



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, August 19, 2011

## Electricity

### Severe Thunderstorms Knock Power Out to 215,000 across Midwest August 18-19

A series of severe thunderstorms rolled through the Midwest starting on the night of August 18, knocking out power to an estimated 215,000 customers throughout the region. Kansas City Power & Light, the hardest hit utility, reported significant damage to its system, including downed wires, uprooted trees, and more than 50 broken poles. KCP&L expects restoration efforts to extend over multiple days in some areas due to the magnitude of the damage.

Midwest Customer Power Outages			
August 18-19			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Kansas City Power & Light	MO	119,000	26,317
Omaha Public Power District	NE	40,000	2,649
Westar	KS	34,000	10,820
MidAmerican Energy	IA	22,000	3,374
<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>215,000</b>	<b>43,160</b>

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

KCP&L: [http://www.kcpl.com/storm/storm\\_update.html](http://www.kcpl.com/storm/storm_update.html)

[http://www.kcpl.com/kcmaps/frameset\\_menus.htm](http://www.kcpl.com/kcmaps/frameset_menus.htm)

OPPD: <http://oppdstorminfo.blogspot.com/2011/08/storm-update-august-192011-230-pm.html>

MidAmerican:

[http://www.southwestiowanews.com/articles/2011/08/19/council\\_bluffs/doc4e4e854ced0a1178478677.txt](http://www.southwestiowanews.com/articles/2011/08/19/council_bluffs/doc4e4e854ced0a1178478677.txt)

<http://www.midamericanenergy.com/storm/OutageWatch/MECOutageWatch.aspx>

Westar: <https://www-11.westarenergy.com/outagemaps/outagetable.asp>

### Storms Knock Out Power to 40,000 Customers in Baltimore and Philadelphia August 18-19

Severe thunderstorms knocked out power to 21,200 Baltimore Gas Electric customers in Maryland and 19,000 PECO customers in Pennsylvania. As of latest reports, less than 2,000 customers remained without power in each service territory.

PECO: <http://haverford.patch.com/articles/2-vehicle-accident-on-west-chester-pike>,

<http://www.peco.com/outagemap>

BGE: [http://www.abc2news.com/dpp/news/region/baltimore\\_county/crews-battle-3-alarm-apartment-fire-in-perry-hall](http://www.abc2news.com/dpp/news/region/baltimore_county/crews-battle-3-alarm-apartment-fire-in-perry-hall) , <http://www.bge.com/customerservice/stormsoutages/currentoutages/Pages/default.aspx>

### TVA's 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 2 in Alabama Reduced to 65 Percent by August 19

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 18 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/>

### **TVA's 1,125 MW Sequoyah Nuclear Unit 1 in Tennessee Shut by August 19**

According to a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the unit 1 reactor/turbine tripped at 10:50 p.m. due to reactor coolant pump bus undervoltage. Unit 2 was not impacted by the event. The NRC reported that on the morning of August 18 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20110819en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

### **FPL's 565 MW Duane Arnold Nuclear Unit in Iowa Ramped Up to 45 Percent by August 19**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 18 the unit was operating at 17 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

### **AES's 506 MW Redondo Beach Gas-fired Unit 7 in California Returns to Service by August 18**

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

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201108181515.html>

### **Cabrillo Power's 300 MW Encina Gas-fired Unit 4 in California Shut by August 18**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage on August 18.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201108181515.html>

### **AEP's 558 MW Welsh Coal-Fired Unit 1 in Texas Shuts, Restarts August 19**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=157302>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=157304>

### **Update: TVA Board of Directors Votes to Restart Construction of 1,260 MW Bellefonte Nuclear Plant in Alabama August 18**

Construction began on the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) 37 years ago. Construction is due to restart in 2013.

