



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, October 18, 2011

## *Electricity*

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### **Update: FPL's 1,155 MW Seabrook Nuclear Unit 1 in New Hampshire Restarts, Ramps Up to 16 Percent by October 18**

The unit was shut on October 7 when low steam generator water levels caused an automatic reactor trip.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

### **Update: Duke Energy's 1,100 MW McGuire Nuclear Unit 1 in North Carolina Ramped Up to 80 Percent by October 18**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of October 17 the unit was operating at 54 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

### **Update: AES's 498 MW Alamosa Gas-Fired Unit 5 in California Returns to Service by October 17**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage that began on October 13.

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

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201110171515.html>

### **Update: AES's 227 MW Huntington Beach Gas-Fired Unit 4 in California Returns to Service by October 17**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage that began on October 16.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201110171515.html>

### **Update: Environmental Groups Argue That Power from Entergy's 2,065 MW Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant in New York Could be Replaced by Alternative Energy Sources**

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and another environmental group, Riverkeeper, said on Monday that the 2,065 MW Indian Point nuclear power plant in New York could be replaced with cleaner, safer energy sources at modest additional cost, with no impact to reliability of the electric supply until 2020. The plant's owner, Entergy, has filed with federal regulators to renew its two reactors' operating licenses before they expire in 2013 and 2015. The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) has said that a shutdown of Indian Point could result in blackouts and other electricity reliability problems. NRDC and Riverkeeper argue that a number of safer energy sources are available to fully replace the power from Indian Point, including about 1,500 MW in savings from new energy efficiency, nearly 600 MW of renewable energy, 8,000 MW from new proposed transmission lines, and more than 1,000 MW from repowering old existing natural gas plants in New York City.

Reuters, 15:55 October 17, 2011

### **Update: Sunoco Restarts FCC Unit after Unplanned Maintenance at Its 178,000 b/d**

#### **Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania Refinery October 18**

Sunoco Inc. restarted a fluid catalytic cracking (FCC) unit on Tuesday, according to a source familiar with refinery operations. A mechanical problem shut the unit on October 11.

DJN, 11:40 October 18, 2011

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN1E79H0D120111018>

### **Update: ConocoPhillips Restarts Process Unit at Its 139,000 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery October 18**

A leak in a hydrogen tank at the refinery led to a small fire on October 9, causing ConocoPhillips to shut a process unit.

DJN, 12:47 October 18, 2011

### **Update: ExxonMobil Reports Normal Operations at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery October 17**

ExxonMobil's refinery was operating normally on Monday following a malfunction that led to flaring October 15, a company spokeswoman said. The malfunction did not affect production.

Reuters, 14:50 October 17, 2011

### **Brief Power Interruption Hits Valero's 83,000 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery October 18**

Valero Energy Corp. reported that a brief power interruption hit the refinery Tuesday morning. Power was quickly restored, and the company was evaluating whether the brief outage had any impact on production.

Reuters, 11:56 October 18, 2011

### **Unplanned Boiler Maintenance Leads to Excess Emissions at Delek's 60,000 b/d Tyler, Texas Refinery October 17**

Excess emissions occurred during unplanned maintenance on a boiler, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on Monday. Repairs to the boiler are expected to continue through October 21.

Reuters, 18:49 October 17, 2011

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=160634>

### **Update: Shell Restarts a 110,000 b/d CDU at Singapore Refinery after Fire, Plans to Restart 35,000 b/d Hydrocracker within 2–3 Days**

Royal Dutch Shell Plc has started a second crude distillation unit (CDU) at its 500,000 b/d Singapore refinery after a massive fire late last month caused extensive damage and forced Shell to shut the entire plant. Operators began restarting operations of the 110,000 b/d CDU on Sunday and expect it to reach stable operating levels at a reduced rate of 75 percent capacity within two to three days, three industry sources with direct knowledge of the matter said Monday. Restarting the CDU is expected to facilitate the restart of the 35,000 b/d distillate-making hydrocracker within the next two to three days. The hydrocracker was shut due to its proximity to the fire but was undamaged.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFL3E7LH1B620111017?pageNumber=3&virtualBrandChannel=0&sp=true>

<http://www.todayonline.com/Business/EDC111017-0000492/Shell-restarts-2nd-crude-unit-at-refinery-after-fire>

### **Wintershall Restarts Oil Production at Reduced Rate of 20,000 b/d in Libyan Desert**

Wintershall, BASF's oil and gas production unit, on Tuesday said that it has restarted oil production in the Libyan Desert after abandoning operations there in February due to conflict challenging the regime of Muammar Gaddafi. Wintershall produced 100,000 b/d before it suspended production.

