



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, October 01, 2012

## ***Electricity***

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### **GenOn Retires Its 482 MW Coal-Fired Potomac River Generating Station in Virginia September 30 Due to Poor Economics**

GenOn retired its 482 MW coal-fired Potomac River Generating Station on Sunday, citing poor economics due particularly to the changing price of natural gas and federal environmental regulations. The plant had provided energy mostly during times of peak usage for the mid-Atlantic power grid.

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/coal-fired-power-plant-in-alexandria-is-poised-to-close-pleasing-local-officials/2012/09/30/24e5510a-0b33-11e2-97a7-45c05ef136b2\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/coal-fired-power-plant-in-alexandria-is-poised-to-close-pleasing-local-officials/2012/09/30/24e5510a-0b33-11e2-97a7-45c05ef136b2_story.html)

### **Update: Progress Energy Retires 316 MW Cape Fear Coal-Fired Power Plant in North Carolina and 177 MW Robinson Coal-Fired Unit 1 in South Carolina October 1**

Duke Energy Corp.'s Progress Energy Carolinas subsidiary will retire two coal-fired power plants today. The retirements of the 316 MW Cape Fear coal-fired plant near Moncure, North Carolina and the 177 MW H.B. Robinson Unit 1 near Hartsville, South Carolina were announced in July.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/duke-energy-retiring-2-coal-204522318.html>

### **Black Hills Power and Cheyenne Light Receive EPA Air Permit for New 132 MW Cheyenne Prairie Natural Gas-Fired Power Plant in Wyoming**

Black Hills Corp. announced today that utility subsidiaries Black Hills Power and Cheyenne Light, Fuel & Power were issued an air permit by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on September 27, allowing the company to immediately begin construction of a new 132 MW natural gas-fired electric generation facility within the city limits of Cheyenne, Wyoming. Black Hills Power needs replacement generation for the 82 MW of older, coal-fired generation that cannot be economically retrofitted to meet new EPA air emissions regulations and must be retired prior to March 2014. Construction is planned to begin in April 2013, with commercial operation scheduled for the fourth quarter of 2014.

<http://www.blackhillscorp.com/news12/100112.pdf>

### **TVA Lost Seismic Monitoring Instrumentation at 3,300 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant from August 17-September 15**

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) reported in a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission that on September 20, operators determined that the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant had lost its functional seismic monitoring instrumentation from August 17 until September 15 during the performance of a modification. The loss of seismic monitoring instrumentation constituted a loss of the facility's emergency assessment capability for the period. Compensatory measures were established on September 15, which restored assessment capability.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2012/20120921en.html>

### **Electrical Malfunction Shuts Luminant's 793 MW Coal-Fired Unit 1 in Texas September 30**

Luminant reported its Martin Lake Unit 1 tripped while at load Sunday morning due to an electrical malfunction of the generator A phase ground, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174190>

### **PSE&G's 1,049 MW Hope Creek Nuclear Unit 1 in New Jersey Reduced to 80 Percent by October 1**

On the morning of September 30 the unit was operating at full power.

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

## **Update: Progress Energy's 872 MW Brunswick Nuclear Unit 1 in North Carolina Restarts September 27, Ramps Up to 87 Percent by September 30**

Progress Energy's Brunswick Unit 1 is returning from an outage that began by September 17.

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

## **Update: Xcel's 578 MW Monticello Nuclear Unit in Minnesota at Full Power by September 30**

Xcel Energy's Monticello nuclear unit is returning from an outage that began September 25, when a power disruption to feedwater and recirculation pumps caused the reactor to scram.

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

## **GenOn's 215 MW Mandalay Natural Gas-Fired Unit 2 in California Returns to Service by September 29**

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began by September 28.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201209291515.html>

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201209281515.html>

## ***Petroleum***

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### **CVR Resumes Turnaround Maintenance at Its 70,000 b/d Wynnewood, Oklahoma Refinery September 29 after Fatal Boiler Explosion September 28**

CVR Energy, Inc. reported an explosion occurred at its Wynnewood refinery at approximately 6:20 p.m. local time Friday evening as operators were restarting a boiler that had been temporarily shut down as part of the refinery's turnaround process, according to a statement. One employee was fatally injured by the blast, and another was injured. The company is investigating the cause of the explosion. Damage at the refinery was limited to the boiler. Process units and other areas of the facility were unaffected. Turnaround procedures resumed Saturday.

