



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, February 15, 2012

## ***Electricity***

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### **NRC Cites Entergy's 778 MW Palisades Nuclear Power Plant in Michigan for Three Violations**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced yesterday it has issued three violations to the Palisades nuclear power plant, which is operated by Entergy Nuclear Operations. One violation resulting in a substantial significance to safety is related to a September 25 electrical fault caused by personnel at the site, which resulted in a reactor trip, the loss of half of the control room indicators, and actuation of safety systems that were not warranted by actual plant conditions. Two other violations resulting in a low to moderate significance to safety are related to an August coupling failure in the service water system, which was later determined to be a repeat of a previous equipment failure that occurred in 2009. These violations will result in additional NRC inspections and oversight of the facility.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2012/12-006.iii.pdf>

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Feds-downgrade-Mich-nuclear-apf-2190030009.html?x=0>

### **Batteries to Compete with Gas Peaker Plants by 2016 – Industry Executive**

Falling prices for lithium-ion batteries will make power-storage systems competitive with natural gas as a source of electricity during periods of high demand by 2016, according to an executive with A123 Systems Inc. (AONE), which makes battery systems that store power and can supply up to 500 MW of power for as long as 8 hours on demand. Utilities currently use gas-fired “peaker” plants to supply power to meet short periods of peak demand.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-02-14/batteries-to-compete-with-gas-peaker-plants-by-2016-a123-says.html?cmpid=yahoo>

## ***Petroleum***

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### **ExxonMobil Reports Flaring at Its 238,600 b/d Joliet, Illinois Refinery February 14**

ExxonMobil reported an unknown amount of nitrogen dioxide was releasing due to flaring at the refinery yesterday afternoon, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1002973](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1002973)

### **U.S. Midwest Refiners Plan Light Spring Maintenance Schedules; Could Boost Regional Throughput Levels nearly 100,000 b/d over 5-Year Average**

U.S. Midwest refiners are planning the lightest spring maintenance season in more than five years, according to data from IIR Energy, which will help them absorb a growing surplus of crude output from North Dakota's Bakken oil shale play and Canada's oil sands patch. An average of 84,000 b/d of planned maintenance is scheduled during regional turnarounds for the February to April period, less than half the five-year average of 181,000 b/d, according to IIR. The period included two years of heavy maintenance, 2009 and 2010.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/14/midwest-refining-maintenance-idUSL2E8DEF2A20120214>

### **Sunoco Tells Union Workers at Its Shuttered Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania Refinery in Pennsylvania to Stop Reporting to Work after February 20**

Reuters, 10:21 February 15, 2012

## **Pennsylvania Renews Discharge Permit for ConocoPhillips' Shuttered Trainer, Pennsylvania Refinery February 14**

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) today issued a renewal of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for ConocoPhillips' Trainer refinery. A DEP release says that even though the facility is currently idle, the permit renewal is a "necessary and critical step in putting the refinery in a position to be acquired by a new operator."

<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/newsroom/14287?id=19264&typeid=1>

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## **Natural Gas**

### **DCP Midstream to Build 75 MMcf/d Rawhide Gas Processing Plant, Gathering Systems in Texas' Permian Basin**

DCP Midstream LLC today announced that it will build a 75 MMcf/d natural gas processing plant in Glasscock County, Texas and an associated low-pressure gathering system to service producers focused on Wolfberry production in the West Texas region of the Permian Basin. DCP will also expand its high-pressure gathering system as part of the project, linking its Goldsmith/Fullerton super system with its Triad super system. The new Rawhide Plant and the gathering systems are expected to be in commercial operation by the middle of 2013.

<https://www.dcpmidstream.com/pdf/DCP%20Midstream%20Announces%20New%20Processing%20Plant%20and%20Gathering%20Systems%20in%20Permian%20Basin.html>

### **Power Failure Shuts Exterran's 65 MMcf/d Dollarhide Gas Plant in Texas February 13-14**

Exterran reported it lost all compressors at the plant when broken transformer wires caused a power failure Monday, according to a filing with state regulators. Operators shut-in production to minimize flaring as they waited for electricians to repair the transformer wires.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=164863>

### **Exterran Reports Continued Engine Trouble at Its 50 MMcf/d Reinecke Gas Plant in Texas February 13**

Exterran reported continued engine trouble at its plant this week, according to filings with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Engines 74156, 40046, and 70972 were venting during startup on Monday, and Engines 71850, 72833, and 72472 went down due to inadequate interstage pressure and a blockage in the chiller. Operators backed gas out of the plant, according to the TCEQ filing. Engine 71050 went down due to scrubber levels and then due to coils, according to another TCEQ filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=164864>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=164865>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=164866>

### **High Discharge Pressure Shuts Two AGI Units at Enbridge's Tilden Gas Plant in Texas February 14**

Enbridge reported acid gas injector (AGI) units 1 and 2 shut down due to fifth-stage high discharge pressure on Tuesday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators immediately responded to correct the situation.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=164812>

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## **Other News**

Nothing to report

## International News

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### Update: Chevron Moving Forward with 250,000–300,000 b/d Expansion Project at Tengiz Oilfield in Kazakstan

Chevron Corp. said Wednesday it would continue to invest with its partners in the planned expansion at the Tengiz Field in Kazakhstan. Chevron's Tengizchevroil LLP affiliate is expected to begin front-end engineering and design for the expansion project this year. The project is expected to increase output at the field by 250,000 to 300,000 b/d of oil upon completion.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/15/chevron-tengiz-idUSL2E8DF2D020120215?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43>  
<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Chevron-Provides-Further-bw-3876344929.html?x=0>

### Oil Pipeline Running near Homs, Syria Attacked, Catches Fire

[http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-202\\_162-57378080/syria-troops-hit-hama-homs-oil-line-attacked/](http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-202_162-57378080/syria-troops-hit-hama-homs-oil-line-attacked/)

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
February 15, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b>			
<b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	101.82	98.75	83.11
<b>NATURAL GAS</b>			
<b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	2.48	2.60	3.89

Source: Reuters

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

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