



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, February 24, 2016

Major Developments

Widespread Storm System Knocks Out Power to Nearly 400,000 Customers across Eastern U.S. February 23–24

A widespread, multi-impact storm system bringing high winds and tornadoes to the Eastern United States, including snow and ice in the northern regions, knocked out power to 398,621 customers beginning Tuesday night and into Wednesday. As of 4:30 p.m. EST Wednesday, 278,276 customers remained without power. Customer outages in some areas were continuing to rise as of Wednesday afternoon as the storm system moves to north and east. Ameren, which reported 46,463 customer outages in Illinois and 43,194 customers in Missouri, said more than 500 employees and contractors were repairing and assessing damages throughout the central and southern Illinois territory and additional restoration crews were coming from other states to assist. Ameren Illinois reported widespread damage to its infrastructure including reports of almost 100 broken or leaning poles, and 300 downed wires. Entergy Louisiana, which reported 30,500 customer outages, said tornadoes and high winds caused significant damage to the LaPlace and Convent communities, hampering restoration efforts. The utility expects most customers to have power restored by 5 p.m. EST on Thursday, although the hardest-hit areas may not be restored until Friday evening. Gulf Power, which reported 15,000 customer outages in Florida, said it was bringing in extra crews and is working to have all customers restored by Wednesday night. The table below shows total affected customers and the latest reported outages by utility. The “Affected” column shows either the total number of customers that lost power at one point or another during the outage event as reported by the utility or, when unavailable, the highest number of customers reported without power from various local news articles and utility outage websites, which were checked at various times throughout the day.

Eastern U.S. Customer Power Outages			
February 23–24, 2016			
Electric Utility	State	Affected	Latest Reported
Alabama Power	AL	14,000	2,500
Entergy Arkansas	AR	1,578	184
Gulf Power	FL	15,000	2,540
Georgia Power	GA	26,365	18,986
Jefferson Electric Cooperative	GA	1,881	417
Ameren Illinois	IL	46,463	21,860
Commonwealth Edison	IL	12,501	12,501
Southwestern Electric Cooperative	IL	7,241	4,750
Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative	IL	3,000	2,087
NIPSCO	IN	18,773	18,773
Indianapolis Power and Light	IN	1,833	30
Entergy Louisiana	LA	30,500	12,238
Southwestern Electric Power Company	LA	1,630	121
Consumers Energy	MI	11,152	11,152
DTE	MI	2,683	2,633
Ameren Missouri	MO	43,194	17,990
Duke Energy	NC	76,442	76,442
Energy United	NC	4,062	3,054
PECO	PA	4,970	3,058
Duke Energy	SC	26,747	24,919
South Carolina Electric and Gas	SC	17,497	17,620
Laurens Electric Cooperative	SC	6,807	941
Appalachian Power	VA/WV	7,202	6,872

Dominion	VA	9,590	9,590
First Energy	WV	7,510	7,018
TOTAL*		398,621	278,276

*Total outages represent only electric utilities listed in this table.

Sources:

<https://twitter.com/alabamapower>

http://outagemap.gulfpower.com/external/default.html?ghp=s1_bx3_link3

<https://www.facebook.com/GulfPowerCompany?ref=sgm>

<http://outagemap.georgiapower.com/external/default.html>

<http://apps.ameren.com/outage/outagemap.aspx?state=IL>

<https://twitter.com/AmerenIllinois>

<http://ameren.mediaroom.com/news-releases?item=1441>

<http://outage.jec.coop:83/>

<http://www.entergynewsroom.com/latest-news/entergy-crews-responding-quickly-damage-left-by-violent-weather/>

<https://www.facebook.com/EasternIllini/>

<http://www.eiec.org/outage-map/>

<https://twitter.com/nipsco>

<http://www.nipscooutages.com/WSSNisourceOutageMap/outagemap.html?action=city&reloaded=true>

http://entergystormcenter.com/article.aspx?NR_ID=801

<http://www.sweci.com/Home/News-and-Information/News-Room.aspx/2016/02/24/Transmission-Pole-Failure-Cuts-Power-to-Three-Coop-Substations>