<http://www.cvrenergy.com/NewsRoom/092812.pdf>

<http://www.cvrenergy.com/NewsRoom/093012.pdf>

### **Power Outage Impacts Most Operating Units at Phillips 66's 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery September 30**

Phillips 66 reported most units affected by a power outage Sunday morning had been restarted as of Monday after power was restored. The refinery had reported a power outage at a Texas-New Mexico Power Company substation caused the failure of an energized gas circuit breaker, which resulted in a power loss to most operating units at the refinery, according to a spokesman and a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Reuters, 12:07 October 1, 2012

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174195>

### **Alon Restarts Units at Its 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery September 28; Reports Emissions Due to Power Outage Caused by Heavy Rains September 29**

Alon USA Energy restarted a Sulfur Recovery Unit (SRU) at its Big Spring refinery after it tripped during heavy rain on Friday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The SRU-2 and the Shell Clause Off-Gas Treating Unit 2 are listed as sources of emissions. In a separate TCEQ filing, the refinery reported it was restarting a boiler on Friday as well. The boiler had tripped after the boiler feedwater pump went down due to a discharge check valve upset. The filing listed a Cat Light Ends Unit and an Alkylation Unit as sources of emissions. The refinery reported emissions overnight Saturday occurred when a power failure resulting from heavy rains shut a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) and off gas compressor, according to a third TCEQ filing. The filing lists the refinery's two SRUs, as well as diesel hydrotreaters and gasoil hydrotreaters as sources of emissions.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174163>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174165>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174177>

### **Emergency Officials Respond to an Unspecified ‘Operating Condition’ at Flint Hills’s 288,468 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery October 1**

Emergency services were responding to an operating condition at the west plant of Flint Hills Resources’ Corpus Christi refinery Monday morning, according to an advisory from the Corpus Christi/Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee. The advisory said only that no community action was required at that time, without specifying the nature of the emergency.  
Reuters, 10:32 October 1, 2012

### **Instrumental Malfunction Results in Emissions at Valero’s 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery September 29**

Valero reported an unspecified instrumental malfunction resulted in emissions at its Corpus Christi refinery Saturday morning, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.  
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/occeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174169>

### **Petrobras Reports Emissions from ESP Stack, FCCU at its 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery September 29 and September 30**

Petrobras reported unspecified process upsets caused emissions from the electrostatic precipitator (ESP) stack and the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Pasadena refinery Saturday and Sunday morning, according to filings with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Emissions lasted for about four hours Saturday morning and three hours Sunday morning, the filings said.  
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/occeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174196>  
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/occeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174176>

### **Unspecified Breakdown Leads to Flaring at ExxonMobil’s 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery October 1**

ExxonMobil Corp. reported unplanned flaring due to an unspecified breakdown at its Torrance refinery Monday morning, according to a filing with the South Coast Air Quality Management District.  
Reuters, 11:21 October 1, 2012

### **Canadian Oil Sands Announces Mine Extension Project at Mildred Lake in Alberta**

Canadian Oil Sands Limited announced today that Syncrude will embark upon a mine extension project at its Mildred Lake mine (“the MLX Project”). The MLX Project will leverage current investments in the replacement of the two mine trains currently being constructed at the Mildred Lake mine to access nearby bitumen deposits on Syncrude leases. The proposed project should enable Syncrude to extend the life of mining operations at Mildred Lake by about a decade. Project scoping is currently underway, and pending regulatory approval, construction and spending would commence in the next 10 years.  
<http://www.cdnoilsands.com/Media-Centre/PressReleaseDetails/2012/Canadian-Oil-Sands-Announces-Mine-Extension-Project-at-Mildred-Lake1131246/default.aspx>

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## ***Natural Gas***

### **PVR Partners Commences Operation of Its 750 MMcf/d ‘Wyoming Pipeline’ Serving Marcellus Shale Producers in Pennsylvania**

