



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, August 24, 2009

## ***Electricity***

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### **Tropical Storm Bill Strikes Canada, Cuts Power to 40,000 Nova Scotia Power Customers August 23**

Tropical Storm Bill knocked out power to 40,000 Nova Scotia Power customers on August 23, then made landfall along the southern Newfoundland coast, sources reported. Nova Scotia Power restored electricity to all but 435 customers by this morning, August 24. The company expected to restore those remaining customers later in the day.

<http://www.thetelegram.com/index.cfm?sid=280476&sc=79>

<http://www.cbc.ca/canada/newfoundland-labrador/story/2009/08/24/nl-hurricanebill.html>

### **Lightning Shuts Equipment at NRG's 836 MW Limestone Coal-fired Unit 1 in Texas August 23**

Lightning strikes forced equipment offline, triggering a main fuel trip at NRG's Limestone coal-fired unit 1 in Texas, the company said in a filing with state regulators. "The operator was able to maintain a low load without taking the unit offline," according to the filing. The incident also shut three absorber towers at Limestone's 864 MW Unit 2, a separate filing said.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=128522>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=128523>

### **AEP Shuts, Plans Restart of 675 MW Pirkey Coal-fired Power Plant in Texas August 22-26**

American Electric Power (AEP) shut the unit to fix a hydraulic oil leak on a turbine control valve, according to a filing with state regulators. The company planned to restart the unit August 23-26, it said in a separate filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=128502>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=128508>

### **Entergy Slows 620 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Vermont August 23**

Entergy reduced the unit to 85 percent for "routine adjustments of control rods," a company spokesman said. Bloomberg News, 09:38 August 24, 2009

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

### **Update: Wolf Creek Nuclear Restarts 1,166 MW Wolf Creek Nuclear Reactor in Kansas by August 24**

The unit shut on August 19 after a loss of off-site power, according to a news source. Wolf Creek returned the unit to 7 percent power by this morning, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reported.

Bloomberg News, 07:11 August 24, 2009

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

### **Update: PG&E's 1,087 MW Diablo Canyon Nuke Unit 2 in California Ramped Up to 78 Percent by August 24**

Workers shut the unit on August 13 to inspect bushings in a transformer bank, a spokeswoman said. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reported that on the morning of August 23 the unit was operating at 28 percent.

Bloomberg News, 07:14 August 24, 2009

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

## **Luminant to Restart 793 MW Martin Lake Coal-fired Unit 1 in Texas August 24**

Luminant planned to restart the unit today, August 24, after fixing a tube leak, according to a filing with state regulators. The filing did not say when the unit went offline.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=128506>

## **Reliant Energy Services, Inc.'s 495 MW Merchant Dynamic Gas-fired Unit in California Reduced, Ramped up by August 21-22**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit experienced an unplanned curtailment of 474 MW by August 21, but ramped back up by August 22.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200908211515.html>

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200908221515.html>

## **OPG's 881 MW Darlington 2 Nuke-fired Unit in Ontario Shut by August 24**

Reuters, 12:33 August 24, 2009

## **AEP Seeks Federal Stimulus Funds for CO2 Capture and Storage Plan at 1,300 MW Mountaineer Coal-fired Power Plant in West Virginia**

American Electric Power will apply with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Clean Coal Power Initiative Round 3 to help pay for a plan to capture and store carbon dioxide (CO2) at its 1,300 MW Mountaineer coal-fired power plant in West Virginia, the company said in a release. The system would capture at least 90 percent of CO2 emissions from 235 MW of the plant's output, according to the company. AEP would open the system in 2015.

<http://www.aep.com/newsroom/newsreleases/?id=1559>

<http://dailymail.com/Business/200908200979>

## **Update: Entergy May be Reviving Plans to Build 1,550 MW Nuclear Power Unit at Existing River Bend Facility in Louisiana**

Entergy plans to file a request within 90 days for "certification for nuclear power plant siting and licensing activities" regarding a potential third nuclear power unit at the River Bend facility in Louisiana, the company wrote in an August 21 letter to the state's Public Service Commission. The move suggests Entergy may be revisiting its previously-postponed plans to construct a 1,550 MW River Bend Unit 3. An Entergy spokeswoman, however, cautioned that the company has still not decided if it will build a new reactor. Entergy applied to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in September 2008 for a combined construction and operating license, but then later asked the NRC to delay its review. It said then that it wanted to assess "alternative reactor technologies."

<http://www1.platts.com/Nuclear/News/3117333.xml?p=Nuclear/News&sub=Nuclear>

## **TVA Considers Shuttering Coal-fired Power Plants in Tennessee and Alabama**

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) may shut down the 712 MW John Sevier coal-fired power plant in Tennessee, and the six oldest units at the eight-unit, 1,629 MW Widows Creek coal-fired facility in Alabama, a company official said recently. A federal judge directed TVA to upgrade the facilities' pollution controls by the end of 2013, but TVA may remove the plants from service instead, according to the company's President. The anti-pollution measures would cost TVA more than \$1 billion.

