



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, September 20, 2011

Electricity

Update: Indiana-Michigan Power's 1,000 MW D.C. Cook Nuclear Unit 1 in Michigan Reduced to 50 Percent by September 20

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of September 19 the unit was operating at 65 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Entergy's 778 MW Palisades Nuclear Unit in Michigan Restarts and Ramps Up to 2 Percent by September 20

The reactor was shut Friday evening due to a primary system leakage.

Reuters, 07:28 September 20, 2011

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Southern's 856 MW Hatch Nuclear Unit 1 in Georgia Reduced to 54 Percent by September 20

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of September 19 the unit was operating at 84 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: NRC to Issue Preliminary Results on Inspection of Dominion's 1,842 MW North Anna Nuclear Plant in Virginia Following Earthquake Last Month

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) said Tuesday that it would issue preliminary results on October 3 that will offer more insight into how long it will take for Dominion Virginia Power's nuclear plant to be approved for restart following last month's earthquake on the U.S. East Coast. Dominion has said the plant sustained no significant damage during the quake. The plant has been idle since automatically shutting down during the event and as the company and NRC have been investigating systems.

Reuters, 09:47 September 20, 2011

Petroleum

Continental Resources' Oil Rig in Watonga, Oklahoma Explodes September 19; Ensuing Fire Still Burning September 20

An oil rig owned and operated by Continental Resources Inc. exploded Monday night about 60 miles northwest of Oklahoma City, in Watonga, Oklahoma. The company reports that a well fire occurred while drilling Moseley 1-5H and may continue to burn for several days before the damaged rig can be cleared and the fire extinguished. No injuries have been reported. The explosion and ensuing fire forced the evacuation of about 20 homes within a two-mile radius of the rig. Some residents were permitted to return to their homes Tuesday, but not those closest to the rig.

Reuters, 11:55 September 20, 2011

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/09/19/ap/business/main20108636.shtml>

Crude Distillation Unit Begins Restart at Valero's 170,000 b/d McKee, Texas Refinery September 19; Other Units to Follow

Valero Energy Corp. said Monday that one of two crude distillation units is beginning to restart after being taken out of service on Sunday for a brief repair to the piping circuit. After the crude unit has been restarted, other units that had been shut during the repair, such as a hydrocracker, hydrotreater, and reformer, will also be restarted. The refinery's other crude unit continued in operation during the repair.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/industries/2011/09/19/valero-mckee-refinery-crude-unit-in-restart-other-unit-restarts-to-follow/>

<http://m.foxbusiness.com/quickPage.html?page=32811&external=1122760.proteus.fma>

Compressor Failure Causes Nitrogen Dioxide Release at Sunoco's 178,000 b/d Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania Refinery September 16

Reuters, 06:30 September 20, 2011

SRU Incinerator Problem Causes Flaring at BP's 437,000 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery September 18-19

According to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, a problem with a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) incinerator caused flaring of sulfur dioxide at the refinery late Sunday through early Monday. The process has returned to normal operations.

Reuters, 18:02 September 19, 2011

<http://www11.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=159382>

Fire Curtails Production at Iraq's 1.2-1.3 MMb/d Rumaila Oil Field September 20

Officials from Iraq's South Oil Company said welding operations on a gas compressor near oil production facilities at Rumaila ignited a fire Tuesday, forcing one oil production station to shut down. Emergency teams are expected to extinguish the fire later today, at which point the oil production station could resume working. Rumaila was producing 1.2-1.3 MMb/d before the incident.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=111022

Update: BP Restarts Production at 42,000 b/d Valhall Oil Platform in Norwegian North Sea September 17

The platform was producing 42,000 b/d of Ekofisk crude before a fire broke out July 13. BP announced Monday that production resumed Saturday and will continue to ramp up over the coming days.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=110992

EPA Issues Air Permits to Shell Oil for Offshore Alaska O&G Drilling September 19

The Environmental Protection Agency approved air permits Monday for Shell Oil, which hopes to drill offshore for oil and natural gas in the Chukchi Sea and Beaufort Sea Outer Continental Shelf off the coast of Alaska. Shell plans to begin exploration drilling in 2012.

