



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, November 29, 2011

Electricity

Entergy Arkansas Files Formal Request to Join Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator November 28

Entergy Arkansas, Inc. on Monday filed a formal change of control request with the Arkansas Public Service Commission, as part of a larger plan to join a regional transmission organization, the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator (MISO). Entergy Arkansas is seeking to transfer functional control of its transmission facilities to MISO by December 2013.

http://www.entergy-arkansas.com/news_room/newsrelease.aspx?NR_ID=2320

NRC Denies Latest State Effort to Prevent the Relicensing of Entergy's 653 MW Pilgrim Nuclear Power Plant in Massachusetts

A panel at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Tuesday denied a filing by the State of Massachusetts to stop the relicensing of Entergy's 653 MW Pilgrim nuclear power plant. The plant's operating license expires June 8, 2012, but the plant can continue to operate as long as the renewal proceeding is ongoing. The latest NRC decision is in response to the State's appeals of contentions the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) decided in Entergy's favor related to the plant's Severe Accident Mitigation Alternatives (SAMA) plan regarding radioactive liquids in underground tanks and pipes and related to the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in Japan.

Reuters, 11:32 November 29, 2011

STP's 1,251 MW South Texas Nuclear Unit 2 in Texas Shut by November 29

Operators shut Unit 2 on October 29 for scheduled refueling and maintenance and restored it to full power on November 24. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on November 28 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.ketknbc.com/news/bay-city-nuke-plant-back-at-full-power>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Malfunctioning Damper Indicator Leads to Emissions at Luminant's 591 MW Sandow Steam Unit 4 in Texas November 27

Luminant reported that Unit 4 experienced a six-minute opacity excursion due to a malfunctioning damper indicator associated with the alpha precipitator. Operators lowered the unit's load and repaired the indicator.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162085>

NextEra's 493 MW Blythe Gas-Fired Unit in California Reduced by November 28

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 253 MW on November 28.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201111281515.html>

Unspecified Equipment Malfunction Leads to Flaring at ExxonMobil's 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery November 28

Operators made adjustments and operations returned to normal with minimal impact to production, according to a filing with state regulators.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162144>

Flint Hills Resources Reports Small Leak from FCC Unit at Its 288,468 b/d Corpus Christi, Refinery in Texas November 22

Flint Hill Resources East Refinery reported that while trouble-shooting the East Plant fluid catalytic cracking (FCC) unit control system, operators discovered that some ozone was passing through the Lo Tox system unreacted and to atmosphere. Operators took prompt actions to minimize emissions, decreasing the rate of ozone addition to the Lo Tox control system upstream of the FCC unit scrubber stack and effectively ending the emission event.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162066>

FCC Unit CO Boiler Snag Leads to Flaring at Delek's 58,000 b/d Tyler, Texas Refinery November 27

Delek Refining Ltd. said Monday that it has restored normal operations in a gasoline-making fluid catalytic cracking (FCC) unit CO boiler after a snag occurred Sunday night, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The cause of the event is still under investigation, the filing said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/28/refinery-operations-delek-tyler-idUSWNAB342120111128>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162102>

Fractionator Tower Malfunction Shuts 120,000 b/d CDU at Tesoro's 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery November 28

A malfunction on the fractionator tower shut down the larger of two crude distillation units (CDU) at Tesoro Corp.'s refinery in Martinez on Monday morning, according to sources familiar with refinery operations. The 120,000 b/d No. 50 CDU was already scheduled to undergo a month of planned work beginning in late December.

[http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/29/refinery-operations-tesoro-sfbay-](http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/29/refinery-operations-tesoro-sfbay-idUSWEN117520111129?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43)

[idUSWEN117520111129?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43](http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/11/29/refinery-operations-tesoro-sfbay-idUSWEN117520111129?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43)

Update: PBF Energy Making Progress on Restarting Units at Its 182,200 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery after Weekend Power Outage

A PBF Energy spokesman said on Tuesday that it is making progress in restarting units at its refinery, but there is still no timeframe on how long it will take to bring the refinery back to planned rates. Workers are still investigating the cause of the outage.

Reuters, 10:37 November 29, 2011

Update Suncor Restarts Its 85,000 b/d Sarnia, Ontario Refinery November 26–27 after Leak Repairs

Suncor Energy Inc. reported a minor leak in a naphtha unit occurred November 20 at its refinery in Sarnia, Ontario. Reuters reported today that it has restarted the refinery after a week-long shutdown for leak repairs.

Reuters, 08:16 November 29, 2011

Update: Libya's Waha Oil Co. Restarts Crude Oil Production at 16,000 b/d, Aims to Increase Production Rates to Maximum 400,000 b/d Levels As Soon As Possible

Waha Oil Co. resumed crude output at a rate of 16,000 b/d from the Dahra and Samah fields, according to reports from Libya's National Oil Corp yesterday. The company plans to ramp up production output to the maximum level as soon as possible; it was producing 350,000–400,000 b/d before the war. Workers resumed operations earlier this month after a weeks-long strike calling for management changes ended.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=112945

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-11-28/libyan-u-s-venture-waha-oil-co-resumes-crude-output.html>

Appeals Court Panel Upholds BLM's Decisions on Pinedale Anticline Project Area in Wyoming, the Third-Largest Gas Field in the Country

