



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, November 22, 2011

Electricity

Update: Dominion's 903 North Anna Nuclear Unit 2 in Virginia Restarts, Ramps Up to 7 Percent by November 22

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that Unit 2 exited an outage and on the morning of November 22 was operating at 7 percent, despite reports from Dominion on Friday that it had to delay its plans to restart the unit when operators discovered a problem with an electrical connector in Unit 2. Dominion restarted the 903 MW Unit 1 early last week and restored it to full power by November 18. The plant shut after a 5.8-magnitude earthquake on August 23 had its epicenter near Mineral, Virginia, which is about 11 miles from the North Anna plant. The NRC on November 11 gave permission to Dominion to restart the plant, after investigations indicated that the quake caused no functional damage to the reactors' safety systems.

<http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/2011/nov/18/dominion-wont-make-goal-having-north-anna-units-ba-ar-1468691/>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Omaha Public Power District Plans to Restart 482 MW Fort Calhoun Nuclear Plant in Nebraska in Early 2012 after Repairs, Inspections following Flood Damage

Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) is aiming to restart its Fort Calhoun plant in early 2012, as it continues to make repairs following spring and summer flooding along the Missouri River, according to a company spokesman quoted in news reports last weekend. OPPD says no major damage was caused by the floodwaters, which surrounded the plant but did not affect the heart of the facility, but a lot of work remains. The Fort Calhoun plant was shut for refueling in April and has remained shut since then due to flooding. Federal regulators approved OPPD's plan for restarting Fort Calhoun in September, but the utility wants to thoroughly inspect the plant before resuming operations.

<http://www.nebraska.tv/story/16081343/oppd-hopes-to-restart-nuclear-plant-in-early-2012>

Update: NRC Says Radiation Exposure during 2009 Refueling at Entergy's 1,075 MW Waterford Nuclear Unit 3 in Louisiana was of Low to Moderate Safety Significance

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has determined that an inspection finding at the Waterford 3 nuclear plant involving unplanned radiation exposure to workers is of "white" or low to moderate safety significance. The facility, operated by Entergy, is located 25 miles west of New Orleans, Louisiana. In 2009, during a refueling outage, officials failed to properly contain highly radioactive cooling water from leaking onto work areas, resulting in unplanned radiation doses to workers. In its findings, the NRC cites the Entergy's failure to use effective engineering controls prior to conducting work during the refueling outage. The NRC will determine the appropriate follow-up actions, including additional inspections.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2011/11-049.iv.pdf>

Update: Energy Northwest's 1,107 MW Columbia Nuclear Unit in Washington at Full Power by November 22

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of November 21 the unit was operating at 85 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Luz Solar Partners's Aggregate 175 MW Solar Units 3–7 and Aggregate 184 MW Solar Units 8–9 in California Return to Service by November 21

According to the California Independent System Operator, the units reported unplanned outages on November 20.
<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201111201515.html>

Watson Cogeneration's 417 MW Watson Gas-Fired Unit in California Reduced by November 21

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 222 MW on November 21.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201111211515.html>

OPG Ontario Shuts 144 MW DeCew Falls II Hydro Power Plant in Ontario

The Ontario Independent Electricity System Operator reported Tuesday that OPG Ontario has shut its 143 MW DeCew Falls II hydro power plant. Reports did not specify the reason for the outage.
Reuters, 07:35 November 22, 2011

Petroleum

Update: Nebraska Lawmakers Vote Unanimously to Reroute TransCanada's Proposed Keystone XL Crude Oil Pipeline in Nebraska November 22

After the unanimous vote Tuesday, Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman signed bills to reroute TransCanada Corp.'s proposed Keystone XL pipeline away from environmentally sensitive regions in Nebraska and to fund an environmental study for a new pipeline route. The proposed 700,000 b/d oil sands-derived crude pipeline is intended to extend 1,700 miles from northern Alberta to Texas Gulf Coast refineries. Lawmakers and environmentalists have expressed concerns about the proposed route of the pipeline, because it would cross over the massive Ogallala Aquifer in the Nebraska Sandhills region, from which a large portion of the central United States gets its water. The U.S. State Department announced November 10 that it will explore a new route for the proposed pipeline, citing its concerns about the Ogallala Aquifer as a decisive factor in deciding to explore a new route.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/22/us-usa-pipeline-nebraska-idUSTRE7AL1WQ20111122>

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-11-22/nebraska-lawmakers-pass-bills-to-settle-transcanada-dispute.html>

Update: EPA Delays Issuing Greenhouse Gas Pollution Standards for Oil Refineries

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said it will delay proposing greenhouse gas pollution standards for oil refineries, which it had planned to propose by mid-December this year. A spokesperson said the agency needs more time to complete work on the standards, according to news reports.

