



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

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, August 22, 2012

## ***Electricity***

---

### **Exelon Shuts 802 MW Three Mile Island Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania August 22 Due to a Pressurizer Tank Leak**

Exelon Corp. reported operators at Three Mile Island Generating Station took the unit offline early Wednesday morning after discovering a leak on a heater element on the plant's pressurizer tank, according to a press release and a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The unit will return to service after the repairs, inspections, and testing on the heater element are complete.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2012/20120822en.html>

[http://www.exeloncorp.com/Newsroom/pr\\_082212\\_Nuclear\\_Three\\_Mile\\_Island\\_Unit\\_Offline.aspx](http://www.exeloncorp.com/Newsroom/pr_082212_Nuclear_Three_Mile_Island_Unit_Offline.aspx)

### **Update: Xcel's 522 MW Prairie Island Nuclear Unit 1 in Minnesota Ramped Up to 70 Percent by August 22**

Xcel Energy's Prairie Island Unit 1 is returning from an outage that began August 14, when operators shut the reactor after discovering exhaust leaks on both emergency diesel generators. Operators restarted the unit on August 19.

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

### **Update: PG&E's 407 MW Helms Hydro Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by August 21**

The unit returned from a planned outage that began by August 2.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201208211515.html>

### **Update: GenOn's 215 MW Mandalay Natural Gas-Fired Unit 2 in California Returns to Service by August 21**

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began by August 20.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201208211515.html>

### **Tampa Electric Plans 460 MW Expansion at Its Natural Gas-Fired Polk Power Station in Florida**

Tampa Electric today announced plans to expand the Polk Power Station to meet the company's future power needs. Pending approval from state regulators, Tampa Electric will expand the plant by about 460 MW and convert the four existing simple-cycle natural gas units into more efficient combined-cycle units by January 2017.

<http://tampaelectric.com/news/article/index.cfm?article=671>

### **We Energies to Convert Fuel Source of Its 280 MW Valley Power Plant in Wisconsin from Coal to Natural Gas**

We Energies announced August 17 its plans to convert the fuel source for the Valley Power Plant from coal to natural gas. The electric capacity of the cogeneration plant is expected to remain at 280 MW. The company plans to file an application with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW) for approval to modify the plant. If approved, We Energies expects the conversion to be completed in 2015 or 2016.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=114170&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1726667&highlight=>

## **NRC Publishes Annual Security Inspection Report to Congress**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has made available to the public and unclassified version of an annual report to Congress outlining the previous year's security inspection program. The report covers the NRC's security inspection program, including force-on-force exercises, for commercial nuclear power reactors and Category I fuel cycle facilities for calendar year 2011.

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1223/ML12234A698.pdf>

<http://adamswebsearch2.nrc.gov/webSearch2/main.jsp?AccessionNumber='ML12088A054>

## **Petroleum**

---

### **Tesoro Restarts Alkylation Unit at 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery August 18; Sulfur Unit Shutdown Leads to Flaring August 21**

Tesoro Corp. reported it restarted an alkylation unit at its Martinez refinery on Saturday, according to a filing with the Contra Costa County Health Department Hazardous Materials Program. The refinery also reported flaring after a sulfur unit shut down on Tuesday. Reports did not indicate why the sulfur unit was shut.

Reuters, 12:51 August 21, 2012

Reuters, 11:25 August 22, 2012

### **Update: BP Restarts Ultracracker at Its 455,790 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery August 21**

BP Plc reported it was restarting an ultracracker at its Texas City refinery Tuesday morning, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. An ultracracker compressor had tripped Monday morning, causing the unit to depressurize equipment to the refinery flare system. Restart procedures and associated emissions were expected to last until Saturday, August 25.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=172517>

### **PBF Energy Reports Power Outage at Its 125,600 b/d Toledo, Ohio Refinery August 21**

PBF Energy reported a power outage occurred at its Toledo refinery Tuesday morning, but it declined to say how the outage affected refinery operations. Local media had reported that flaring at the refinery Tuesday afternoon was related to a power blip.

Reuters, 13:13 August 21, 2012

### **Officials Report Oil Well Blowout in North Dakota August 14**

An oil well blew out south of Williston, North Dakota on August 14, spraying approximately 400 barrels of oil and 400 barrels of produced water used for hydraulic fracturing. Crews had completed the drilling and hydraulic fracturing processes for the well and were preparing for production when the blowout occurred, an official with the North Dakota Department of Health said. Officials were still investigating the cause of the incident Tuesday.

