The pinhole leak occurred in a process line, according to a regulatory filing. It was not clear if there was any impact to production.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKWNA788720100816>

## **Valero Reports Suspected Leak at 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery August 16-17**

Valero planned to repair a "suspected leaking heat exchanger" on August 16-17 at its 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery, the company said in a filing with state regulators. It was not clear if the incident had any impact to production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143618>

## **Update: Well Continues to Spew Oil and Natural Gas in Assumption Parish, Louisiana August 16**

A Mantle Oil and Gas LLC-operated well continued to spew an unspecified quantity of oil and gas in Assumption Parish, Louisiana on August 16. The well blew out on August 11. There were no injuries, but six families were evacuated from their homes.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9HKKCT01.htm>

## **Update: Shell Halts Production after Third Sabotage Incident in Less than Two Weeks along Bonny Oil Pipeline in Nigeria**

Shell halted some production after "suspected crude thieves" attempted to siphon oil from the Bonny pipeline system in Nigeria by August 12, the company said. It was not clear how much production was offline. Shell, however, said it was the third alleged theft along the Bonny and Alakiri pipelines since the start of the month. The previous two incidents also forced shut some output. Shell, however, said it had repaired the damage from those attacks and restarted the affected production.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jEw2mvCRcwUPpmTyteEeYVwkDNkQ>

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## **Natural Gas**

### **Operators to Shut 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas August 17**

Operators expected to shut the plant "to make repairs on a chiller as part of the gas cooling system," according to a filing with state regulators.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143602>

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## **Other News**

### **Update: State Regulators Approve Shuttered Pacific Ethanol-Owned Ethanol Plants for Incentive Program in California by August 11**

The California Energy Commission (CEC) approved two Pacific Ethanol, Inc.-owned ethanol plants – one in Madera and another in Stockton – for the California Ethanol Producer Incentive Program (CEPIP), the company said on August 11. The plants have a combined capacity of 100 MMGal/Yr. They have been shut for more than one year, however, due to weak market conditions, according to Platts. The company said the CEC approval supported the "resumption of ethanol production." It was not clear, however, when the facilities might restart.

[http://www.pacificethanol.net/site/documents/news/PEIX\\_CEPIP\\_Annoucement\\_081110\\_Final.pdf](http://www.pacificethanol.net/site/documents/news/PEIX_CEPIP_Annoucement_081110_Final.pdf)

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews.aspx?xmlpath=RSSFeed/HeadlineNews/Petrochemicals/8906736.xml>  
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## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices August 17, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	76.35	79.79	66.20
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	4.37	4.52	3.18

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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**Storms Knock Out Power to about 13,000 Central Hudson Gas & Electric Customers in New York August 16 – Fewer than 3,000 Customers without Power, as of Latest Reports**

<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/article/20100816/NEWS01/100816012/1006/news01/Thousands-without-power-in-the-Town-of-Poughkeepsie>

<http://stormcentral.cenhud.com/default.aspx>

**Storm Cuts Power to 11,000 PPL Customers in Pennsylvania August 16 – Company Reports Only Scattered Outages August 17**

<http://articles.lancasteronline.com/local/4/277968>

<http://www.pplelectric.com/Outage+Center/>

**Substation Problem at Fault as 11,200 Ohio Edison Customers Lose Power in Ohio August 16 – Company Restores Power to Affected Customers within Hours**

<http://www.wkbn.com/content/news/local/story/Power-Restored-to-Thousands-in-Mahoning-County/dLrV2Lc0G0mWKpav3p0ykA.csp>

**Update: PJM Reaffirms Need for Pepco Holdings, Inc.'s Proposed Virginia-to-Delaware MAPP Transmission Line by August 16**

<http://www.pepcoholdings.com/about/news/archives/2010/article.aspx?cid=1512>

**Green Oak Renewables Plans 10 MW Wind Farm near Ogallala, Nebraska**

<http://www.wlns.com/Global/story.asp?S=12987430>

**Solaire Generation Eyes Early-2011 Completion for Planned 4.1 MW Solar PV Parking Structure in New Jersey**

PRN, 10:15 August 17, 2010

**OPPD Plans Siren System Test at 478 MW Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant in Nebraska August 25**

<http://www.ktiv.com/Global/story.asp?S=12980864>

**Update: FEMA Okays FirstEnergy's Plan to Remove Old Siren System at 2,311 MW Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant in New York by August 14**