<http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/epa-approves-air-permits-shell-drill-alaskas-arctic>

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=111020

Natural Gas

Loss of Power Leads to Brief Shut-In at Enbridge's Henderson Gas Processing Plant in Texas September 19

The plant experienced a loss of provided utility power resulting in the loss of the air assist blower motor for the processor flare. The plant shut-in inlet gas and set the plant to by-pass. Power was restored and the plant was brought back on line as quickly as possible.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=159385>

Update: PG&E Seeks Permission to Restore Full Pressure to Natural Gas Pipelines from Topock Compressor Station in California September 19

At a hearing before the California Public Utilities Commission on Monday, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) asked for permission to restore full pressure to two 34-inch transmission lines transporting gas from its Topock compressor station, a major funnel point for three pipelines supplying gas to California from Arizona. The two lines have operated at a pressure of 528 pounds per square inch since February 2010, when regulators ordered a 20 percent cut from the pipes' normal 660 pounds after surging gas levels on one of the lines pushed pressures at the PG&E station beyond the legal limit. The state ordered pressure cuts and testing in the wake of last September's explosion of a PG&E gas transmission line in San Bruno, where the company had never performed pressure tests because of inaccurate records. Continued restrictions could prevent the company from meeting peak winter gas demand in Northern and Central California. At the hearing Monday, PG&E assured regulators the Toprock site is in good working condition and promised that the company would not depart from a more stringent testing regimen in the future without state approval. The commission is expected to issue a decision in two weeks.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/09/14/MNAL1L44DU.DTL>

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/09/20/BADA1L6KI2.DTL>

Other News

EIA's Energy Outlook 2011 Predicts World Energy Use Will Jump 53 Percent by 2035

On Monday, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) released its International Energy Outlook 2011 (IEO2011), which presents updated projects for world energy markets through 2035. The report concludes that strong economic growth in developing nations, particularly in India and China, will drive an increase in worldwide energy consumption by 53 percent between 2008 and 2035. Other key findings include:

- Renewable energy is projected to be the fastest growing source of primary energy over the next 25 years, but fossil fuels remain the dominant source of energy.
- Natural gas has the fastest growth rate among the fossil fuels over the 2008 to 2035 projection period.
- World oil prices remain high in the projection, but oil consumption continues to grow; both conventional and unconventional liquid supplies are used to meet rising demand.

The IEO2011 is available at <http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/ieo>.

<http://www.eia.gov/pressroom/releases/press368.cfm>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices September 20, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	86.96	88.19	72.94
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.78	3.92	4.01

Energy Notes

Update: U.S. Coast Guard Says Crude Oil Has Stopped Leaking from Orphaned Platform in Bayou Dupont and North Barataria Bay, Louisiana September 19

http://www.pennenergy.com/index/petroleum/display/6217451325/articles/pennenergy/petroleum/offshore/2011/09/us-coast_guard_stops.html

9,000-Gallon Tanker Truck Crashes, Spills Gasoline on Highway 38 in California

September 19

<http://www.oes.ca.gov/Operational/MALHaz.nsf/f1841a103c102734882563e200760c4a/e51f737820f647e4882579110021e4c4?OpenDocument>

http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/local/inland_empire&id=8361064

Update: Connecticut Light & Power Restores Power to Most of its 10,000 Customers Affected by Transmission Line Problems September 19

<http://www.rep-am.com/articles/2011/09/20/news/local/doc4e7739780f2ae617782552.txt>

Update: Fewer than 300 Oncor Electric Customers Remain without Power in North Texas after Storms Cut Power to 40,000 September 18

<http://www.nbcdfw.com/weather/stories/Thousands-Without-Power-After-Storms-130108753.html>

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to Begin Removal of 12 MW Elwha and 16 MW Glines Canyon Hydroelectric Power Plants in Washington State This Month

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2011/09/15/15greenwire-long-awaited-freedom-comes-to-olympia-nps-elwh-44784.html>

Western Wind Energy Begins Commercial Operation of 10.5 MW Kingman I Wind and Solar Project in Kingman, Arizona September 16

<http://www.newswire.ca/en/releases/archive/September2011/18/c4396.html>

http://www.pv-tech.org/news/western_wind_build_north_americas_first_joint_wind_and_solar_power_system

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 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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