



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, September 24, 2009

## *Electricity*

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### **TVA's 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuke Unit 3 in Alabama Reduced to 85 Percent by September 24**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of September 23 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/2009/>

### **Ace Cogeneration's 118 MW Ace Cogeneration Coal-fired Unit in California Shut by September 23**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage by September 23.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200909231515.html>

### **Update: PG&E's 1,087 MW Diablo Canyon Nuke Unit 1 in California at Full Power by September 24**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of September 23 the unit was operating at 78 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

### **EPA Orders State Regulators to Reconsider Air Permit for EKPC's 278 MW Spurlock Coal-fired Unit 4 in Kentucky and Operating since April 2009**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) ordered the Kentucky Division for Air Quality to reconsider an air permit for East Kentucky Power Cooperative's (EKPC) recently-opened 278 MW Spurlock coal-fired Unit 4 in Kentucky, a news source reported. The EPA said the permit did not include hazardous air pollution emission limits, as mandated by the Clean Air Act. An official with the state agency, however, said the group granted the permit in 2006, in conjunction with then-current regulations. Those regulations, he said, had since been vacated. The Spurlock Unit 4 opened in April, 2009, according to a company release.

[http://www.ekpc.coop/pressreleases/2009%20press%20releases/2009-04-01\\_Spurlock4\\_commercial\\_start.pdf](http://www.ekpc.coop/pressreleases/2009%20press%20releases/2009-04-01_Spurlock4_commercial_start.pdf)

[http://www.kentucky.com/latest\\_news/story/946551.html](http://www.kentucky.com/latest_news/story/946551.html)

### **Hydro One Plans 20 Transmission Projects over Three-Year Stretch in Ontario, Canada**

Provincial officials ordered Hydro One to begin work on 20 transmission projects in Ontario, Canada, a news source reported. The projects—valued at a combined \$2.3 billion—are scheduled to take at least three years, based on a news source. They are intended to deliver hydroelectric, wind and other renewable-based power supplies.

<http://www.thestar.com/business/article/698722>

### **Valero Shuts Hydrocracker at 146,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery September 24**

Valero shut a hydrocracker to repair a leak at the east plant of its 146,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery on September 24, a spokesman said. The company expected the outage to be brief and have little, if any, affect to production, according to the spokesman.

Reuters, 10:38 September 24, 2009

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=129826>

### **Update: BP Seeks More Time to Complete Safety Improvements after 2005 Explosion at 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery**

BP asked the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to extend its deadline to complete safety upgrades at the 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas refinery, OSHA confirmed. BP agreed to improve Texas City's safety conditions in 2005, following an explosion that killed 15 and injured another 180 workers. The deadline for those improvements was September 22, 2009.

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2009/09/23/business/business-uk-bp-osha-texas-city.html>

### **Alon to Start-up New Hydrotreater at 70,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery September 21-to-October 5**

Alon expected to reduce production at its 70,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas refinery as it brought online a new hydrotreater from September 21 to October 5, according to a news source.

Bloomberg News, 07:35 September 24, 2009

### **Worker Pleads Guilty to Tampering with Pacific Energy Resources SCADA Systems**

A former Pacific Energy Resources consultant pled guilty to tampering with the company's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) computer systems, a news source reported. The man accessed the SCADA systems in May or June of 2008, after he was rejected for a permanent position with the company. Though the incident did not cause any oil leaks or environmental damage, security experts have expressed fears that SCADA attacks could trigger massive power outages or significantly harm the environment.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idgGreenComputing/idUS239612007620090924>

### **Update: China Eyes 440 Million Barrels of Oil in Strategic Reserves by 2020**

China completed the first phase of its planned 440 million barrel strategic oil reserves at the end of 2008, and expects to finish the remaining two phases by 2020, a news source reported. The second and third phases are slated to add 170 million barrels of storage each, the source said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSPEK7905920090924>

### **ONGC Videsh Plans to Increase Output to 40,000 b/d by End of 2009 at 5,500 b/d Oilfield Offshore Brazil**

Indian-owned ONGC Videsh Ltd. expects to increase output at its offshore Brazil oilfield from about 5,500 b/d, at present, to 40,000 b/d by the end of the year, a company official said.

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=80667](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=80667)

### **DNO International May Be Permanently Expelled from Northern Iraq after Questionable Stock Market Sale—Company Exports Approximately 50,000 b/d of Oil from Tawke Field**

The Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) suspended Norway-based DNO International from northern Iraq on September 21, citing "incalculable harm" wrought by publicity over a stock market transaction, news sources reported. The transaction-in-question—in which DNO sold 44 million of its shares to the KRG in October of 2008—sparked media coverage after an investigation by the Oslo Stock Exchange. The 44 million shares were eventually routed to the privately-owned, Turkish-based Genel Energy. Genel, for its part, is working to merge with Heritage Oil, a British-based company already active in Kurdistan. The KRG suspended DNO from northern Iraq when the news broke, and DNO's stock tanked on concerns that the ban could become permanent. DNO exports about 50,000 b/d of oil from the Tawke field.

