



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, October 17, 2011

Electricity

Update: Constellation's 480 MW Ginna Nuclear Unit in New York Restarts October 16; Shut Again by October 17

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that the unit shut down by the morning of October 17 after restarting and ramping up to 49 percent by the morning of October 16. A turbine trip shut the unit on October 12.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Duke Energy's 1,129 MW Catawba Nuclear Unit 2 in South Carolina Reduced to 46 Percent by October 17

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of October 16 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/2011/>

Duke Energy's 1,100 MW McGuire Nuclear Unit 1 in North Carolina Shut by October 17

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of October 16 the unit was operating at 26 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

FPL's 693 MW Turkey Point Nuclear Unit 3 in Florida Shut by October 17

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of October 16 the unit was operating at 75 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

TVA's 1,125 MW Watts Bar Nuclear Unit 1 in Tennessee Shut by October 17

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of October 16 the unit was operating at 75 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Southern's 1,149 MW Vogtle Nuclear Unit 2 in Georgia Reduced to 45 Percent by October 17

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of October 16 the unit was operating at 94 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Luminant to Restart 765 MW Monticello Coal-Fired Unit 3 in Texas October 17-18

The unit was shut to repair a boiler tube leak October 7-8.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=160426>

AES Shuts 227 MW Huntington Beach Gas-Fired Unit 4 in California by October 16; Returns 225 MW Gas-Fired Unit 3 to Service by October 14

According to the California Independent System Operator, Unit 4 reported an unplanned outage on October 16, and Unit 3 reported a return from an unplanned outage that began on October 13.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201110131515.html>

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201110141515.html>

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201110161515.html>

Dynegy's 510 MW Moss Landing Gas-Fired Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by October 15

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned curtailment of 260 MW.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201110151515.html>

Update: FirstEnergy Reports Small Cracks in Concrete Shield Surrounding Containment Structure at the 882 MW Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant in Ohio

A FirstEnergy spokesman confirmed Monday that contractors discovered small cracks in the concrete shield building surrounding the containment structure at the Davis-Besse plant, which has been shut to replace another reactor vessel head. The spokesman differentiated the cracks FirstEnergy discovered from those discovered at Progress Energy's Crystal River nuclear plant in Florida, which has been shut since September 2009 after workers cutting through a concrete containment dome to replace the plant's aging steam generators discovered a significant gap in the concrete. The Crystal River plant isn't likely to return to service until 2014.

Reuters, 11:58 October 17, 2011

IEEE Homeland Security Conference in November to Focus on the Cybersecurity of Nuclear Power Plants

An emerging threat to U.S. nuclear power plants is a cybersecurity attack that disrupts operations or compromises nuclear safety. A security system to protect against such an attack is one of the topics that will be presented at the 2011 IEEE International Conference on Technologies for Homeland Security (HST 11) in November. In the paper, "System-Aware Security for Nuclear Power Plants," three Charlottesville, Virginia researchers discuss how system-aware security can be combined with the nuclear turbine control system to avert the threat of cyber attacks, even if they have been built into the initial system components and triggered during maintenance, or activated by an insider. PR Newswire, 13:40 October 14, 2011

Petroleum

Magellan Midstream Recalls Gasoline from over 60 Gas Stations in Southern Minnesota Because It Contains Too Much Ethanol

Early last week, the Minnesota Department of Commerce traced complaints about tainted gasoline to the Magellan Midstream Partners plant in Mankato. Magellan had distributed over 100 loads of gasoline containing high volumes of ethanol to more than 60 gas stations in southern Minnesota over the weekend of October 8–9. A Magellan spokesman said that an operational issue beginning October 7 caused the gasoline to contain more than the upper limit of 10 percent ethanol, but plant managers didn't immediately notice the problem. State regulators reported that one batch of the tainted gasoline contained 63 percent ethanol. Magellan is working with the Minnesota Department of Commerce to investigate the issue and test gasoline samples in the area, and it is sending affected gas stations new shipments from the company's other Minnesota plants in Rochester and Minneapolis. Tanker trucks began hauling the recalled gasoline away from gas stations early October 10, and by October 12, the company had recovered most of the product containing higher volume ethanol.

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2011/10/12/excess-ethanol-prompts-gasoline-recall/>

<http://kaaltv.com/article/stories/S2326471.shtml?cat=10217>

High Demand, Seasonal Refinery Shutdowns Spark Diesel Fuel Shortage at Magellan's Fargo, North Dakota Terminal

Fuel tanker trucks formed a line over a mile long on Thursday, waiting to refuel at Magellan Pipeline Co.'s Fargo, North Dakota terminal. The queue signals a shortage of diesel fuel in the region, which truckers and industry experts attribute to a number of causes, including the needs of the harvest and of diesel-run machinery used in fracking and oil exploration and construction projects. High demand is combining with seasonal shutdowns at refineries, which are switching from making summer blend fuels to winter blends and may be performing other maintenance, to cause spot shortages of fuels.

<http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/337099/group/homepage/>

Process Upset Leads to Flaring at BP's 405,000 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery October 16

According to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center on Saturday, a process upset was releasing an unknown amount of material into the air. The facility was flaring as it attempted to bring the situation back into control.