<http://www.tva.gov/sites/johnsevier.htm>

<http://www.tva.gov/sites/widowscreek.htm>

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2009/aug/24/tva-may-shutter-aging-coal-fired-plants/?local>

## **Update: Ohio Edison to Convert R.E. Burger Coal-fired Units 4 and 5 in Connecticut to Run Largely on Biomass by 2012**

Ohio Edison will convert its Shadyside, Ohio coal-fired power plant to run mostly on biomass by 2012, according to a deal with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Justice. The converted units will produce 312 MW of power—unchanged from current capacity. They will burn mostly biofuel, but also some low sulfur coal.

[http://www.greenandsave.com/green\\_news/green\\_business/coal\\_plant\\_to\\_switch\\_to\\_biofuel\\_in\\_2012\\_cut\\_emissions\\_by\\_13\\_million\\_tons](http://www.greenandsave.com/green_news/green_business/coal_plant_to_switch_to_biofuel_in_2012_cut_emissions_by_13_million_tons)

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/7EEF89C1A5D3B609852576100047A74D>

<http://www.firstenergycorp.com/NewsReleases/2009-04-01%20Burger%20Plant%20Biomass.pdf>

### **Update: Total Partially Restarts Unit, Shuts another at 232,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery by August 22**

Total restarted part of Unit 838 by August 22, five days after it slowed due to a hydrogen compressor failure, the company said in a filing with state regulators. Separately at Port Arthur, Total said a condensate splitter shut for unspecified reasons by August 22.

DJN, 11:59 August 24, 2009

Reuters, 09:27 August 24, 2009

Bloomberg News, 06:21 August 22, 2009

### **Storm Disrupts FCC, Sulfur Diesel Unit at Valero's 83,000 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery August 21**

A storm caused a "loss of caustic" to a gasoline-producing fluid catalytic cracker (FCC), and a feed disruption to an ultra-low-sulfur diesel unit at Valero's 83,000 b/d Houston, Texas refinery on August 21, according to a filing with state regulators. The filing did not indicate if the incident had any impact to production.

Bloomberg News, 05:47 August 22, 2009

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=128496>

### **Lightning Causes Flaring at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery August 22-23—Emissions Related to Crude Unit, Company Says**

Bloomberg News, 11:03 August 23, 2009

### **Brief Power Failure at Tesoro's 58,000 b/d Salt Lake City, Utah Refinery August 22**

A power outage briefly shut one generator, but did not impact production at Tesoro's 58,000 b/d Salt Lake City, Utah refinery, a company spokesman said.

Reuters, 12:21 August 24, 2009

### **Update: Valero Restarts 70,000 b/d FCC at 180,000 b/d Memphis, Tennessee Refinery over Weekend**

Valero restarted a 70,000 b/d fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC) over the weekend at its 180,000 b/d Memphis, Tennessee refinery, the company said. The unit was approaching planned rates on August 24, according to Valero.

Workers shut the unit on August 6 to fix a flue gas cooler.

DJN, 10:39 August 24, 2009

### **Lightning Strike Triggers Fire at Oil Transport Station in Siberia August 22—Russia May Slightly Curtail Oil Shipments to Primorsk Port**

Russia may slightly curtail crude deliveries to the Primorsk oil port after a lightning strike triggered a fire at the associated Khanty-Mansiisk oil transport station in Siberia on August 22, according to an official with the state pipeline company, Transneft. The fire burned up to 10,000 tonnes of oil, a Transneft spokesman said. The Primorsk oil port—Russia's largest—accounts for more than half of the nation's seaborne oil exports.

Reuters, 08:36 August 24, 2009

## **Natural Gas**

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### **Update: Denali Delays Application Plans for Natural Gas Pipeline from North Slope, Alaska to Alberta, Canada**

Denali plans to file with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for a certificate of public convenience and necessity in October 2012 instead of the originally-planned August 2011, it said in a status report. The company—a joint venture of BP and Conoco Phillips—is competing with TransCanada to build a natural gas pipeline from the North Slope, Alaska, through Alberta, Canada. Denali still plans to hold an open season in 2010. It expects to conduct field surveys in 2010 and 2011.

<http://www.adn.com/money/industries/oil/pipeline/story/906017.html>

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

## Harsh Weather Cuts Power, Forces Shut Acid Gas Compressor at Waha Gas Plant in Texas August 21—Workers Restart Unit within Hours

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=128498>

## Magnum Development Plans 45 Bcf Underground Natural Gas Storage Caverns in Utah--Facility Would Also Store Energy in the Form of Compressed Air

The caverns would hold up to 45 billion cubic feet of natural gas, but would also be equipped to store energy in the form of compressed air, and might also accommodate storage of carbon dioxide from a nearby coal-fired plant according to a news source. Solar or wind farms would inject compressed air into the caverns, and Magnum would later release the air to power electricity turbines. The company hopes to open the project by 2012.