Reuters, 14:53 November 21, 2011

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/business/delays+refinery+rules/5748072/story.html>

Western Refining Shuts Diesel Hydrotreater Unit Due to Pressure Relief Device Problem at 122,000 b/d El Paso, Texas Refinery November 20

Western Refining shut a diesel hydrotreater unit Sunday when it experienced a problem with a pressure relief device associated with the unit, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The event didn't impact the operation of other process units, according to the filing. Operators shut the unit to replace the pressure relief device, and relief gases were routed to flare.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=161939>

Valero Reports Hydrotreater Compressor Unit Snag at 171,000 b/d McKee, Texas Refinery November 20

Valero Energy Corp. reported that an equipment malfunction on Sunday led to the release of 700 pounds of sulfur dioxide over a 24-hour period, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. A spokesman told reporters that the emissions were related to repairs to a hydrotreater unit compressor, which were not expected to impact production at the refinery.

DJN, 11:25 November 21, 2011

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=996040

Suncor Reports Minor Leak at Naphtha Unit at 85,000 b/d Sarnia, Ontario Refinery November 20

Suncor Energy Inc. on Monday reported that a minor leak in a naphtha unit occurred late Sunday evening at its refinery in Sarnia, Ontario. A community information alert reported that operators immediately responded to the leak and warning sirens were deactivated Monday morning, but additional information was not available. Reuters, 09:18 November 21, 2011

Sunoco Reports Hydrotreater Shutdown at 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery November 15

Sunoco reported that a hydrotreater shut down on November 15 at its 335,000 b/d refinery in Philadelphia, according to a recent filing with Philadelphia pollution regulators. The hydrotreater will remain shut until operators resolve the mechanical problem, the filing said. Reuters, 09:23 November 21, 2011

ExxonMobil Reports Emissions from Unspecified Units at Its 238,600 b/d Joliet, Illinois Refinery November 21, 2011

ExxonMobil reported emissions of nitrogen oxides at its Joliet refinery Sunday, according to filing with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. The cause of the emissions event was still under investigation at the time of the filing Monday, and the filing did not specify which units were involved. Reuters, 04:00 November 21, 2011

Total Reports Safety Flare Malfunction at Its 232,000 Port Arthur, Texas Refinery November 18

Total Petrochemical reported that late Friday night, the pilot light on a flare stack at its Port Arthur refinery went out, resulting in the release of volatile organic chemicals into the air, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators re-lit the pilot light and secured the release.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=995969

Natural Gas

Cheniere Energy and Gas Natural Fenosa Sign Agreement to Export 0.5 Bcf/d from Sabine Pass LNG Terminal in Louisiana

Under the sale and purchase agreement, Cheniere Energy Partners, L.P. will sell 3.5 million tons per year (roughly 0.5 Bcf/d) of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to Gas Natural Aprovechamientos, a subsidiary of Gas Natural Fenosa, from Cheniere's proposed LNG export facility at the Sabine Pass Terminal in Louisiana. This marks another milestone for the project, as Cheniere has now reached its contract capacity target, which is expected to support the construction of the first two liquefaction trains in early 2012. LNG deliveries are expected to commence in 2016. Cheniere owns the 4 Bcf/d Sabine Pass LNG receiving terminal located on the Sabine Pass Channel in western Cameron Parish, Louisiana and is developing a project to add liquefaction and export capabilities to the existing infrastructure.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=101667&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1632677>

Update: Ignition after Over-Pressurization or Pipe Weld Failure Indicated as Cause of Tennessee Gas Pipeline Explosion

The Morgan County Sheriff's Office announced Thursday afternoon that investigators may have determined what caused Tennessee Gas Pipeline Co.'s 25-inch, high-pressure pipeline to rupture and explode November 16 in Athens County, Ohio. The explosion appears to have been the result of the ignition of natural gas following an over-pressurization or failure in the pipe or pipe weld. Investigators could not determine the exact source of ignition, the Sheriff's Office said, but they believe it could have been a spark from debris, static electricity, or a nearby power transformer.

http://www.abc6onyourside.com/shared/newsroom/top_stories/videos/wsux_vid_14669.shtml

Other News

Nothing to report

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices November 22, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	97.55	98.83	80.94
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.94	3.35	3.79

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Update: EPA Says Enbridge Spilled 1.1 Million Gallons of Oil in Kalamazoo River in July 2010, Nearly 40 Percent More than Previously Estimated

<http://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/article/20111117/OILSPILL/111170311/Kalamazoo-River-oil-spill-EPA-Enbridge-Battle-Creek?odyssey=tab/topnews/text/Frontpage>

Dakota Oil Processing Receives Zoning Approval to Construct 20,000 b/d Trenton, North Dakota Diesel Refinery

Reuters, 08:16 November 21, 2011

Demand-Side Industrial Load Resources Begin Providing Regulation Service in PJM

http://www.enbala.com/enbala_demand_Side_regulation_service_pjm_market.html

Axion Power Integrates PowerCube Battery Energy Storage and Battery System as a Power Resource for the PJM Regulation Market

<http://www.axionpower.com/profiles/investor/ResLibraryView.asp?ResLibraryID=49133&f=1&BzID=1933&Nav=0&LangID=1&s=0&Category=1562>

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 EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://www.eia.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>

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