



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, February 19, 2013

Electricity

Dominion to Seek Higher Water Temperature Limit for Its Millstone Nuclear Power Plant in Connecticut

Dominion Resources Inc. is preparing to ask the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to operate its Waterford nuclear power plant with a higher hot water temperature limit of 80 degrees in an effort to mitigate rising temperatures that have in the past disrupted operations. Last August operators were forced to shut Millstone Unit 2 for two weeks because the average temperature of water supplied by the Niantic Bay, in the Long Island Sound, exceeded the current 75-degree threshold. Millstone Unit 1, which draws in cooler water from deeper in the sound, remained open during the period when Unit 2 was shut last summer.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/conn-nuke-plant-seek-higher-154835011.html>

AEP Announces Long-Term Plans to Upgrade or Retire Coal-Fire Units, Move Generating Fleet Toward Natural Gas

American Electric Power Co. (AEP) on Friday said it expects to spend \$4 billion to \$5 billion between now and 2020 on environmental upgrades at its coal-fired power plants to bring those facilities into compliance with current and proposed federal environmental regulations. The utility is generally moving its generating fleet away from coal toward natural gas. Sixty-five percent of its generation today comes from coal-fired plants, and that number is expected to decline to about 50 percent by 2020. AEP plans to retire more than 5,400 MW of coal-fired generation by 2016, and convert another 1,800 MW of coal-fired generation to natural gas.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/15/utilities-aep-plants-idUSL1N0BF5V520130215?feedType=RSS&feedName=rbssEnergyNews&rpc=43>
<http://www.aep.com/newsroom/newsreleases/?id=1800>

FPL's 693 MW Turkey Point Nuclear Unit 3 in Florida Shuts Due to Coolant Pump Leak by February 18

On February 18, Florida Power & Light (FPL) reported they had commenced a Unit 3 shutdown due to high No. 1 seal leak-off on the 3A reactor coolant pump (RCP), according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Auxiliary feedwater actuated as designed based on steam generator levels as a result of the trip. Unit 3 was in Mode 3 and stable. FPL had restarted Unit 3 by February 15 following an outage that began February 11, when a loss of condenser vacuum caused an automatic reactor trip. The unit was operating at full power by February 17.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130219en.html>

Entergy's 730 MW Palisades Nuclear Unit 1 in Michigan Shuts Due to Cooling Water Leak by February 15

Entergy Nuclear reported that late last Thursday night, technical specifications required operators to initiate shutdown procedures at the Palisades nuclear unit when the right train of the component cooling water (CCW) system became inoperable due to a leak inside the CCW heat exchanger, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Repairs to fix the leak were underway.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130219en.html>

Exelon Reports High Pressure Core Spray System Snag at Its 1,022 MW Clinton Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois February 18

Exelon Nuclear early yesterday morning declared the high pressure core spray (HPCS) system at its Clinton nuclear plant was inoperable after operators discovered the Division 4 nuclear system protection system (NPCS) bus was energized by an alternate source instead of its normal inverter source, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Since the HPCS system is an emergency core cooling system and is a single train safety system, the inoperable condition could have prevented fulfillment of a safety function and was therefore reported to the NRC. The Division 4 NSPS bus was later restored to service on the normal inverter source. Clinton Unit 1 continued to operate at 91 percent power throughout the incident.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130219en.html>

Update: Entergy's 951 MW Indian Point Nuclear Unit 2 in New York Restarts by February 16, Ramps Up to 99 Percent by February 17

Entergy Nuclear returned Indian Point Unit 2 to service early Saturday morning after shutting the unit November 13 when two valves inadvertently opened while workers were testing a third valve. The work caused fluctuation in water levels inside the plant's steam generators, which activated the shutdown. Unit 3 was unaffected by the shutdown and continues to operate at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

http://www.entergy-nuclear.com/News_Room/newsrelease.aspx?NR_ID=2672

http://www.entergy-nuclear.com/News_Room/newsrelease.aspx?NR_ID=2671

Update: Entergy's 653 MW Pilgrim Nuclear Unit 1 in Massachusetts Restarts by February 16, Returns to Full Power by February 17

Entergy Nuclear returned Pilgrim Unit 1 to service Saturday and ramped back up to full power by Sunday following an outage that began February 8, when the reactor scrambled due to a loss of offsite power during a blizzard. On Monday, operators reported an inoperable scram discharge volume valve after observing degradation in opening stroke time during quarterly surveillance testing. Operators are evaluating the valve stroke time trend data and will develop a plan to address the issue. On the morning of February 19 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130219en.html>

Constellation Reports Boundary Leakage at Its 835 MW Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Unit 2 in Maryland February 17

Constellation reported that Calvert Cliffs operators had over the weekend identified a pinhole leak on the leak-off welded cap of Unit 2 during a containment walkdown, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Operators had just shut the unit for a scheduled refueling and maintenance outage when they discovered the leak.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130219en.html>

Southern's 830 MW Farley Nuclear Unit 1 in Alabama Reduced to 74 Percent by February 19

On the morning of February 18 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

Inland Empire Energy Center's 366 MW Inland Empire Natural Gas-Fired Unit 2 Shuts by February 16; Its 376 MW Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by February 18