[http://www.nems360.com/view/full\\_story/15135764/article-TVA-board-approves-construction-of-nuclear-plant?instance=home\\_news\\_bullets](http://www.nems360.com/view/full_story/15135764/article-TVA-board-approves-construction-of-nuclear-plant?instance=home_news_bullets)

### **Update: Xcel Energy Still Wants to Build 200 MW Limon Wind Energy Center II in Colorado despite Dispute with City of Boulder, Colorado August 18**

The project was originally intended to provide energy to Boulder, Colorado, but negotiations over the plant broke down July 14. However, Xcel Energy indicated in a filing with the Colorado Public Utilities Commission that because of the low cost, the company still plans to add the project to its portfolio. If approved, the wind farm could be in service by the end of 2012. NextEra Energy Resources would install the wind turbines, with Xcel Energy purchasing the power.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/twincities/news/2011/08/18/xcel-energy-wants-ok-for-more-wind-power.html>

### **enXco Announces Plans to Replace Current 25 MW Wind Power Facility with 100 MW Shiloh IV Wind Project in Solano County, California August 18**

The company will remove the 235 existing turbines with a total capacity of 25MW, installed in 1989, and replace them with 100 MW of newer, more efficient models. Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) will purchase all of the generated power.

[http://www.enxco.com/about/press/enxco\\_signs\\_power\\_purchase\\_agreement\\_for\\_100\\_mw\\_shiloh\\_iv\\_wind\\_project](http://www.enxco.com/about/press/enxco_signs_power_purchase_agreement_for_100_mw_shiloh_iv_wind_project)  
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-08-19/edf-energies-nouvelles-to-upgrade-u-s-wind-farm-in-pg-e-deal.html?cmpid=yahoo>

### **Update: Operators Retract August 2 NRC Notification Regarding Vulnerability from a Potential HELB at Entergy's 858 MW Arkansas Nuclear One Unit 2 August 18**

On August 2, operators of the plant filed a report with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reporting that a "postulated High Energy Line Break (HELB) could potentially cause both the Red and Green Train Emergency Safeguard Features (ESF) Rooms to exceed their environmentally qualified temperature limits." On August 18, operators retracted the notification, indicating that analysis shows that the condition did not present a safety risk.  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20110819en.html>

### **Operators Report Non-Compliance Condition at Constellation's 480 MW Ginna Nuclear Unit in New York August 18**

According to a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), operators identified non-compliance with the "requirement to maintain one train of systems that are necessary to achieve and maintain hot shutdown and remain free from fire damage." A fire in the turbine building could potentially impact both trains of 480V safeguards buses.  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20110819en.html>

### **Update: NRC Issues Final Safety Evaluation Reports for SCE&G's Two Proposed Nuclear Units at its V.C. Summer Nuclear Plant in South Carolina August 19**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) found no safety issues which would preclude issuing a license to South Carolina Electric & Gas Company (SCE&G) for the two proposed units. SCE&G is a subsidiary of SCANA.  
<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/NRC-Issues-FSER-for-SCEG-bw-3516793639.html?x=0>  
<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/scg-nuclear-units-get-final-safety-evaluations-2011-08-19?siteid=yhoof2>  
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-08-18/nrc-says-no-safety-issues-for-scana-s-south-carolina-power-plant.html?cmpid=yahoo>

### **Pepco Holdings Announces Delay in 152-Mile, Virginia-to-Delaware MAPP Transmission Project August 19**

PJM Interconnection delayed the projected in-service date of Pepco Holdings' Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway (MAPP) from 2015 to 2019-2021, saying that the transmission line will not be needed until then. However, PJM Interconnection has informed Pepco that it should continue development work on the line.  
Reuters, 08:16 August 19, 2011  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110819-707531.html>

### **Solar Millennium Opts for Photovoltaic Technology at Blythe Project in California**

Solar Millennium AG and its US subsidiary Solar Trust of America August 18 announced their plan to build the first 500 MW phase of the Blythe Solar Power Project using photovoltaic (PV) instead of solar thermal technology. The company cited favorable conditions in the PV and commercial lending markets in the United States as the main driver for the decision. When complete, the Blythe Project will be 1,000 MW in size and thus the largest solar facility in the world.  
[http://www.solarmillennium.de/english/press/press-releases/2011\\_08\\_18-blythe-pv.html](http://www.solarmillennium.de/english/press/press-releases/2011_08_18-blythe-pv.html)

## ***Petroleum***

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### **Update: Valero Restarting Units at Fire-Downed 195,000 b/d Memphis, Tennessee Refinery**

The company is restarting one of two crude distillation unit, an FCC, and other units. The entire refinery was shut on August 5 due to a fire in a crude distillation unit.  
[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=27635](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=27635)

### **Update: Enterprise Products Partners Says 33,600 b/d Conway North NGL Pipeline in Iowa and Nebraska to Remain Shut for at Least Two Months**