Reuters, 08:04 October 17, 2011

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=992691

Unit Trip Causes System Shutdown at Motiva's 235,000 b/d Convent, Louisiana Refinery October 16

Reuters, 22:56 October 16, 2011

Motiva Reports Ongoing Release of Hydrogen Sulfide Due to a Leak at Its 234,700 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery October 15

According to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center, a leak was releasing 8.5 pounds per hour of hydrogen sulfide beginning Saturday. The leak is still ongoing, and local police have been notified.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=992642

Compressor Snag Leads to Flaring at Total Petrochemicals's 232,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery October 15

According to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, operators think that a compressor shutdown led to flaring. Operators put the compressor back into service as quickly as possible.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=160588>

Equipment Malfunction Briefly Leads to Flaring at ExxonMobil's 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery October 15

DJN, 09:55 October 17, 2011

Reuters, 16:48 October 16, 2011

Natural Gas

PG&E to Replace 1,200 Miles of Problematic Aldyl-A Plastic Gas Pipeline in California

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. (PG&E) announced Friday that it plans to remove more than 1,200 miles of pipeline made from a problematic DuPont plastic, Aldyl-A, which has been linked to numerous failures nationwide, including two explosions in northern California in the past six weeks. DuPont has told its customers that Aldyl-A pipe made before 1973 is particularly prone to cracking and sudden failure. On August 31, an Aldyl-A pipeline in Cupertino filled a condominium with gas, which ignited and destroyed the building. Just a few weeks later, an Aldyl-A line in Roseville exploded beneath a commercial intersection, causing a fire but injuring no one. PG&E will start replacing pre-1973 Aldyl-A lines as soon as next year, after it presents a plan to state regulators. It will also replace some of the 6,676 miles of newer Aldyl-A lines based on how often they leak. The multiyear replacement effort will involve a leak survey process to find the highest leak rates in the system by digitizing 15,000 maps of Aldyl-A systems, creating a database to track leaks, and then prioritizing replacement efforts accordingly.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2011/10/15/MNK51LHQB7.DTL>

Copano Energy Restarting Fractionation Plant after Repairs at 700 MMcf/d Houston Central Gas Processing Plant in Texas October 14

Copano Energy is bringing the fractionation plant back on line after being down for tie-ins and other repairs caused some overpressuring situations and flaring, according to a filing with state regulators. Operators worked to get the different column conditions back to a normal state, increasing pressures and adjusting the necessary temperatures to purify the fractionation products. After restoring normal settings, the pressures stabilized and the flaring and smoking eventually ceased.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=160585>

Faulty Glycol Levels Cause AGI Compressor to Shut Down at 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas October 14

According to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, a faulty glycol level controller caused low glycol flow through dehydration unit contactor. This caused the AGI compressor to shut down. Operators adjusted the glycol levels and restarted the unit contractor as quickly as possible, and then they restarted the AGI compressor.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=160587>

Propane Compressor Transmitter Failure Shuts Salof Unit, Curtails Gas Flow to Enbridge's Aker Gas Processing Plant in Texas October 16

Operators curtailed gas flow to A and B plant, and shut-in the sulfinol flow. During the event, emissions were routed to the flare until technicians could safely inspect and repair the Salof skid and restart the unit. All control devices maintained efficient operation during the event.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=160591>

Splitter IV Unit Malfunction Leads to Flaring at Enterprise Products Partners's Mont Belvieu Complex in Texas October 14

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=160580>

Enterprise Products Removes Condensed Liquids from Natural Gas Pipeline in San Patricio County, Texas October 17-19

Operators had to remove condensed liquids from the natural gas pipeline. Enterprise Products is considering periodic pigging to limit the accumulation of liquids in the future and to allow more control of liquid and resulting flash gas.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=160481>

Al Qaeda Insurgents Blow Up Natural Gas Pipeline in Yemen October 15, Stops Supplies Feeding Yemen LNG's Belhaf LNG Export Terminal

Al Qaeda insurgents blew up a natural gas pipeline in two places on Saturday, stopping supplies feeding Yemen LNG's Belhaf liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminal, which has the capacity to supply up to 6.7 million tons of LNG per year. The 322-kilometer (approximately 200-mile) pipeline links gas fields in Marib, east of the Yemeni capital Sanaa, to the Yemen LNG plant. The company evacuated nearly half its foreign staff to neighboring Djibouti and sent local and French engineers to repair the pipeline.

Reuters, 13:35 October 15, 2011

http://www.yemenlng.com/ws/en/go.aspx?c=yln_glance

Other News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
October 17, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	86.21	82.02	81.38
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.49	3.49	3.58

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Environmental Groups to Reveal ‘New Information’ about Risks Associated with Entergy’s 2,065 MW Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant as Reactor Licenses Expire

Reuters, 09:54 October 17, 2011

Over 75 Percent of Americans are Satisfied with Local Electric Providers’ Restoration of Power After Storms; 59 Percent Agree That Power Is Restored in a Fair Way – Harris Interactive Poll

PR Newswire, 06:04 October 17, 2011

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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