Reuters, 10:43 September 24, 2009

Reuters, 12:02 September 24, 2009

## Natural Gas

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### Update: McMoRan's 100 MMcf/d Flatrock No. 4 Natural Gas Well Remains Down in Gulf of Mexico September 24

McMoRan's partly-owned 100 MMcf/d Flatrock No. 4 natural gas well in the Gulf of Mexico shut on August 13 due to a mechanical issue, but remained offline as of September 24, the company said. The company did not say when the well might resume normal service.

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=80680](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=80680)

## Other News

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### Guiberson Fire Damaged Transmission Lines, May Threaten Oil Fields in California September 24

The Guiberson wildfire expanded to nearly 10,000 acres on September 23, threatening about 1,000 homes, numerous oilfields and five electric power lines, a news source said. On September 24<sup>th</sup>, the fire continues to move to the east, where it has damaged high voltage lines causing power delivery issues and concerns. This problem has resulted in the ISO having to redistribute power at a large expense to Southern California Edison. The lines-in-question deliver electricity to Ventura and Santa Barbara, California, according to the source. Sempra Energy's Southern California Gas Co confirmed that its natural gas pipeline ran through the affected area, but said the line was underground, and therefore not in danger. The fire was only 40 percent contained, as of 7:00 AM September 24.

Reuters, 18:08 September 23, 2009

<http://calfire.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.fire.ca.gov/downloads/StatewideFireMap.pdf>

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
September 24, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	66.11	72.36	107.42
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	3.43	3.28	7.85

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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### NRG Plans 10 MW Solar Power Plant in Texas—Facility Would Deliver Power to Houston Government Buildings by July 2010

Bloomberg News, 08:51 September 24, 2009

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/chronicle/6634178.html>

### Panel Recommends NRC Grant 20-Year License Extensions for FirstEnergy's Combined 1,900 MW Beaver Valley Nuke Units 1 and 2 in Pennsylvania

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/09266/1000201-57.stm>

**Waste Management, McMinnville Water & Light Plan Waste-to-Energy Power Plant in Oregon—Site Would Generate Enough Electricity to Supply 2,500 Homes**

[http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=ind\\_focus.story&STORY=/www/story/09-23-2009/0005100007&EDATE=](http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=ind_focus.story&STORY=/www/story/09-23-2009/0005100007&EDATE=)

**PSEG Solar Source Plans 15 MW Solar Farm in Florida, 12 MW Solar Farm in Ohio, and 2.2 MW Mars Solar Garden in New Jersey**

[http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=ind\\_focus.story&STORY=/www/story/09-23-2009/0005099789&EDATE=](http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=ind_focus.story&STORY=/www/story/09-23-2009/0005099789&EDATE=)

**Duke, FPL Launch \$600 Million Project to Convert Almost 10,000 Cars into Electric-Powered Vehicles by 2020 in U.S. Southeast**

<http://charlotte.bizjournals.com/charlotte/stories/2009/09/21/daily33.html>

**Western Wind Energy Plans 20 MW Expansion at Existing 30 MW Mesa Wind Power Project in California**

[http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=ind\\_focus.story&STORY=/www/story/09-23-2009/0005099692&EDATE=](http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=ind_focus.story&STORY=/www/story/09-23-2009/0005099692&EDATE=)

**U.S. Commerce Secretary, National Institute of Standards and Technology to Present Report on Smart Grid, Titled “NIST Framework and Roadmap for Smart Grid Interoperability Standards, Release 1.0,” at GridWeek 2009 Conference on September 24**

[http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=ind\\_focus.story&STORY=/www/story/09-23-2009/0005099838&EDATE=](http://news.prnewswire.com/DisplayReleaseContent.aspx?ACCT=ind_focus.story&STORY=/www/story/09-23-2009/0005099838&EDATE=)

**Fuel Tanker Overturns, Spills more than 4,000 Gallons of Gasoline and Closing Berthoud Pass in Colorado September 21**

[http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci\\_13389951](http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_13389951)

**Exxon Mobil Expects to Begin Exploratory Oil Drilling at End of 2010 in Black Sea Offshore Turkey**

Bloomberg News, 12:38 September 24, 2009

**Russia Eyes Mid-November Opening for Planned Kozmino Bay Oil Export Terminal**

<http://www.energyintel.com/#latest>

**KazMunaiTeniz Expects 2016 Start Date for Oil Production at Pearls Block in Caspian Sea Offshore Kazakhstan—Site Holds 108.5 Million Tons in Recoverable Reserves, Company Says**

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=80663](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=80663)

**Leak Forces Reformer Shutdown at Hydrogen Plant Industrial Gas in Texas September 24**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=129658>

**Incinerator Shutdown, Flaring at Gomez Gas Treating Facility in Texas September 23**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=129813>

## 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)