



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, August 21, 2008

Electricity

Update: Tropical Storm Fay Continues to Batter Florida, Over 36,000 FPL Customers without Power August 21

As of 3:30 PM EST, FPL is reporting 36,680 customers without power. Tropical Storm Fay knocked out over 100,000 customers in Florida when it made landfall on August 19. The number of outages in Florida will continue to fluctuate as customers are restored and new outages are experienced as Fay continues to pound Florida with high winds and massive amounts of rain. At press time, Tropical Storm Fay was slowly moving across the northeast Florida coast Thursday, making its third U.S. landfall and dumping 26 inches of rain in the Melbourne area.

https://www.fpl.com/storm/customers_outages.shtml

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/weather/08/21/tropical.storm.fay/index.html>

Storms Knock Out Power to 35,000 TEP Customers in Arizona August 20

The storms knocked down lines, which cut power to customers. As of last night, Tucson Electric Power (TEP) reported 1,700 customers remain without power.

http://www.kold.com/Global/story.asp?S=8845680&nav=menu86_13_9

Colorado Approves Xcel's Plans to Decommission Two Coal-fired Power Plants

Xcel will shut two coal-fired plants with a combined capacity of 229 MW, citing benefits to public health and concerns about carbon-dioxide emissions.

<http://denver.bizjournals.com/denver/stories/2008/08/18/daily23.html?ana=yfpc>

Energy Northwest's 1,107 MW Columbia Nuke Unit in Washington Reduced to 85 Percent by August 21

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 20 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/2008/>

FPL's 839 MW Saint Lucie Nuke Unit 1 in Florida Shut by August 21

The unit was shut August 20 after rain flooded a sump pit.

Bloomberg News, 13:22 August 21, 2008

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Enmax's 250 MW Calgary Gas-fired Unit in Alberta Shut August 20

Reuters, 9:02 August 21, 2008

Progress Energy's 900 MW Harris Nuke Unit in North Carolina Ramped up to 7 Percent by August 21

The unit was shut on August 11 to fix a condenser seal leak. The rod control system also malfunctioned on August 19, putting the unit in hot standby mode.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN2038485720080820?sp=true>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/20080821ps.html>

Calpine's 135 MW Calpine Gas-fired Unit in California Shut by August 20

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit experienced an unplanned outage on August 20.
<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200808201515.html>

Update: Indiana-Michigan Power's 1,060 MW D.C. Cook Nuke Unit 2 in Michigan Ramped Up to 26 Percent by August 21

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of August 20 the unit was operating at 1 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Study Indicates Vermont Should Use Mid-Sized Power Plants for Future Generation

The study conducted by the Essex Partnership for Central Vermont Public Service Corp., Green Mountain Power Corp also says renewable sources like wind power and farm methane can play an important role in the state's energy future.
http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/080820/vt_new_power.html?v=1

Petroleum

Crude Futures Prices Close Almost 5 Percent Higher at \$121.18/Bbl

Crude prices increased today for the fourth session in a row on a weakening dollar, tensions with Russia, and Tropical Storm Fay making landfall a second time in Florida. Tropical Storm Fay is projected to head towards the Gulf of Mexico, potentially affecting oil and gas facilities there.
Reuters, 15:25 August 21, 2008

Flint Hills Cuts Operating Rates at its 220,000 b/d North Pole, Alaska Refinery

Operating rates at the refinery have been cut, creating gasoline shortages.
Bloomberg News, 11:17 August 21, 2008

Frontier Oil Installing New Coker at its 112,000 b/d El Dorado, Kansas Refinery

The new coker will boost distillate fuel production by 19,500 b/d.
Bloomberg News, 15:50 August 21, 2008

SRU Upset at BP's 475,000 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery August 20

BP had an operational glitch in the sulfur recovery unit.
Reuters, 17:16 August 20, 2008

LOU Shut at Flint Hill's 285,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery August 20

The Light Olefins Unit (LOU) was shut to repair a crack in a steam service line.
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=112849>

Equipment Failure at Alon's 70,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery August 21

A vent gas compressor was taken down to repair a seal coolant pump.
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=112883>

Valero Restarting 110,000 b/d Crude Unit at its 340,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery August 21

The crude unit was unexpectedly shut on August 13.
Reuters, 10:19 August 21, 2008

Update: Several Units Restarting at Pasadena Refining's 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery August 21 – Traders

According to traders, the refinery lost power and steam on August 20, affecting the crude unit, coker, alkylation unit, and the fluid catalytic cracking unit.
Reuters, 08:51 August 21, 2008

Russian Military Blocks Exports of Oil and Oil Products from Azerbaijan through Georgia -- State Oil Company of Azerbaijan

The head of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR) in Georgia said that oil shipments into Georgia are blocked due to Russian troops and the damage to a critical bridge. Georgia hopes that the bridge will be repaired within a couple of weeks.

http://abc.az/cgi-bin/wnews_one.cgi?nid=26946&lang=eng

Natural Gas

Equipment Failure Shuts 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas August 20

A gasket failure on the amine treater caused the plant to shut.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=112858>

Other News

Nothing to Report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
August 21, 2008			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL			
West Texas Intermediate U.S.	121.23	115.05	69.36
\$/Barrel			
NATURAL GAS			
Henry Hub	8.04	8.15	5.92
\$/Million Btu			

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Compressor # 1 Offline due to High Second Stage Discharge Pressure at Lehman Compressor Station in Texas August 20

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=112866>

Process Upset at ConocoPhillips's 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery August 20

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=112869>

Construction Commences on Railway Linking Bull Mountain Coal Mine in Montana to Main BNSF Lines

<http://www.kxmc.com/getArticle.asp?ArticleId=266407>

OPEC Exports (Excluding Angola and Ecuador) to Rise by 200,000 b/d to September 6 – Analyst

Reuters, 11:30 August 21, 2008

Update: NRC EIS Finds Nothing to Preclude Extending Operating License of Progress Energy's Shearon Harris Nuke Units from 2026 to 2046

NRC Press release:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-155.html>

Shearon Harris final environmental impact statement is available on the NRC's Web site at this address:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/nuregs/staff/sr1437/supplement33/>.

The Shearon Harris license renewal application is posted at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/harris.html>.

Additional information about the license renewal process is available at:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal.html>.

See also Energy Assurance Daily, August 10, 2007 and December 27, 2007

<http://www.wral.com/news/state/story/3406171/>

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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