[http://www.localnews8.com/Global/story.asp?S=10974225&nav=menu554\\_1\\_1](http://www.localnews8.com/Global/story.asp?S=10974225&nav=menu554_1_1)

## Other News

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### California to Study Potential Impact on Utility Infrastructure of Expected Increase of Alternative Fuel and Electric Vehicles

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) plans to investigate how an increased use of alternative fuel cars and/or electrical vehicles might impact the state's energy utilities and electric and natural gas infrastructures, according to a news source. The CPUC expects to predict how the shift might affect energy reliability, as well as the state's climate change goals.

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
August 24, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	73.97	66.20	114.48
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	2.78	3.18	7.98

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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### Storms Knock Out Power to Almost 17,000 National Grid Customers in New York August 21—Company Restores Service to nearly all Affected Customers by August 22

<http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=834024>

### Storms Knock Out Power to 17,000 CL&P Customers in Connecticut August 21—Only 2,000 Still in the Dark August 22

<http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local-beat/Northwest-CT-Residents-Cleaning-Up-Storm-Damage--54149772.html>

### Storms Cut Electricity to about 9,000 Arizona Public Service Customers, 5,000 Salt River Project Customers in Arizona August 21—Companies Expected to Restore Power to Most later August 21

<http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/story/143327>

**Western Wind Energy Plans 50-120 MW Windstar Wind Farm in California**

[http://www.westernwindenergy.com/s/Windstar\\_L.asp](http://www.westernwindenergy.com/s/Windstar_L.asp)

[http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=ind\\_focus.story&STORY=/www/story/08-24-2009/0005081650&EDATE=](http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=ind_focus.story&STORY=/www/story/08-24-2009/0005081650&EDATE=)

**Update: Allegheny Energy, AEP Seek Property Owners' Permissions to Survey Planned Route for Proposed 765-kV, West Virginia-to-Maryland Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline**

<http://www.wtvr.com/news/dp-wv--multistatepowerli0817aug17.0.6955056.story>

**Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Receives Federal Funding for Transmission Upgrade Plans in U.S. West**

[http://www.coloradoconnection.com/news/news\\_story.aspx?id=339243](http://www.coloradoconnection.com/news/news_story.aspx?id=339243)

**LADWP Seeks Federal Funding for Smart Grid Project in California**

<http://www.businessgreen.com/business-green/news/2248152/la-applies-200m-smart-grid>

**NRC Studying Cancer Rates near Nuclear Reactors**

<http://www.theday.com/re.aspx?re=cd5fafd9-18c5-40f8-bf35-50c62a0ef2a3>

**SRU Snag at BP's 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery August 22**

Reuters, 13:47 August 23, 2009

**SRU Malfunctions at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery August 20**

Reuters, 17:13 August 21, 2009

**Update: Valero's Aruba Refinery Remains in "Hot Mothball Status," Prepared for "Fairly" Quick Restart, Spokesman Says—Company Shut Facility due to Economic Reasons in July, and Planned to Revisit Decision in Two to Three Months**

Bloomberg News, 10:41 August 24, 2009

**Train Car Collision Spills 1,000 Gallons of Diesel in Washington State—Crews Contain Area by August 20**

<http://www.mynorthwest.com/?nid=11&sid=203136>

**DDLC Energy, Taylor Energy and Northeast Products Agree to Pay Fines for "Failing to Take Adequate Precaution to Prevent and Contain Oil Spills" from Separate New England Storage Facilities, EPA Says**

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/F13730F0083C2ADB852576180057AF58>

**Update: China Finishes First Stockpiling Phase at First State-run Oil Reserve by August 20**

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=17821](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=17821)

**Turbine Shuts Briefly at Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas August 23**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/occeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=128509>

**Acid Gas Compressor Shutdown at Waha Gas Plant in Texas August 22-23**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/occeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=128515>

**Update: FERC Issues Positive Draft Environmental Review for Bison Pipeline's Proposed Natural Gas Pipeline from Powder River Basin to U.S. Midwest**

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

**Wall Collapses, Kills Worker at Big Laurel Mining Corp. Coal Mine in Virginia August 20**

[http://www2.tricity.com/tri/news/local/article/miner\\_dies\\_in\\_wise\\_county\\_underground\\_coal\\_mine\\_collapse/30966/](http://www2.tricity.com/tri/news/local/article/miner_dies_in_wise_county_underground_coal_mine_collapse/30966/)

## 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)