



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, February 19, 2010

## *Electricity*

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### **Constellation's 825 MW Calvert Cliffs Nuke Unit 1 in Maryland Shut by February 19**

The unit was shut following the shutdown of a main coolant pump. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of February 18 the unit was operating at full power.

[http://www.thebaynet.com/news/index.cfm/fa/viewstory/story\\_ID/16794](http://www.thebaynet.com/news/index.cfm/fa/viewstory/story_ID/16794)

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Constellation's 835 MW Calvert Cliffs Nuke Unit 2 in Maryland Shut by February 19**

The unit was shut due to a partial loss of power caused by an electrical transient to one of the transformers. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of February 18 the unit was operating at full power.

[http://www.thebaynet.com/news/index.cfm/fa/viewstory/story\\_ID/16794](http://www.thebaynet.com/news/index.cfm/fa/viewstory/story_ID/16794)

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **TMPA's 462 MW Gibbons Creek Coal-fired Unit 1 Shut in Texas February 18**

According to a filing with state regulators, the unit was shut in an unplanned forced outage due to the loss of control for a boiler feed water pump turbine.

Reuters, 10:41 February 19, 2010

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eei/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=136058>

### **Update: Southern's 870 MW Hatch Nuke Unit 2 in Georgia Ramped Up to 94 Percent by February 19**

The unit was reduced earlier this week after elevated temperatures were reported in the main generator. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of February 18 the unit was operating at 68 percent.

Reuters, 07:56 February 19, 2010

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Survey of U.S. Electric Power Industry Leaders Reflects Impact of Weak Economy, Regulatory Uncertainty, Black & Veatch Reports**

The Black & Veatch survey titled, "Strategic Directions in the Electric Utility Industry Survey" was released recently in which the results of 329 industry participants found that find reliability of the electric grid, regulatory issue and long-term investment are all overall top concerns. Highlights of the survey include:

- Nuclear energy was selected as the generation technology best suited to help the U.S. meet environmental standards, followed by wind and natural gas.
- Wind power projects are underway or planned by nearly 79 percent of survey takers.
- Solar projects are underway or planned by nearly 73 percent of respondents.
- Electric utility spending on programs for energy efficiency and demand-side management had surged recently to nearly 2 percent of all revenue.
- Capital spending on new electric infrastructure has declined for two years in a row – the first time this has happened since the 1930s.
- Carbon emissions maintained its place as the dominant environmental concern for electricity industry leaders, with water supply second.

[http://www.bv.com/wcm/press\\_release/02182010\\_4396.aspx](http://www.bv.com/wcm/press_release/02182010_4396.aspx)

Survey Report Available Here: [www.bv.com/energysurvey](http://www.bv.com/energysurvey)

## ***Petroleum***

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### **Update: Silver Eagle Refining Delays Start Up of Crude Unit at its 10,250 b/d Woods Cross Refiner in Utah February 18**

An explosion on November 4 has hampered the complete restart of the refinery and the crude unit restart has been delayed twice in less than a month. The company is waiting to start up the unit until state officials award necessary permits.

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=21185](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=21185)

### **Crude Oil Rises to Five-Week High in Spite of U.S. Fuel Consumption Decreases in part due to Ongoing Refining Shutdown in France from Worker Strike**

Crude oil futures increased to its highest level in five weeks following the Federal Reserve's action to increase discount-rates coupled with the refining strike underway in France. Some analysts feel the refining strike in France could possibly lead to shortages in global supplies especially now since U.S. refinery-run rates are at low levels. Of course they are at low levels because of the weak U.S. economy, with U.S. fuel consumption at its lowest level in 12 years, according to the American Petroleum Institute.

Bloomberg News, 14:30 February 19, 2010

### **Update: Total SA Company Refinery Workers go on Strike at Six Refineries Across France, Crude Processing Shutdown and Warnings of Fuel Shortages Loom February 19**

Workers at Total's six French refineries and seven out of 31 fuel-storage depots walked out for a third day in a row to protest Total's decision to scale back refining in Europe while expanding business in the Middle East. Union representatives are encouraging ExxonMobil's French refineries to strike as well, while a spokesperson for that company declined to comment.