Inland Empire Unit 2 entered an unplanned outage by February 16. Inland Empire Unit 1 returned from an unplanned outage that began by February 16.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201302181515.html>

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201302161515.html>

Dynegy's 510 MW Moss Landing Natural Gas-Fired Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by February 16

The unit returned from a curtailment of 280 MW that was due to both planned and unplanned causes and began by February 15.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201302161515.html>

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201302151515.html>

Mirant's 317 MW Pittsburg Natural Gas-Fired Unit 6 in California Returns to Service by February 15

The unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201302151515.html>

Petroleum

Enterprise's 400,000 b/d Seaway Crude Oil Pipeline Throughput to Average 295,000 b/d until June Due to Anticipated Mix of Light and Heavy Crude

Crude oil flows on the expanded Seaway Pipeline should average 295,000 b/d between February and the end of May, an expert witness said on behalf of the company in a filing with the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The 400,000 b/d pipeline is not expected to transport more than 335,000 b/d in "the foreseeable future" due to the "anticipated mix of light and heavy crude oil," the filing said.

Reuters, 10:29 February 19, 2013

Update: North Atlantic Refining Resumes Full Production at Its 115,000 b/d Come By Chance, Newfoundland and Labrador Refinery by February 18

North Atlantic Refining Ltd. on Monday said it had resumed full production at its Come By Chance refinery following a site-wide power outage on February 4. The refinery shut when a trip at the facility's terminal station knocked out the two transmission lines that provide power to the refinery. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro reported a protection circuit failure at the terminal station caused the outage, after heavy winds that day drove plastic debris into contact with high voltage equipment inside the station.

Reuters, 09:05 February 18, 2013

ExxonMobil Reports Alkylolation Unit Snag at Its 238,600 b/d Joliet, Illinois Refinery February 14; Shuts Unspecified Unit after Malfunction February 16

ExxonMobil Corp. reported flaring at its Joliet refinery last Thursday was due to a "hick" valve malfunction at the alkylolation unit, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were working to repair the valve and had secured the leak. On Saturday the refinery shut an unspecified unit after a malfunction, according to filings with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were investigating the cause of the malfunction.

Reuters, 12:30 February 17, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1038549

Flint Hills Discovers Mercury in Crude Unit at Its 288,468 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery During Turnaround Work February 18

Flint Hills Resources reported that while conducting turnaround activities at the West Crude Unit at its Corpus Christi refinery Monday, workers discovered mercury in the bottom of the tower, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were investigating the source of the mercury. Operators had on February 15 reported they were depressuring a hydro-desulfurization at the refinery unit due to a leak.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1038763

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1038634

Motiva Shuts Unspecified Unit at Its 236,400 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery Due to Relief Valve Leak February 18

Motiva Enterprises reported it was shutting down an unspecified unit at its Norco refinery on Monday after a relief valve released material due to over-pressuring in the system, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators said there may be a ruptured tube in the exchanger.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1038768

8-inch Sunoco Logistics Crude Oil Pipeline Leaks in Texas Due to Corrosion

Sunoco Logistics Partners reported a spill of 15 barrels of crude oil from an 8-inch underground transmission pipeline was due to corrosion that had been previously reported to the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were excavating the leaking segment of pipeline and had secured the leak.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1038791

Natural Gas

Update: Apache Reports on Efforts to Kill Natural Gas Well Flowing Underground in U.S. Gulf of Mexico

Apache Corp. on Friday reported an underground flow of natural gas at a well it was drilling in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico. On February 5, during drilling operations at Main Pass 295 in the Gulf of Mexico utilizing the Ensco 87 rig, Apache took a kick from an abnormally pressured gas zone. The well was shut in, and blowout preventers were activated and continued to function properly Friday. Apache is working with well-control experts to kill the well. Diagnostic procedures indicated an underground migration from the bottom of the well (8,261 feet) to another sand formation at approximately 1,100 feet. At the direction of the U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), Apache is preparing to move the Rowan Cecil Provine, another drilling rig currently under contract with Apache, to the location in the event it is determined that drilling a relief well is necessary. <http://investor.apachecorp.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=740835>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Bomb Hits 16-Inch Fuel Oil Pipeline Connecting Baji Refinery to Nineveh in Iraq

The Iraqi Oil Ministry reported assailants had on Saturday bombed and disabled a section of 16-inch pipeline carrying fuel oil from the Baji refinery to the northern province of Nineveh. Baji is Iraq's largest refinery. Pipeline repairs were expected to take several days. Fleets of trucks were transporting oil to Nineveh, which gets all its domestic fuel via the damaged pipeline.

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/02/18/289577/bombing-hits-fuel-oil-pipeline-in-iraq/>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/17/us-iraq-pipeline-attack-idUSBRE91G08I20130217>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
February 19, 2013			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL			
West Texas Intermediate U.S.	95.78	97.35	102.96
\$/Barrel			
NATURAL GAS			
Henry Hub	3.19	3.20	2.47
\$/Million Btu			

Source: Reuters

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 ET every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

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

Updated after 2:00 PM ET every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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

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