The natural gas liquids (NGL) pipeline shut on August 13 after rupturing and leaking into the Missouri River in Iowa.  
<http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFN1E77H1QB20110818?sp=true>

## **Update: Marshall Islands Issues Report Blaming Human Failure for Last Year's BP Deepwater Horizon Blowout and Oil Spill August 17**

Transocean's Deepwater Horizon rig was registered in the Marshall Islands. According to one Marshall Islands official, the report was issued in part to "put forth some observations to the International Maritime Organization" regarding possible rig safety enhancements. (The Deepwater Horizon rig was registered in the Marshall Islands.)  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/17/bp-oilspill-report-idUSN1E77G1KI20110817>

## **FCCU Trips Offline at Exxon's 560,000 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery August 19**

The trip activated the feed diversion system on the refinery's fluidized catalytic cracking unit (FCCU), the company said in a regulatory filing. The unit was placed into "hot standby" to stabilize temperatures. The event is ongoing and is expected to last until August 20 but no impact on production is expected.  
Reuters, 11:25 August 19, 2011

## **Update: Leak Stopped a Shell's Gannet Alpha Platform in the North Sea August 19**

Shell divers closed the relief valve from which oil had been seeping at a rate of less than one barrel a day. Now there will be a phase of monitoring the flowline to check that it remains sealed. The next task is to remove the residual oil from inside the depressurized flowline, which will take time. Meanwhile, to secure the flowline to the seabed, 24 concrete mats have been placed, and more will be put down in the coming days. Three vessels are on site with dispersants and specialized oil spill response equipment if needed. Around 218 tonnes of oil have entered the North Sea from the flowline since the problem was first detected on 10 August. The Marine Coastguard's latest estimate is that the sheen currently covers an area of 6.7 square kms and is 3.62 tonnes by volume. Shell has set up an investigation team to establish the cause of the leak and will co-operate with government authorities as they conduct their own investigations, including supplying them with pipeline integrity reports and other information.  
[http://www.shell.co.uk/home/content/gbr/aboutshell/media\\_centre/news\\_and\\_media\\_releases/2011/news/update\\_gannet\\_oilleak\\_04.html](http://www.shell.co.uk/home/content/gbr/aboutshell/media_centre/news_and_media_releases/2011/news/update_gannet_oilleak_04.html)

## **Interior to Hold First Lease Sale for Offshore Drilling in Gulf of Mexico Since Deepwater Horizon Spill**

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) Director Michael R. Bromwich August 19 announced that BOEMRE will hold the first oil and natural gas lease sale in the Gulf of Mexico since the Deepwater Horizon explosion and oil spill. The proposed Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 218 is scheduled to be held in New Orleans on December 14, 2011 and will include all available un-leased areas in the Western Gulf Planning Area offshore Texas. The proposed lease sale encompasses about 3,900 un-leased blocks covering approximately 20.6 million acres. BOEMRE estimates the proposed lease sale could result in the production of 222 to 423 million barrels of oil and 1.49 to 2.65 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.  
<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/Salazar-Bromwich-Announce-Proposed-Gulf-of-Mexico-Oil-and-Gas-Lease-Sale.cfm>

## **Libyan Rebels May Resume Oil Output in Three Weeks**

A manager at Libya's Arabian Gulf Oil Company (AGOCO) said that oil output could resume at two large fields in the eastern part of the country within three weeks conditional on adequate security.  
<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE77I0BF20110819>

## **Flaring Did Not Impact Production at ConocoPhillips' 247,000 b/d Belle Chasse Refinery August 18**

The company said there was no impact on production after flaring was reported due to an upset at a sulfur plant incinerator on August 17.  
Reuters, 17:43 August 18, 2011

## **Slaughter Gasoline Plant Loses Electricity, Necessitating Shutdown August 18-19**

According to a filing with state regulators, a grass fire caused power supply poles to catch fire. The poles had to be replaced, causing the loss of power to the Slaughter plant. The plant was put back online following the replacements.  
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=158201>

## Natural Gas

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### State PUC Grants Conditional Approval for Kennebec Valley Gas Company's Proposed 80-Mile Natural Gas Pipeline in Maine August 16

According to the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC), the pipeline will bring the first supply of natural gas to the Kennebec Valley region. The pipeline will run from Richmond to Madison and is set to be completed in 2013 or earlier, with its first customers receiving deliveries in the fourth quarter of 2012.

