



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, August 26, 2013

Electricity

Rim Fire Shuts 165 MW Holm and 115.5 MW Kirkwood Hydroelectric Plants in Northern California August 19; No Service Interruptions for San Francisco Customers

Since Monday, August 19, two hydroelectric plants owned by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)—the 165 MW Dion R. Holm Powerhouse and the 115.5 MW R.C. Kirkwood Powerhouse—are not in use due to the Rim Fire, which continues to burn in Stanislaus National Forest in Northern California. A third SFPUC hydroelectric plant in the area, the 100 MW Moccasin Powerhouse, is still generating power and has been producing 50 of the 160 MW needed by San Francisco every day. SFPUC is making up the difference in power generation (110 MW) by accessing power in an existing power bank and purchasing power on the open market. SFPUC is the sole provider of hydroelectric power to all of the Cities' municipal facilities, which include MUNI transit system, San Francisco International Airport, San Francisco General Hospital, City Hall, libraries, the Port, police stations, fire stations and more. All of San Francisco's municipal customers and others continue to be fully supplied and SFPUC has said there will be no interruption in service. On August 25, SFPUC crews returned to Kirkwood Powerhouse to make preliminary repairs and conduct additional damage inspections. The Rim Fire covered nearly 150,000 acres and was 15 percent contained by the morning of August 26.

<http://sfwater.org/index.aspx?page=711>

<http://www.inciweb.org/incident/3660/>

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-rim-fire-san-francisco-power-20130824,0,3899956.story>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/24/us-usa-fire-yosemite-idUSBRE97L14020130824>

<http://ens-newswire.com/2013/08/24/san-francisco-emergency-called-as-rim-fire-burns-power-lines/>

NRC Issues Letter to TVA Regarding Safety at Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant in Alabama August 23

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a letter to the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) on Friday confirming what initial safety measures the authority must take at its Browns Ferry nuclear power plant in Alabama. Ten "Tier 1" actions are scheduled to be completed by the authority by November 30, including improvements in safety culture, the corrective-action program, the safety system reliability plan, the work-management process, and a procedure-upgrade project. Failure of a low-pressure coolant injection valve in the fall of 2010 had prompted the regulator to issue a red finding of "high safety significance," resulting in close NRC inspection and oversight.

Reuters, 17:07 August 23, 2013

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1323/ML13235A271.pdf>

Energy Northwest's 1,107 MW Columbia Nuclear Unit in Washington Reports Malfunction August 24; Loss of Secondary Pressure August 25

On August 24, the reactor building stack radiation monitor intermediate range detectors were declared non-functional due to a loss of supporting equipment. Corrective actions were ongoing to restore the affected monitors to functional status. On August 25, the reactor building pressure increased to above the technical specification surveillance requirement of .25 inches vacuum water gauge. This could have prevented fulfillment of a safety function needed to control the release of radiation and mitigate the consequences of an accident. The reactor building differential pressure controller was placed in manual operation and secondary containment pressure was restored to normal, operable status. The secondary containment pressure was outside the allowable technical specification requirement for 4 minutes.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130826en.html>

Update: PSE&G's 1,096 MW Salem Nuclear Unit 1 in New Jersey Restarts by August 25; Ramps Up to Full Power by August 26

The unit restarted and ramped up to 30 percent by the morning of August 26 after being shut due to a reactor coolant system leak on August 22, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

Update: Dynegy's 756 MW Moss Landing Natural Gas-fired Unit 7 in California Returns to Service by August 23

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

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201308231515.html>

Calpine's 593 MW Metcalf Energy Center Natural Gas-fired Unit in California Shut by August 25

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201308251515.html>

Dynegy's 335 MW El Segundo Natural Gas-fired Unit 4 in California Returns to Service by August 25

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began August 23.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201308251515.html>

Update: RRI Energy's 320 MW Etiwanda Natural Gas-fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by August 25

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began August 23.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201308251515.html>

Petroleum

FCCU Shut at Monroe Energy's 185,000 b/d Trainer, Pennsylvania Refinery August 23

Monroe Energy LLC said on Friday it shut the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Trainer, Pennsylvania, refinery due to an unplanned issue. The unit was due to be back online in the next 24 to 48 hours.

Reuters, 14:51 August 23, 2013

Flaring Reported at Shell's 329,800 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery August 25

Royal Dutch Shell Plc said an operational issue late Sunday in an unspecified unit at its Deer Park, Texas, refinery resulted in flaring. The company had earlier posted a message with the local Community Awareness and Emergency Response reporting that an upset at a coker gas oil treating unit led to flaring at the refinery.

Reuters, 10:45 August 26, 2013

Equipment Failure Shuts Unit at Citgo's 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery August 23

Citgo Petroleum Corp. reported a unit was shut on Friday due to equipment failure at its refinery in Lemont, Illinois, according to a notice filed with the U.S. National Response Center. Some flaring occurred during the shutdown causing a sulfur dioxide release, according to the filing.

Reuters, 14:32 August 25, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1057989

Apache Shuts Oil Platform in Gulf of Mexico Off Louisiana Coast August 25

Apache Corp. reported the shutdown of an oil platform after a sump pump was unable to keep up with the volume of discharge caused by heavy rain in Main Pass County, Block 308A, Louisiana, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. There was a discharge of 0.16 gallons of crude oil and the release was secured, the filing said.