<http://www.lohud.com/article/20100814/NEWS01/8140336/-1/NEWSFRONT/Indian-Point-gets-OK-to-demolish-old-siren-system>

**Irving Oil Blames Valve Malfunction at Saint John, New Brunswick Refinery after Unspecified Number of Service Stations Receive Off-Specification Supreme Gasoline – Incident Mostly Affected Stations in New Brunswick, Canada**

<http://www.irvingoil.com/community/news1.asp?newsid=229>

[http://www.canadianbusiness.com/markets/headline\\_news/article.jsp?content=b4227630](http://www.canadianbusiness.com/markets/headline_news/article.jsp?content=b4227630)

**Update: BLM Seeks to Press Forward on Approximately 260 Square Miles of Oil and Gas Leases in Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota – Environmentalists' Concerns Over Climate Change Had Led BLM to Reassess Program**

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ixKiJuBm3Vqjy26NIWZpRgYDTfZAD9HITPU80>

**Onshore Drilling Rig Count Climbs to 1,640 across United States by August 13, Outpacing 2009 Total by 672: Baker Hughes**

[http://www.pennenergy.com/index/petroleum/display/0268270509/articles/pennenergy/petroleum/exploration/2010/08/us-onshore\\_drilling.html](http://www.pennenergy.com/index/petroleum/display/0268270509/articles/pennenergy/petroleum/exploration/2010/08/us-onshore_drilling.html)

**Update: Ecuador Aims to Collect at Least 85 Percent of Oil-Sector Revenues in Contracts with Private Oil Companies**

Reuters, 12:52 August 17, 2010

**Vietnam Plans 200,000 b/d Expansion at Existing 148,000 b/d Dung Quat Refinery**

[http://www.ogj.com/index/article-display/1334731886/articles/oil-gas-journal/processing-2/refining/2010/08/vietnam-plans\\_to\\_expand/QP129867/cmpid=EnlRefiningAugust162010.html](http://www.ogj.com/index/article-display/1334731886/articles/oil-gas-journal/processing-2/refining/2010/08/vietnam-plans_to_expand/QP129867/cmpid=EnlRefiningAugust162010.html)

**Angolan Oil Exports Slated to Rise 15 Percent, to an Average 1.75 Million, in October 2010 – Maintenance and Other Issues to Blame for Expected Dip in September**

Reuters, 10:09 August 17, 2010

**Southern Union to Fix Propane Leak and Reduce Gathering at Natural Gas Plant in Texas August 17-23**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143621>

**Workers to Shut Compression Facility, Replace Leaking Equipment at Cedar Lake Booster Station in Texas August 17-18**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143391>

**Storm Cuts Power, Forces Offline Welch CO2 Gas Processing Facility in Texas August 16 – Power Restored and Compression Restarted within Hours**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=143563>

**Update: Oil Vapors in Storage Tank Led to Fatal July 23 Blast at Huntley & Huntley-Owned Natural Gas Well in Pennsylvania: County Fire Marshal**

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory?id=11414519>

**Update: POET and Farmers Kick Off Commercial Biomass Harvest for POET's Planned 25 MMGal/Yr. Cellulosic Ethanol Plant in Emmetsburg, Iowa**

<http://poet.com/discovery/releases/showRelease.asp?id=235>

**EPA Aims to Reduce GHG Emissions from Trucks and Buses – Agency Sends Draft Rules to Administration on August 13**

Reuters, 17:05 August 16, 2010

## Links

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***This Week in Petroleum*** from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

***Weekly Petroleum Status Report*** from EIA

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil\\_gas/petroleum/data\\_publications/weekly\\_petroleum\\_status\\_report/wpsr.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html)

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

***Natural Gas Weekly Update*** from EIA

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

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

### ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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

Please direct comments and questions to: [ead@oe.netl.doe.gov](mailto:ead@oe.netl.doe.gov)