<http://outagemap.sweci.com/omswebmap/OMSWebMap.htm?clientKey=undefined>

<http://www.dteenergy.com/map/outage.html>

<https://www.consumersenergy.com/outagemap#>

<http://apps.ameren.com/outage/outagemap.aspx?state=MO>

https://www.peco.com/_layouts/peco/OutageMap.aspx

<http://outages.firstenergycorp.com/mdwv.html>

<https://www.appalachianpower.com/outages/outageMap.aspx>

<http://outagemap.dom.com.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/external/report.html?report=report-panel-county-muni>

Electricity

Update: NMC's 522 MW Prairie Island Nuclear Unit 2 in Minnesota Restarts February 23, Ramps Up to 30 Percent by February 24

On the morning of February 23 the unit had restarted and was operating at 6 percent. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission said one of the two reactors at the Prairie Island nuclear plant shut down automatically on December 17, 2015 after a problem developed in the unit's turbine, causing fire alarms to go off.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2016/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20151218en.html>

Reuters, 6:31 December 17, 2015

Entergy's 858 MW Arkansas Nuclear Unit 2 in Arkansas Shut by February 24

On the morning of February 23 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2016/>

Blythe Energy's 493 MW Gas-fired Unit in California Reduced by February 23

The unit entered an unplanned curtailment of 253 MW.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201602231515.html>

Desert Sunlight's 250 MW Solar Unit in California Shut by February 23

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201602231515.html>

Motiva, ExxonMobil Refineries Unaffected by Severe Weather in Louisiana February 23

Motiva Enterprises and ExxonMobil refineries in Louisiana were unaffected by the severe weather in southern Louisiana and Mississippi on Tuesday, according to representatives from the plants. Motiva Enterprises said there had been no impacts to production at its 238,000 b/d Norco, Louisiana refinery as well as its 235,000 b/d Convent, Louisiana refinery, adding that that non-essential personnel have been limited at both sites. ExxonMobil Corp said its 502,500 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana refinery was operating normally. ExxonMobil's and Motiva's refineries account for about a third of Louisiana's overall refining capacity.

Reuters, 21:35 February 23, 2016

New Jersey DEP Reports 3,000 Gallons of Oil Recovered from Out-of-Service IMTT Terminal Pipeline in Bayonne, New Jersey February 23

An underground pipeline in a Bayonne, New Jersey park that was discovered to be leaking on Monday has spilled at least 3,000 gallons of oil and is currently undergoing repairs, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). IMTT, which operates at 16 million barrel petroleum terminal nearby, claimed ownership of the pipeline and said the line had been placed out of service several months ago to carry out repairs and upgrades. The leak was stemming from residual oil that was not adequately purge when the line was taken offline. A DEP spokesman on Tuesday said that the leaking pipeline was reported to the DEP on Monday afternoon, but that it's not known when the line actually broke. Responders were out on the scene, excavating and using vacuums to pull up the oil, according to the spokesman. Workers had recovered roughly 3,000 gallons of oil. The DEP said the leak has not affected any waterways and that it's not a threat to public health and safety. The DEP said it's not known whether the leak has been stopped and when repairs on the broken pipeline will be completed.

http://www.nj.com/hudson/index.ssf/2016/02/workers_recover_at_least_3000_gallons_of_oil_from.html#incart_river_index

Update: Monroe Energy's 185,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery Restores Production February 23 – Source

Delta Airlines' Monroe Energy refinery outside Philadelphia has pushed production levels to near normal levels after cutting runs by 10 percent due to weak margins, according to a source familiar with the plant's operations. The refinery was running at 180,000 b/d, a 3 percent reduction, the source said on Tuesday. The refinery cut run rates to 167,000 b/d, a 10 percent cut, earlier this month due to weak margins.

Reuters, 11:46 February 23, 2016

Hollyfrontier Cuts Production at Its 135,000 b/d El Dorado Kansas, 100,000 b/d Navajo, New Mexico Refineries February 24

HollyFrontier Corp said on Wednesday it had cut production at its El Dorado, Kansas, and Navajo, New Mexico, refineries due to poor refining margins caused by a huge glut of gasoline across the country. HollyFrontier said its six refineries were expected to run at a rate of between 380,000 b/d and 390,000 b/d in the first quarter, or 81 percent to 83 percent of combined throughput capacity of 467,350 b/d. Company executives attributed most of the first-quarter production cuts to a 48-day overhaul of the 24,000 b/d fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) and a related alkylation unit at the company's 70,300 b/d East Refinery in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Reuters, 9:36 February 24, 2016