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit on Friday ruled in favor of the U.S. Department of the Interior in a suit challenging the department's management plans for the Pinedale Anticline in Wyoming, the third-largest gas field in the country. The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership in 2008 sued the department's Bureau of Land Management (BLM), claiming it violated the National Environmental Policy Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act in making decisions regarding the Pinedale Anticline Project Area (PAPA). In its ruling on Friday, the Court of Appeals said that BLM adequately addressed in its environmental impact statement a range of alternatives for addressing the proposal to expand natural gas development in the PAPA. <http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/NaturalGas/6695864>

EPA to Require Makers and Processors of Hydraulic Fracturing Fluids to Provide Health and Safety Data under the Toxic Substances Control Act

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on November 23 announced its plans to require makers and processors of hydraulic fracturing fluids used in natural gas extraction to provide the agency with health and safety data on their products. This is in an effort to provide the public with more information about chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing, amidst concerns that the process could contaminate underground drinking water supplies. The EPA said it would start the rulemaking under the Toxic Substances Control Act. <http://cen.acs.org/articles/89/web/2011/11/EPA-Plans-Collect-Data-Fracking.html>

Overhead Compressor Failure Shuts VRU, Leads to Emissions at Enbridge's Pittsburg Gas Plant in Texas November 27

Enbridge reported that its Pittsburg plant experienced an upset due to a mechanical failure on the electric vapor recovery unit (VRU) overhead compressor on Sunday. The VRU shutdown resulted in emissions. Operators reduced the inlet liquid rate and are working to diagnose the failure, repair the problem, and place the unit back into service as quickly as possible. <http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162090>

Cold Temperatures Cause Liquid Dump Line to Freeze, Leads to Flaring at Kinder Morgan's 60 MMcf/d Snyder Gas Plant in Texas November 27

Kinder Morgan reported that a liquid dump line froze Sunday due to cold ambient temperatures. This caused the plant to lose inlet compressors C23 and C24, which led to the flaring of inlet gas for four hours. Operators thawed the liquid dump line and restarted the compressors. In the meantime, operators activated a backup compressor C16 to reduce the volume of gas flared. <http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162093>

Bad Fuel Causes Unit Shutdown at Exterran's 50 MMcf/d Reinecke Gas Plant in Texas November 27

Exterran reported that bad fuel caused Unit 74156 to backfire on Sunday. Operators had to replace the carburetor diaphragms because of the backfiring, readjust the fuel to proper settings, and restart the unit. <http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162101>

Update: DCP Midstream Restarts 70 MMcf/d Fullerton Gas Plant in Texas November 26

DCP Midstream reported emissions related to the startup of its Fullerton plant over the weekend. The plant had been shut since November 12 for emergency maintenance work. Operators discovered that a gasket on the waste heat boiler in the reaction furnace in the sulfur recovery unit (SRU) was leaking high pressure steam. Upon shutting the plant and further inspection, operators discovered that the problems were more extensive and required additional repairs. DCP Midstream declared a force majeure due to an emergency turnaround. <http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162129>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=161618>

Power Failure Shuts Acid Gas Compressor at Big Lake Gas Plant in Texas November 26

Operators reported that on Saturday, a third party power failure resulted in the shutdown of the site's primary acid gas compressor. With no electricity, operators could not start the secondary acid gas compressor. The site flared acid gas until workers restored power, stabilized operations, and returned the compressor to service.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162077>

Various Malfunctions Shut Three Units at DCP Midstream's Loving Booster Station in Texas November 27

DCP Midstream reported that early Sunday morning, all three units at its Loving Booster Station in Texas shut down, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Unit 1 went down on hi scrubber alarm; Unit 2 followed on high second-interstage pressure; and Unit 3 then followed due to high jacket water pressure. Operators started Unit 4, which was down on standby, to help bring pressures down. Operators made repairs to and restarted Units 1 and 2, which allowed Unit 3 to also be restarted. Unit 4 was then returned to standby.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162134>

Enbridge Reports Flaring During AGI Startup after Repairs at Its Tilden Gas Plant in Texas November 26-28

Enbridge reported that the quality of the inlet gas delayed its ability to put the acid gas injector (AGI) into service after repairs to the amine still and the bigfoot contractor trays. This unexpectedly prolonged the flaring of gas.

Operators recirculated the inlet gas until the quality improved enough to allow the AGI to return to service.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162079>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=162145>

Other News

Nothing to report

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices November 29, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	99.77	97.55	85.45
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.09	2.94	4.12

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Canadian Environment Minister Says Canada to Formally Withdraw from Kyoto Protocol This Year; Increased Oil Extraction from Alberta Has Raised Canadian CO2 Emissions

Reuters, 11:27 November 28, 2011

Update: Ameren Corp. to Withdraw from FutureGen 2.0 Project at Year-End; FutureGen Alliance to Continue Development of 275 MW Coal-Gasification Power Plant in Illinois

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB120175397548831345.html?mod=yahoo_hs&ru=yahoo
<http://www.futuregenalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/11/FG-option-to-purchase-part-of-Meredosia-plant-112811.pdf>

NRG Dover Announces State-Assisted Project to Convert 18 MW Coal-Fired Unit to Natural Gas at Its 118 MW NRG Energy Center Dover in Delaware

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20111122/NEWS08/111122046/Coal-burning-power-plant-will-convert-cleaner-natural-gas>

Berkeley Scientists Develop New Technology to Prevent Pipeline Explosions; New System Uses MRI Medical Technology to Monitor Pipeline Safety

<http://pdf.reuters.com/htmlnews/8knews.asp?i=43059c3bf0e37541&u=urn:newsml:reuters.com:20111129:nBw296245a>

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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