



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, August 18, 2009

Electricity

Delta Power's 240 MW Crockett Cogen Gas-fired Unit in California Returns to Service by August 17

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage.
<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200908171515.html>

Watson Cogeneration's 417 MW Gas-fired Unit in California Reduced by August 17

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 241 MW by August 17.
<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200908171515.html>

Update: PG&E 1,150 MW Diablo Canyon Nuke Unit 2 in California Remains Shut by August 18

Pacific Gas & Electric Co. (PG&E) planned to replace transformer bushings at its 1,150 MW Diablo Canyon nuke unit 2, a spokeswoman said on August 14. The unit went offline on August 13. The spokeswoman did not say when the unit would return to service.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1432049920090814>

Update: NRC Launches Special Inspection after August 5 Fire at Energy Northwest's 1,107 MW Columbia Generating Station Nuke Unit in Washington State

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) launched an inspection yesterday, August 17, because an August 5 electrical fire forced shut Energy Northwest's 1,107 MW Columbia Generating Station nuke unit in Washington State. The fire occurred in the turbine building; the turbine shut automatically, and the reactor tripped offline. The NRC planned to determine the cause of the incident and evaluate the facility systems' subsequent reactions.
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2009/09-028.iv.html>

First Solar, SCE Plan 550 MW of Photovoltaic Solar Power Projects in California

First Solar, Inc. and Southern California Edison (SCE) plan to build two photovoltaic solar power projects in Southern California with a combined power output of 550 MW, the companies announced on August 18. Pending state approval, the companies expect to break ground on the 250 MW Desert Sunlight project in 2012, and on the 300 MW Stateline project in 2013. Both facilities should enter service in 2015.
<http://www.edison.com/pressroom/pr.asp?id=7262>

HECO Completes 110 MW Power Generator at Campbell Industrial Park in Hawaii

The Hawaiian Electric Co. (HECO) finished construction of a 110 MW, biodiesel-powered generator at the Campbell Industrial Park in Hawaii, a news source said. The company is committed to finding an alternative biofuel supplier after the State PUC turned down its proposed supplier.
<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Hawaii-utility-seeks-new-apf-2123406804.html?x=0&.v=1>

FERC Seeks New Reliability Standards for Low Capacity Electric Transmission Lines—Regional Regulators Say Rules should not Apply to non-Critical Smaller Lines

Western electricity regulators are balking at a proposal from the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to enforce reliability standards along low capacity electric transmission lines, arguing that the rule change would be both costly and counter-productive. FERC's proposed rule would require transmission companies to install protective relays within certain limits along all transmission lines at or above 100 kV capacity. Western regulators, however, say the standard would cost the Western Electricity Coordinating Council \$5.3 billion, and "drain resources away from other areas that can provide more benefit to overall reliability." The regulators support the North American Electric Reliability Corp.'s (NERC) alternative, which would require relay installations only along lines above 200 kV in capacity. NERC's plan would allow planning coordinators to identify smaller, critical lines for compliance.

<http://www1.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6489076.xml?p=Electric%20Power/News&sub=Electric%20Power>

Petroleum

Tesoro Restarting Units after Power Outage at 58,000 b/d Mandan, North Dakota Refinery August 18

A steam loss triggered a power outage and forced shut Tesoro's 58,000 b/d Mandan, North Dakota refinery on August 18, multiple sources reported. The company expected to resume normal operations in 12 to 18 hours, assuming minimal or no damage, a refinery spokesman said. He expected on-site inventories to prevent any supply disruption.

Bloomberg News, 12:36 August 18, 2009

Reuters, 12:10 August 18, 2009

Shell to Shut SCOT Blower on High Vibrations at 329,800 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery August 17

Shell planned to shut a SCOT blower after the unit experienced high vibration at the 329,800 b/d Deer Park, Texas refinery on August 17, the company said in a filing with state regulators. The incident occurred during a routine restart of a sulfur recovery unit (SRU), the company said. The filing did not say when the SCOT blower would return to service.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=128222>

Update: Total Restarts Unit at 174,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery August 18—Partial Power Failure Disrupted Operations Last Week

Total restarted a condensate splitter at its 174,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas refinery, six days after a partial power outage slowed facility operations.

