



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability**

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Electricity

Update: Weekend Snowstorm Caused Nearly 450,000 Outages, Up from Previous Estimate

The number of customers who lost power on the east coast after a snowstorm over the weekend totaled nearly 450,000. On February 13, Energy Assurance Daily reported that 302,000 Baltimore Gas and Electric, Pepco and Dominion Power customers had lost power. Atlantic City Electric Co. has recently reported that 120,000 of their customers had lost power during the storm and BGE updated their outage total from 150,000 to 177,000.

| East Coast Snowstorm Power Outages | | | |
|---|--------------|----------------|---------------------|
| February 11-12, 2006 | | | |
| Utility | State | Peak | Current |
| 1) Baltimore Gas & Electric | MD | 177,000 | Map |
| 2) Dominion Power | VA | 120,000 | Map |
| 3) Atlantic City Electric Co. | NJ | 120,000 | Map |
| 4) Pepco | DC, MD | 32,000 | Map |
| TOTAL* | | 449,000 | |

*Total outages only represent utilities listed in this table.

Sources:

- 1) <http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/060212/nysu028.html?v=16>
- 2) http://today.reuters.com/news/NewsArticle.aspx?type=newsOne&storyID=uri:2006-02-13T151022Z_01_N12177124_RTRUKOC_0_US-WEATHER-NORTHEAST.xml&pageNumber=1&summit=
- 3) <http://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/news/local/atlantic/story/5909761p-5923848c.html>
- 4) <http://www.wtopnews.com/?nid=25&sid=696624>

Fire Damages Underground Cable: Power Outage Hits Downtown Houston

Damage to an underground power cable caused by an early morning fire resulted in a power outage affecting several major structures in downtown Houston. At 3:40 am on February 16 the Harris County Family Law Center, the Harris County Juvenile Justice Center, the Downtown Houston Post Office, Islamic Temple, the Crispin Building, and the De George Building at Union Station were among the major structures affected by the outage. CenterPoint Energy anticipates that all customers should be reconnected by sometime during the afternoon. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

<http://abclocal.go.com/ktrk/story?section=local&id=3911993>

<http://www.click2houston.com/news/7112684/detail.html>

Transformer Fire Leaves 30,000 Without Power in Long Beach, California

A transformer fire resulted in some 30,000 customers of Southern California Edison in Long Beach losing power for approximately two hours during the morning of February 14. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci_3509420

Exelon to Inspect Tritium Handling Practices at All Its Nuclear Plants

Exelon announced that it will conduct inspections at the ten nuclear power plants owned by the company to minimize risk from the handling of tritium at the plants. The inspections came about following the discovery of a leak at the Braidwood nuclear station near Braceville, Illinois.

Reuters, 10:15 February 16, 2006.

PSO-AEP's 690 MW Coal-fired Oklaunion Plant in Texas to Shut for Repairs

In a report to Texas regulators, PSO-AEP reported that its 690 MW coal-fired Oklaunion power station will be shut to repair a condenser leak. The plant will shut for an undetermined period beginning February 23 to 25.

Reuters, 18:17 February 15, 2006.

Output at 1,122 MW Columbia Nuclear Plant in Washington, Reduced to 60 Percent by Condenser Leak

Energy Northwest announced on February 16, that it had reduced the output at the 1,122 MW Columbia nuclear generating station in Benton County, Washington, to 60 percent of capacity to work on a leaking condenser.

According to the company, the unit should return to full power within a few days.

Reuters, 08:44 February 16, 2006

Bloomberg, 15:06 February 16, 2006

Update: Southern's 1,149 MW Vogtle Unit 2 Nuclear Plant Up to 44 Percent

The unit 2 at Southern Company's Vogtle nuclear generating station in Georgia continued to ramp up as it exited an outage that began on February 3 to repair leaks in the cooling system. The plant had reached 44 percent of capacity by early morning on February 16.

Reuters, 15:10 February 16, 2006

Petroleum

Fire Shuts 37,800 b/d of Shell's Nigerian Production

A wellhead fire of unknown origin broke out at Shell's oil operations in the delta region of Nigeria, forcing the company to shut in 37,800 b/d of production. Although the origin of the fire has not been determined, the incident occurred at a time of escalating violence in the region where militants have targeted oil production facilities, particularly those of Shell.

Reuters, 12:58 February 16, 2006.

EPA Revoking Gasoline Oxygen Requirement, May 6

EPA will revoke the current gasoline formula on May 6 to meet the requirements of legislation enacted by Congress in August 2005.

Reuters, 17:25 February 15, 2006.

Sunoco Philadelphia Refinery to Undergo Maintenance Originally Scheduled for Third Quarter

On February 15, Sunoco announced that beginning about February 19, the company will conduct planned maintenance on its 200,000 b/d Philadelphia refinery originally scheduled to be undertaken during the third quarter of the year. The company anticipates that the maintenance program will take about 20 days to complete.

<http://www.sunoco.com/aboutsunoco/newsandspeeches/4051f.htm>

Update: Clean Up at Chevron New Jersey Spill Site Continues

According to the latest information from Chevron, the clean up of the 31,000 gallon oil spill at its Perth Amboy facility has recovered 29,400 gallons of oil mixed with water. The Arthur Kill waterway is fully open to marine traffic.

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/060215/sfw121.html?.v=11>

Natural Gas

Falcon Gas Storage to Conduct Open Season for Proposed MoBay Hub Expansion

Falcon Gas Storage Company, Inc. announced on February 15 that it will conduct a non-binding open season for its proposed MoBay Storage Hub expansion. If the response from the open season is positive, the company plans to expand the facility from 12 Bcf to 15 Bcf.

http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news_article.cfm?id=6343614

Other News

Nothing to report

Energy Prices

| U.S. Oil and Gas Prices | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|----------|----------|
| February 16, 2006 | | | |
| | Today | Week Ago | Year Ago |
| CRUDE OIL | | | |
| West Texas Intermediate U.S. | 58.61 | 63.09 | 47.50 |
| \$/Barrel | | | |
| NATURAL GAS | | | |
| Henry Hub | 7.16 | 8.26 | 6.05 |
| \$/Million Btu | | | |

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Saudi Aramco Picks Total as Partner for Planned 400-450,000 b/d Export Refinery

http://www.energyintel.com/PublicationHomePage.asp?publication_id=31

FERC, DOT, DHS to Hold Meetings to Educate Public on LNG Issues

NGI's Daily Gas Price Index

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Links

This Week in Petroleum from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

Weekly Petroleum Status Report from EIA

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html

Updated after 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

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