PVR Partners, L.P. today announced it has completed construction and begun full commercial operation of its newest natural gas trunkline serving Marcellus Shale producers in north-central Pennsylvania. The 30-mile, 24-inch, 750 MMcf/d pipeline extends from northern Wyoming County southward to a new interconnection in Luzerne County with Transco’s interstate pipeline system. The company’s ability to now deliver to Transco via the Wyoming Pipeline is expected to increase volumes on the Susquehanna/Wyoming gathering systems by over 20 percent. Volumes are also expected to increase as the company continues to build out of the Susquehanna/Wyoming gathering systems and connect additional wells to deliver into the Wyoming Pipeline.  
[http://www.pvresource.com/Theme/PennVirginia/files/doc\\_news/Start%20of%20Wyoming%20Trunkline%2010-1-12%20Final\\_v001\\_h8xo1n.pdf](http://www.pvresource.com/Theme/PennVirginia/files/doc_news/Start%20of%20Wyoming%20Trunkline%2010-1-12%20Final_v001_h8xo1n.pdf)

## **AGI Unit Shutdown Causes Emissions at Regency's 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas September 28**

Regency Energy Partners reported emissions after an acid gas injector (AGI) unit shut down on low inlet gas volume Friday night, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Emissions continued overnight Saturday.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174175>

## **Turbine Snag Causes Emissions at DCP Midstream's 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas September 29**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174170>

## **Southern Union Reports Emissions at Its 140 MMcf/d Keystone Gas Plant in Texas September 29 and September 30**

Southern Union Gas Services reported it was flaring inlet and residue gas at its Keystone plant on Saturday after a breaker tripped on the feeder to the amine treater, according to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Operators also reported emissions on Sunday after an emperor unit went down, according to a second TCEQ filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174198>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174184>

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## ***Other News***

### **Abengoa Indefinitely Idles Its 88 MMGal/Yr. Ethanol Plant in Illinois to Perform Maintenance and 'Partly' Due to Market Conditions**

Abengoa SA is indefinitely idling its ethanol plant in Madison, Illinois to perform maintenance and "partly due to market conditions." The company plans to continue operations at its two ethanol plants in Nebraska and one in Indiana.

Reuters, 11:22 October 1, 2012

### **Update: USGS Issues Groundwater-Quality Reports after EPA Finds Fracking Fluid in Wyoming Aquifer**

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in cooperation with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ), on September 26 released two reports on its study of groundwater drawn from two deep monitoring wells near Pavillion, Wyoming. WDEQ requested the study after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in December 2011 issued a draft report indicating it had found compounds associated with hydraulic fracturing in levels "well above" standards safe for drinking water in an aquifer near Pavillion. Hydraulic fracturing is used to produce natural gas at nearby production wells. The USGS reports issued last week describe the sampling and analysis plan developed to collect groundwater data, and the raw data and information from the groundwater-quality samples. The USGS does not interpret the data in the reports; rather, the reports are intended only to provide additional scientific information to all interested parties on the composition of the groundwater represented in the Pavillion aquifer.

<http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ds718>

<http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ofr20121197>

[http://www.rigzone.com/USGS\\_Report\\_Shows\\_No\\_Evidence\\_Linking\\_Hydraulic\\_Fracturing\\_to\\_Water](http://www.rigzone.com/USGS_Report_Shows_No_Evidence_Linking_Hydraulic_Fracturing_to_Water)

[http://www.rigzone.com/Wyoming\\_Gov\\_Science\\_Will\\_Guide\\_Reaction\\_to\\_Water\\_Investigation](http://www.rigzone.com/Wyoming_Gov_Science_Will_Guide_Reaction_to_Water_Investigation)

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## ***International News***

### **Update: Court Overturns Ban on Transocean Drilling Operations in Brazil after Oil Regulator ANP, Petrobras File Appeal**

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/court-lifts-brazil-ban-transocean-030933542.html>

## Shell Shuts Its Bonny Trunkline in Nigeria, Cuts 150,000 b/d of Production after Oil Thieves Cause Fire September 30

Royal Dutch Shell PLC reported its Nigerian subsidiary shut down its 28-inch Bomu-Bonny Trunkline after a fire in Nigeria's southern delta Sunday. Shell said the shutdown of the line would cut production by about 150,000 b/d of oil transported to its Bonny Terminal. The company reported a burning vessel, thought to be involved in the theft of crude oil from the pipeline, was sighted near the incident site. Shell was investigating the cause and said it would carry out repairs as soon as possible.

<http://royaldutchshellplc.com/>

<http://www.moneyweb.co.za/moneyweb-south-africa/shell-shuts-major-oil-pipeline-in-nigeria?sn=2009%20Detail>

## Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices October 1, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	92.39	91.13	80.35
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	3.08	2.76	3.77

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

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

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