DJN, 08:30 August 18, 2009

Update: Petro Star to Restart 48,000 b/d Valdez, Alaska Refinery in October—Fire Forced Shut Facility in December 2008

Petro Star expects to reopen its 48,000 b/d Valdez, Alaska refinery in October, nearly one year after a fire forced the facility offline, the company said by August 17.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=17723

MMS Plans Lease Sale for Offshore Texas O&G Block—Proposed Site Could Yield 242-423 Million Barrels of Oil, 1.64-2.64 Tcf of Natural Gas

The Minerals Management Service (MMS) plans to lease about 18.4 million acres of land in the Western Gulf of Mexico offshore Texas, according to an August 17 source. The block could yield 242-423 million barrels of oil and 1.64-2.64 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, the MMS said. The lease sale will begin on August 19.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=79357

Cairn India Ready to Begin Output at Barmer Block of Planned 175,000 b/d Rajasthan Fields in India

Cairn India is ready to start production at the Barmer block of its Rajasthan oil project, the company said by August 19. Cairn expects an initial output of 30,000 b/d. It plans to raise that total to 130,000 b/d in the first half of 2010, and could eventually boost production beyond 175,000 b/d.

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/cairn%5Cs-rajasthan-oil-field-ready-to-begin-production/367457/>

Natural Gas

Natural Gas Futures Dip to Near-Seven Year Low on Economic Worries August 17

Natural gas for September delivery dropped 7.5 cents on the NYMEX, finishing at \$3.163 per million Btus. It marked the lowest such-price since September 2002. An analyst blamed the decline on economic concerns.
<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aYojoJ1P4WMo>

Other News

Northern Utilities Planned 104 MMGal/Yr. Ethanol Plant in Nebraska May be in Jeopardy, Source Reports

The Nebraska Ethanol Board removed Northern Utilities' proposed 104 million gallon/year (MMGal/Yr.) ethanol plant from its website, indicating that the plans could be in jeopardy. The Board's website includes a list of plants in operation, under construction, offline, and under consideration. Northern Utilities' planned facility is no longer listed as "currently under consideration."

<http://www.yorknewstimes.com/articles/2009/08/17/news/doc4a88888241321004300960.txt>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
August 18, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	68.55	69.19	113.89
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.11	3.55	7.82

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Russell Biomass Plans 50 MW Biomass Power Plant in Massachusetts

<http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/08/17/ap6785366.html>

Northwestern Energy Seeks 25-75 MW of Renewable Power Projects in Montana

<http://www.northwesternenergy.com/OurCompany/NewsCenter/displaynews.aspx?Article=6834&item=20>

Sun Edison Plans 16.1 MW Photovoltaic Solar Farm in North Carolina

<http://triad.bizjournals.com/triad/stories/2009/08/17/daily10.html?ana=yfcpc>

Update: San Diego Gas & Electric Amending Blackout Plans to Account for California Customers who Need Electricity for Life Support — Company Plans to Shut off Power to Certain Areas, in Specific Cases, when Fire Poses Serious Risk

<http://www.thevillagenews.com/story/40020/>

Bangor Hydro Electric Company Seeks Federal Stimulus Funds for Smart Grid Project in Maine

BSW, 09:27 August 18, 2009

Xcel Plans Emergency Prep Drill at Monticello Nuclear Power Plant in Minnesota
<http://www.startribune.com/local/53422142.html>

PrimeGen Energy Plans 35,000 b/d Production at Timan-Pechora Oilfield in Russia
http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=79371

Dana Petroleum Begins Production at Planned 20,000 b/d Ettrick Field in UK
http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=79377

Gran Tierra Restarts Regular, 21,770 b/d Output at Colombian Putumayo Basin
<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSBNG16183020090818>

Equipment Malfunction at Eustace Gas Plant in Texas August 17
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=128269>

Chesapeake Renewable Energy Plans 15 MMGal/Yr. Barley-Based Ethanol Plant in Maryland
<http://www.delmarvanow.com/article/20090817/NEWS01/908170307/-1/newsfront2/Public-to-hear-about-ethanol-plant>

Amaizeingly Green Products Plans Restart of 14.3 MMGal/Yr. Ethanol Plant in Ontario, Canada August 17—Company Shut Facility for Six Weeks to Improve Pellet Mill Operations
<http://www.thebarriexaminer.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1701118>
http://www.amaizeinglygreen.com/home_AGLP.html

Oregon-Based Trillium FiberFuels Receives DOE Grant to Commercialize Cellulosic Ethanol Technology
http://www.biofuels-news.com/industry_news.php?item_id=1164

Uranium One Seeks NRC Approval for Proposed Uranium Mine in Wyoming—Company Would Operate on More than 20 Square Miles across Two Mining Sites
http://www.billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_4b3ac6c4-8b4c-11de-a04c-001cc4c03286.html

Links

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
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>

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