



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, February 18, 2009

## *Electricity*

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### **Entergy's 730 MW Palisades Nuke Unit in Michigan Shut by February 18**

The unit was shut to repair a leaking control rod drive seal. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of February 17 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN1842920420090218>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

### **Cabrillo Power's 330 MW Encina Gas-fired Unit 5 in California Shut by February 17**

The California Independent System Operator reported the unit experienced an unplanned outage by February 17.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200902171515.html>

### **AES's 226 MW Huntington Beach Gas-fired Unit 1 in California Shut by February 17**

The California Independent System Operator reported the unit experienced an unplanned outage by February 17.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200902171515.html>

### **Mountainview Power Company's 525 MW Mountainview Gas-fired Unit 4 in California Returns to Service by February 17**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200902171515.html>

### **Edison Mission Energy's 590 MW Sunrise Gas-fired Unit in California Returns to Service by February 17**

The California Independent System Operator reported the unit returned from an unplanned curtailment of 190 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200902171515.html>

### **TransAlta's 381 MW Keephills Coal-fired Unit 1 in Alberta Shut February 17**

Reuters, 8:39 February 18, 2009

### **ATCO's 378 MW Sheerness Coal-fired Unit 2 in Alberta Shut February 17**

Reuters, 8:39 February 18, 2009

### **Leaking Valve Persists at Entergy's Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant in Vermont**

Entergy company officials said a valve leaking more than 3,600 gallons of "slightly radioactive" water a day at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant continues to present a problem despite several attempts to fix the leaking gasket.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) resident inspectors are on site monitoring the situation.

<http://www.rutlandherald.com/article/20090217/NEWS04/902170338/1003/NEWS02>

## ***Petroleum***

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### **Wet Gas Line Puncture Cuts Rates to FCC Unit at Sunoco's 160,000 b/d Toledo, Ohio Refinery**

According to a filing with local regulators made last week, Sunoco "substantially cut." rates on the fluid catalytic cracker (FCC) unit at its Toledo refinery because of a puncture in a 24-inch wet gas line. The puncture was caused when a structure was blown onto the line by strong winds in the area.

Bloomberg News, 13:40 February 18, 2009

### **Update: Repairs Underway at Imperial Oil's 119,000 b/d Sarnia, Ontario Refinery Following February 13 Fire**

An Imperial Oil representative said repairs are underway on a coker unit damaged by a fire last week at the Sarnia refinery. The coker unit remains shut, while the rest of the plant continues to operate normally.

Reuters, 12:04 February 18, 2009

### **Update: Shell to Restart Hurricane Ike-Damaged Auger Pipeline in Gulf of Mexico**

A Shell official said the segment of the Auger oil pipeline in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico that was damaged by Hurricane Ike has been repaired and will be restarted February 28.

Reuters, 11:35 February 18, 2009

### **Oil Exports from Iraq's Basra Terminal Fall 840,000 b/d February 18 due to Bad Weather, Shippers Report**

Iraqi oil exports from the Basra terminal on February 18 fell to rates of 720,000 b/d due to bad weather, where as rates the day prior were at 1.56 MMb/d, while, for the month of January 2009 exports from the terminal averaged, 1.4 MM b/d. Sources noted that the export rate often fluctuates due to weather-related problems and various technical glitches.

Reuters, 08:34 February 18, 2009

### **World Oil Demand to Decline by 1 Million Barrels in 2009 – BP Chief Economist**

Bloomberg News, 08:05 February 18, 2009

## ***Natural Gas***

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### **Natural Gas Futures Price Drops to Six-Year Low as Recession Concerns Deepen**

Natural gas for March delivery fell 3.6 cents on the New York Mercantile Exchange earlier today, with the futures price touching \$4.037, the lowest price since November 2002. Analysts attribute the decrease in price to recent government reports showing the economic recession is curbing fuel demand.

Bloomberg News, 12:19 February 18, 2009

## ***Other News***

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### **President Obama Signs U.S. Stimulus Bill – Includes \$45 Billion in Energy Spending**

President Obama signed the \$787 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on February 17 with approximately \$45 billion of the stimulus package designated for energy-related programs and tax credits for renewable energy, energy efficiency and electrical transmission projects. Included among the projects: \$4.5 billion for Smart Grid Investment Program, \$3.4 billion for fossil fuels research and development and \$2.5 billion for energy efficiency and renewable energy research.

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/6156050.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>

### **Renewable Energy Group Opens Biodiesel Truck Loading Facility in Houston, Texas**

REG (Renewable Energy Group) opened for business the Houston area's first biodiesel truck loading facility, located on the grounds of the company's 35 MMgal/yr biodiesel refinery.

<http://www.renewable-energy-group.com/pdfs/Houston%20truck%20load%20terminal%20now%20open%20for%20B99%20and%20B100%20sales.pdf>

## **BP and Verenium Form Venture to Deliver Advanced Biofuels – Plan 36MMGal/Yr Cellulosic Ethanol Facility in Florida**

The newly created joint venture announced plans February 18 to build a commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol facility in Highlands County, Florida with construction to begin in 2010 and production anticipated to begin in 2012.

<http://www.bp.com/genericarticle.do?categoryId=2012968&contentId=7051362>

## ***Energy Prices***

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<b>U.S. Oil and Gas Prices</b>			
February 18, 2009			
	<b>Today</b>	<b>Week Ago</b>	<b>Year Ago</b>
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	34.71	39.06	94.88
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	4.35	4.76	8.50

Source: Reuters

## ***Energy Notes***

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### **Burning Power Pole Leaves 14,000 Rocky Mountain Power Customers without Power in Utah February 17**

<http://www.thespectrum.com/article/20090218/NEWS01/902180319>

### **Prairie Island Nuclear Plant's Shipment of Radioactive Equipment Shifts during Transit from Minnesota to Pennsylvania, Plant VP Said Event 'Serious and Rare'**

<http://www.startribune.com/local/39691582.html>

### **Update: New Generation Biofuels Completes Construction on 5 MMGal/Yr Biofuel Production Facility in Maryland – Operations to Begin within Next 'Few Weeks'**

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/New-Generation-Biofuels-prnews-14396936.html>

### **Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to Open New Office in Central Pennsylvania to Handle 'Drilling Rush' Anticipated for Marcellus Shale Region**

[http://www.centredaily.com/news/breaking\\_news/story/1123101.html](http://www.centredaily.com/news/breaking_news/story/1123101.html)

### **President Obama to Visit with Canadian Prime Minister – Says Both Countries Face Similar Energy-related Dilemmas in Carbon Footprint Created by Oil Sands, Coal**

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090218/ap\\_on\\_re\\_ca/canada\\_obama\\_energy\\_2](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090218/ap_on_re_ca/canada_obama_energy_2)

### **DOE to Make Renewable Energy Loans Process Easier by Cutting Approval Time, Easing the Application Process, Loans to Begin by End of April – DOE Secretary Chu Says**

11:11 February 18, 2009

### **Petrobras' Brazilian O&G Production Up 4.8 Percent in January 2009 Over One Year**

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=73067](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=73067)

### **Russia Signs \$25 Billion Energy Deal to Supply Oil to China for Next 20 Years**

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=15185](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=15185)

## Links

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***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](http://www.eia.doe.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://tonto.eia.doe.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>

Please direct comments and questions to: [ead@oe.netl.doe.gov](mailto:ead@oe.netl.doe.gov)