[http://www.pressherald.com/news/natural-gas-pipeline-approved-by-puc\\_2011-08-16.html](http://www.pressherald.com/news/natural-gas-pipeline-approved-by-puc_2011-08-16.html)

### Update: DOE Advisory Group Submits Final Report on Shale Gas Recommendations to Energy Secretary Steven Chu August 18

The Natural Gas Subcommittee of the Secretary Energy Advisory Board today submitted its final 90-day report on recommendations to reduce the environmental impacts from shale gas production to Secretary Chu. According to a statement from Secretary Chu, the report recommends measures to increase public disclosure and transparency and address concerns about air and water pollution. The report also recommends a range of tools for implementing these measures, including regulation, continuous improvement in best practices by industry, and ongoing research and development.

<http://energy.gov/articles/energy-secretary-steven-chu-statement-final-report-natural-gas-subcommittee>

## Other News

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### NRC Grants Final Approval for Ur-Energy's Proposed 1,000 Tons/Yr. Uranium Processing Facility at its Lost Creek Uranium Deposit in Wyoming

In addition to permission from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), Ur-Energy still requires permits from the Wyoming state government and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

<http://www.miningweekly.com/article/ur-energy-gets-go-ahead-from-us-nuclear-watchdog-2011-08-18>

### Update: Energy Secretary Chu Announces Conditional Commitment of \$133.9 Million Loan Guarantee for Abengoa Bioenergy's Proposed 23 MMGal/Yr. Cellulosic Ethanol Plant in Hugoton, Kansas August 19

<http://energy.gov/articles/department-energy-offers-abengoa-bioenergy-conditional-commitment-1339-million-loan>

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
August 19, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	82.55	86.55	74.17
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	3.98	4.06	4.35

Source: Reuters

**ExxonMobil, Statoil Sue DOI to Preserve Leases in Julia Oil Field in Gulf of Mexico  
August 12-15 – Julia Field May Hold Over 700 Million Barrels of O&G Equivalent**

[http://www.dailybreeze.com/business/ci\\_18706867?source=rss](http://www.dailybreeze.com/business/ci_18706867?source=rss)

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=110309](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=110309)

[http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2011/08/19/exxon\\_sues\\_over\\_canceled\\_oil\\_leases/](http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2011/08/19/exxon_sues_over_canceled_oil_leases/)

**Homes and Businesses Evacuated for Five Hours after Work Crew Hits Gas Line, Causing  
Major Leak in Van Wert, Ohio August 17 – About 80 Dominion Customers Lose Gas  
Service**

<http://www.timesbulletin.com/main.asp?SectionID=2&SubSectionID=4&ArticleID=168115>

**Update: Agriculture Department Grants \$75 Million Loan Guarantee for INEOS New  
Planet BioEnergy's Under-Construction 8 MMGal/Yr. Cellulosic Ethanol Plant in Vero  
Beach, Florida August 18**

<http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFN1E77H0ZL20110818>

<http://biofuelsdigest.com/bdigest/2011/08/19/ineos-new-planet-bioenergy-closes-75m-loan-with-usda-guarantee/>

**Update: Energy Department Finalizes \$197 Million Loan Guarantee to SoloPower for  
Construction and Operation of Solar Module Manufacturing Facilities at Two Sites in  
Portland, Oregon and Existing Site in San Jose, California August 19**

<http://energy.gov/articles/department-energy-finalizes-197-million-loan-guarantee-solopower-inc-solar-manufacturing>

**AGI Unit #1 Shuts, Restarts Due to High First Stage Scrubber Level at Tilden Gas Plant in  
Texas August 18**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=158176>

**Amine Treater Briefly Malfunctions at Roberts Ranch Gas Plant in Texas, Impacting  
Deliveries to El Paso System August 18**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=158180>

**Equipment Malfunction Forces Shut Thermal Oxidizer at Henderson Compressor Station  
in Texas August 18**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=158189>

**BOEMRE Investigating Report of Oil Sheen in Gulf of Mexico in the Green Canyon Area  
100 Miles Offshore Louisiana August 18**

Reuters, 14:31 August 18, 2011

## Links

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

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