Reuters, 09:18 October 18, 2011

## Respol SA to Drill for Oil in Cuban-Controlled Gulf of Mexico off U.S. Coast

Spanish energy company Respol SA plans to drill for oil in the Cuban-controlled Gulf of Mexico, 60 miles off the U.S. coast of Florida. One newspaper reported that the United States will inspect the rig before it's moved into the Gulf, but it's unclear whether U.S. workers will be permitted to respond in the event of a disaster. According to some estimates, the Cuban-controlled Gulf of Mexico may hold as much as 20 billion barrels of oil.

<http://www.minyanville.com/businessmarkets/articles/cuba-cuban-oil-commodity-markets-commodities/10/17/2011/id/37432>

## Natural Gas

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### Electrical Circuit Breaker Shorts, Leads to Natural Gas Flaring at Crane Booster Station in Texas October 17

An electrical circuit breaker shorted at the Crane Booster Station, causing two jacket water motors to fail, which then resulted in the compressor engines going off line and the flaring of natural gas. Operators stopped the flow of natural gas and restarted one compressor engine, which stopped the flaring.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=160635>

### Kinder Morgan's Acquisition of El Paso Corporation Highlights Importance of Pipeline Infrastructure, Midstream Sector in Natural Gas Production, Transmission

<http://dealbook.nytimes.com/2011/10/17/a-pipeline-merger-meets-a-need-and-perhaps-resistance/?partner=yahoofinance>

## Other News

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### U.S. Senate Passes Pipeline Safety Bill October 18

A bill meant to toughen federal safety regulations of oil and gas pipelines passed the Senate late Monday. The bill was drafted in response to a deadly pipeline rupture near San Francisco last year and to other gas explosions and pipeline spills. It would require more safety inspections, increase penalties for violations, and require pipeline companies to verify their pipeline records and establish maximum operating pressures based on verified information. The bill authorizes federal regulators to mandate the installation of automatic shutoff valves on new pipelines to shut leaks sooner, and it directs regulators to determine whether to expand inspections of aging pipelines beyond densely populated areas and to include rural areas. These changes would be paid for by industry fees.

<http://www.etruth.com/article/20111017/APW/1110170952>

### RiverWright Abandons Plans to Build 110 MMGal/Yr. Ethanol Fuel Plant in New York

RiverWright Energy LLC announced that it has cancelled its plans to convert the former ConAgra milling facility into an ethanol fuel plant that would ship 110 million gallons of ethanol a year to storage depots in Albany, New York. The company obtained all the necessary initial approvals and permits, but it struggled to secure financing due to unfavorable economics in the ethanol market and the City of Buffalo denying the company's application to receive \$8 million in federal tax-exempt financing using Recovery Act funds.

<http://www.buffalonews.com/business/article598003.ece>

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices October 18, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	88.32	85.96	77.16
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	3.72	3.41	3.88

Source: Reuters

**Pennsylvania Environmental Regulators Issue New Air Pollution Rules for Natural Gas Drilling October 12**

<http://www.goerie.com/article/20111014/NEWS06/310149934/Pa-issues-air-pollution-rules-for-gas-drilling>

**Squirrel Causes Substation Explosion, Leaves 14,500 CL&P Customers without Power in Connecticut October 13**

[http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/news/fairfield\\_ct/squirrel-creates-explosion,-thousands-without-power](http://www.wtnh.com/dpp/news/fairfield_ct/squirrel-creates-explosion,-thousands-without-power)

**PG&E Selects Developers for Three Solar Projects to Produce a Combined 50 MW of Power in California by October 2012**

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-10-17/pg-e-chooses-q-cells-to-build-250-megawatts-of-solar-projects.html?cmpid=yahoo>

**Armed Men Attack Vessel Supplying ExxonMobil's Offshore Oil Operations near Nigeria, Kidnap One Contract Employee**

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-10-18/armed-men-attack-supply-vessel-near-exxon-nigeria-facility-1-.html?cmpid=yahoo>

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Gunmen-kidnap-oil-contractor-apf-1286865812.html?x=0&.v=2>

**Three-Day Energy Conference in Virginia Begins October 17; Dominion Resources CEO Says Power Suppliers Need Diverse Portfolio of Renewables and Fossil Fuels**

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Va-energy-conference-begins-apf-3743227166.html?x=0&.v=1>

**Standard & Poor Reports That California Nuclear Plants Face Relicensing Uncertainties after Fukushima Disaster – S&P Research Article**

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/ccrov/pdf/2011/may/11036km.pdf>

## Links

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***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 & 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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*Energy Assurance Daily* provides a summary of public information concerning current energy issues. Published Monday through Friday to inform stakeholders of developments affecting energy systems, flows, and markets, it provides highlights of energy issues rather than a comprehensive coverage. *Energy Assurance Daily* is updated online Monday through Friday after 5:00 p.m. EDT. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at:

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

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