<http://www.jamestownsun.com/event/article/id/167503/>

### **Update: Shell Dispatches Drill Rig to Beaufort Sea Site for Test Wells Offshore Alaska**

Royal Dutch Shell Plc on Tuesday reported it has dispatched the drilling rig *Kulluk* to the Beaufort Sea site where it plans to drill test wells, in a move that signals the company intends to press on with its exploration activities offshore Alaska before the summer season ends and ice sets in. Shell has had to scale back its Arctic drill plan this year amid delays in modifying a spill-containment barge to meet U.S. Coast Guard requirements. Upon approval, the company aims to deploy the barge by the end of the month, a spokeswoman said Tuesday.

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil\\_gas/a/120137/Shell\\_Dispatches\\_Drill\\_Rig\\_to\\_Arctic\\_Site\\_for\\_Test\\_Wells](http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/120137/Shell_Dispatches_Drill_Rig_to_Arctic_Site_for_Test_Wells)

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2012/08/21/shell-running-out-of-time-to-drill-this-year-in-arctic/>

## **Natural Gas**

---

Nothing to report

### **Tropical Storm Isaac Advances toward Gulf of Mexico August 22; Could Potentially Threaten U.S. Oil and Gas Producers Operating in the Gulf**

The U.S. National Hurricane Service issued a public advisory regarding Tropical Storm Isaac, which was advancing toward the Leeward Islands and Puerto Rico Wednesday afternoon. A hurricane watch was in effect for Puerto Rico, Vieques, Culebra, and the U.S. and British and Virgin Islands, as well as the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Interests in Haiti and Cuba were advised to monitor the progress of the storm. The storm could potentially threaten U.S. energy interests in the Gulf of Mexico but the storm's path is still uncertain.

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/text/refresh/MIATCPAT4+shtml/221908.shtml>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/22/us-storm-isaac-idUSBRE87L0PH20120822>

### **Update: New Mexico Governor Joins the Call for a Waiver of EPA's Renewable Fuel Standard amid Continued Drought**

New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez urged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this week to consider an immediate waiver of its production mandate for corn-based ethanol, in an effort to bring down prices for the grain that have surged during a severe drought that has reduced the yield potential of developing crops. The governor said she was concerned about the state's dairy and range livestock producers, who use the grain for feed.

The EPA's Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) requires about 15 billion gallons of ethanol be blended into gasoline this year. The EPA on Monday said it was seeking comments on requests from the governors of Arkansas and North Carolina for a waiver of the RFS and matters relevant to EPA's consideration of those requests. The governors of Delaware, Maryland, and Georgia made similar requests earlier this month.

[http://news.terra.com/georgia-latest-state-seeking-to-end-us-ethanol-](http://news.terra.com/georgia-latest-state-seeking-to-end-us-ethanol-rule,c691370b90a49310VgnVCM4000009bcceb0aRCRD.html)

[rule,c691370b90a49310VgnVCM4000009bcceb0aRCRD.html](http://news.terra.com/georgia-latest-state-seeking-to-end-us-ethanol-rule,c691370b90a49310VgnVCM4000009bcceb0aRCRD.html)

## International News

---

### **Pemex Reports 18 Percent Jump in Theft of Crude Oil and Petroleum Products**

Mexico's state oil company Pemex recently said that theft of crude oil and petroleum products jumped 18 percent in the first half of 2012, compared to the same period in 2011, and totaled more than 1.8 million barrels, according to the *Houston Chronicle*. Officials have discovered nearly 800 illegal taps in January–June 2012, in addition to approximately 1,300 illegal taps discovered last year, most in the Gulf Coast states of Veracruz and Tamaulipas. Much of the theft in recent years has been attributed to a gang called the “Zetas,” who operate along the South Texas border.

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/article/Pemex-struggles-to-stop-spike-in-petroleum-theft-3794552.php>

## Energy Prices

---

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
August 22, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	96.76	94.03	82.87
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	2.80	2.79	3.99

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](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

---

*Energy Assurance Daily* provides a summary of public information concerning current energy issues. Published Monday through Friday to inform stakeholders of developments affecting energy systems, flows, and markets, it provides highlights of energy issues rather than a comprehensive coverage. *Energy Assurance Daily* is updated online Monday through Friday after 5:00 PM Eastern Time. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at:

<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)