Bloomberg News, 13:20 February 19, 2010

### **Production Stream Problems Lead to Shutdown of Four Crude Oil Cargoes in North Sea Forties Area February 19, Traders Reports**

The Canadian oil company Nexen reported February 18 that its largest oilfield located in the North Sea Forties area, Buzzard, has reduced its output to 30,000-50,000 boe/d from an average output of over 200,000 boe/d. This decrease led to a total of four cargoes having to be cancelled from the loading program, traders reported.

Reuters, 12:03 February 19, 2010

## ***Natural Gas***

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Nothing to report.

## ***Other News***

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### **Peabody, GreatPoint Energy to Pursue Development of Coal-to-Gas and Coal-to-Hydrogen Projects in U.S. and World**

Peabody Energy and GreatPoint Energy announced recently the two companies have signed an agreement to pursue development of unconventional gasification technology for coal-to-gas and coal-to-hydrogen projects in the United States and around the world. The projects would be developed using GreatPoint's proprietary Bluegas technology, which utilizes catalytic hydromethanation to create pure hydrogen and substitute natural gas (SNG). This process is more efficient and cost effective than conventional gasification. The SNG can be transported in the existing pipeline infrastructure and used as fuel in home heating, power plants or industrial processes.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=129849&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1392644&highlight=#splash>

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices February 19, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	79.76	73.58	37.23
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	5.40	5.48	4.35

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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**Hazardous Work Environment, Poor Hiring Outlook, Stress, Physical Demands and Pay Make Oil Rig, Gas Pipeline Work ‘Worst Job in America’ for 2010, Forbes Magazine Reports**

<http://www.24-7pressrelease.com/press-release/oil-rig-gas-pipeline-work-rated-the-worst-job-in-america-137968.php>

**Due to Increase in Domestic Demand, Government of Indonesia to no Longer Renew Existing LNG Export Contracts – Will Now Focus Supply to Domestic Market, Industry Minister Says**

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/02/18/govt-will-no-longer-renew-lng-export-contracts-minister-says.html>

**Update: NextEra Completes 50 MW Expansion at Wilton Wind Energy Center in North Dakota February 19**

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/NextEra-Completes-66-Million-iw-2242302969.html?x=0&.v=1>

**Pennsylvania Governor Rendell Touts American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for Funding of Three New Wind Farms in Pennsylvania Totaling 90 MW**

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/pennsylvania-governor-rendell-federal-recovery-funds-make-three-large-scale-wind-projects-possible-bring-gamesa-employees-back-to-work-filling-orders-84726822.html>

**U.S. Faces Impending Shortage of Utility Engineers as 45 Percent of Those Currently Employed are Eligible for Retirement in Next Five Years,**

[http://www.marketwatch.com/story/national-grid-takes-action-to-address-impending-critical-shortage-of-utility-engineers-2010-02-18?reflink=MW\\_news\\_stmp](http://www.marketwatch.com/story/national-grid-takes-action-to-address-impending-critical-shortage-of-utility-engineers-2010-02-18?reflink=MW_news_stmp)

**U.S. House of Representative Energy and Commerce Committee Panel to Probe Natural Gas Hydrofracking Process and Potential Impacts on Environment and Human Health**

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=88105](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=88105)

**Copper Wire Thieves Leave 1,700 Wood County Electric Cooperative Customers in Michigan without Power February 16**

<http://www.kmoo.com/20100216946/Crime/copper-theft-leaves-hawkins-in-the-dark.html>

**Duke Energy Installs First Smart Grid Meters in Oxford, Ohio**

<http://news.cincinnati.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/AB/20100218/NEWS01/2190329/>

## Copper Wire Thieves Target McDonough, Georgia Substations - Costing Utility and Customers \$5,000 Each Theft

<http://www.cbsatlanta.com/news/22583394/detail.html>

### 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>

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