Reuters, 00:37 August 26, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1058172

Genesis Energy to Build New Raceland Rail Facility with Crude Oil Unit Train Service on Louisiana Gulf Coast

Genesis Energy, L.P. announced it is preparing to commence construction on a new crude oil unit train unloading facility capable of unloading up to two unit trains per day, located in Raceland, Louisiana approximately 20 miles southeast of St. James (Raceland Rail Facility). The Raceland Rail Facility will initially be connected to existing midstream infrastructure that will provide direct pipeline access to both St. James and Baton Rouge area refineries. In addition, Genesis is in discussions to build pipeline infrastructure for the rail barrels to move south, ultimately providing access to existing infrastructure at Clovelly, Louisiana and connectivity, via existing pipelines, to the majority of refineries in Southeastern Louisiana. The location of the facility will have joint access to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and Union Pacific Railroad facilitating direct hauls via both Class 1 railroads from multiple origination points. The facility is expected to be operational in the second quarter of 2014. The Raceland Rail Facility project will include more than 400,000 barrels of new crude oil storage and pipeline infrastructure.

http://www.genesisenergy.com/assets/Investors/Press_Releases/2013-08-26.pdf

Natural Gas

DCP Midstream's 75 MMcf/d Rawhide Processing Plant in Texas and Associated Systems Now in Commercial Operation August 26

DCP Midstream announced its new Rawhide plant, a 75 MMcf/d, cryogenic natural gas processing plant in Glasscock County, Texas, and the associated low-pressure gathering and compression systems are now in commercial operation. Rawhide plant and the gathering and compression systems augment DCP's existing presence in the Permian Basin.

<https://www.dcpmidstream.com/pdf/DCP%20Midstream's%20Rawhide%20Processing%20Plant%20and%20Associated%20Systems%20Now%20in%20Commercial%20Operation%20Serving%20Permian%20Basin.pdf>

Turbine Restarted at DCP Midstream's 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas August 24

DCP Midstream reported turbine A went down when a fuel shutdown relay de-energized. The plant operator immediately reset shutdown alarms and restarted the turbine.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=187238>

Enbridge Curtails Gas from Tilden Gas Plant in Texas Due to Outlet Pressure Problem on Bigfoot Pipeline August 23

Enbridge Inc. reported low suction pressure on the acid gas injectors (AGIs) due to a problem with the outlet pressure on the Bigfoot pipeline. The outlet pressure problem was identified as a stuck control valve only open 25 percent. Gas had to be curtailed causing the low suction pressure on the AGIs. The pressure controller on the outlet valve was replaced and gas to the plant was restored. Both AGI compressors were brought quickly to minimize flaring emissions.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=187210>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Update: Libya's Marsa Al-Brega Port Loads First Oil Tankers Since August 9

Libya's Marsa al-Brega oil port successfully loaded its first crude oil tanker over the weekend after re-opening last Tuesday when worker strikes ended, according to AIS Live ship-tracking data on Reuters. A crude oil tanker loaded around August 24–25 and was now heading to Genova for orders, the data showed. The port has been opening and closing since the end of July due to the strikes.

Reuters, 5:36 August 26, 2013

Iraq Cuts Crude Oil Exports to Turkey from 244,000 b/d to 110,000 b/d in September Loading Program due to Leaks and Attacks on Kirkuk-Ceyhan Pipeline

Iraq has cut Turkey crude oil shipments by more than half for September as loadings run a month behind, due mostly to leaks and attacks on the Kirkuk-Ceyhan export pipeline, according to the preliminary program and trading sources. State marketer Somo cut the program to around 110,000 b/d from around 244,000 b/d in August, deciding not to allocate most cargo requested by refiners, the program showed on Monday. A severe leak on the pipeline around June 21 forced Somo to halt exports for nearly a month. Since it restarted, in mid-July, it has been under nearly constant attack by militants.

Reuters, 7:13 August 26, 2013

Update: Oil Flow Resumes on Kirkuk-Ceyhan Pipeline August 24

Crude oil flow has resumed through a pipeline running from Iraq's Kirkuk oil fields to Ceyhan port in Turkey, two officials from Iraq's North Oil Company said on Saturday. Flows resumed Friday afternoon after being halted Wednesday due to a bomb attack.

Reuters, 5:06 August 24, 2013

Update: Venezuelan President Claims Sabotage Caused Fatal 2012 Blast at 645,000 b/d Amuay Refinery

Venezuela's president today cited an international investigation into the 2012 explosion that killed 42 people at the Amuay oil refinery in Venezuela calling it "sabotage" and accusing opponents of being responsible. The incident was initially blamed on a gas leak which then caused the fire and explosion of nine fuel tanks. In June, the president had accused the opposition of being behind the blast on the basis of the attorney general's probe, but this was the first time he cited an international investigation. The president did not indicate who conducted the latest probe. There have been similar incidents at refineries in Venezuela in recent months, some of which have also been blamed on sabotage.

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3247513/Latest-News/Venezuela-investigation-reveals-sabotage-behind-fatal-Amuay-refinery-blast.html>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
August 26, 2013			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	106.01	107.23	96.05
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.50	3.35	2.81

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

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM ET every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://www.eia.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM ET every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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

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