<http://www.hollyfrontier.com/operations/refineries/navajo/default.aspx>

<http://www.hollyfrontier.com/operations/refineries/el-dorado/default.aspx>

Update: Motiva Completes Restart of CDU at Its 603,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery – Sources

Motiva Enterprises completed the restart of the second largest crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Port Arthur, Texas, refinery overnight, sources familiar with plant operations said on Wednesday. Motiva plans to restore a 49,000 b/d catalytic reformer to production over the weekend, the sources said. The 195,000 b/d CDU, which is called VPS-4, the reformer and a 54,000 b/d coking unit have been shut since a planned overhaul of multiple units at the refinery, which is the country's largest, began in late December. Since last week, the reformer has been at operating temperatures and circulating feedstock while awaiting the restart of VPS-4. By Sunday, VPS-4 is expected to reach production levels to provide adequate amounts of feedstock to the reformer. The CDU was at minimal output on Wednesday, the sources said. Motiva began the second attempt to restart VPS-4 on Tuesday afternoon. The first attempt to return the CDU to production on Monday failed when a leak developed in a line leading to the flare system, the sources said. The CDU was originally scheduled to restart last week, but that was pushed back to Monday due to problems with new instrumentation installed during the work, the sources added.

All units shut as part of the overhaul are expected back in production by early March.

Reuters, 11:07 February 24, 2016

U.S. Crude Stocks Rise Again, Gasoline Stocks Fall First Time since November 2015 – EIA

U.S. crude stocks rose last week, while gasoline inventories fell for the first time since November 2015 and distillate stockpiles also dropped, data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) showed on Wednesday. Crude inventories rose by 3.5 million barrels in the last week, compared with analysts' expectations for an increase of 3.4 million barrels. On the Gulf Coast, crude stockpiles rose to the highest on record since at least 1990, following run cuts at refineries from Texas to Philadelphia in response to low margins. Crude stocks at the Cushing, Oklahoma, delivery hub rose by 333,000 barrels, EIA said. Refinery crude runs fell by 163,000 b/d, EIA data showed. Refinery utilization rates fell by 1 percentage points. Gasoline stocks fell by 2.2 million barrels, compared with analysts' expectations in a Reuters poll for a 1.0 million barrels drop. The stockpiles declined for the first time since early November, after refiners pared back output. U.S. crude imports fell last week by 117,000 b/d.

Reuters, 10:44 February 24, 2016

Marathon Reports 149 Barrel Oil, Saltwater Leak from Pipeline in North Dakota February 23

North Dakota State Health Department officials said a pipeline leak in Dunn County spilled 149 barrels of oil and saltwater, a byproduct of oil production. A state environmental official said Marathon Oil reported the spill on Tuesday at a well it owns about 6 miles north of Killdeer. The briny wastewater leaked into a dry channel and migrated about 1,500 feet from the well site, but there was no evidence the spill threatened water or wetlands in the area, an official added.

http://www.wahpetondailynews.com/news/ap_news/pipeline-spill-leaks-barrels-of-briny-oil-wastewater/article_f1c6a2aa-db0f-11e5-a063-6b68ac998ed8.html?platform=hootsuite

Natural Gas

Regency Reports AGI Compressor Shut at Its 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas February 23

Regency reported the acid gas injector (AGI) compressor was shut on high inlet liquids and the inlet compressor was down. The inlets were cut back on inlets and the scrubbers were drained.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=228161>

Atlas Reports Emergency Shutdown Due to Power Loss at Its 200 MMcf/d Driver Gas Plant in Texas February 23

Atlas reported a third party purchased power outage caused an emergency shutdown at its Driver gas plant. The plant was restarted as soon as power was restored.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=228168>

Atlas Pipeline Reports Emergency Shutdown Due to Power Loss at Its 195 MMcf/d Midkiff Gas Plant in Texas February 23

Atlas reported a third party purchased power outage caused an emergency shutdown at its Midkiff gas plant. The plant was restarted as soon as power was restored.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=228171>

Southern Union Reports Units Shut at Its 125 MMcf/d Keystone Gas Plant in Texas February 23

Southern Union reported unit C-24 was offline due to high discharge temperature at the No. 2 cylinder. Inlet gas was flared to minimize emissions and the engines and compressors were restarted.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=228164>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
February 24, 2016			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	30.15	30.63	49.13
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	1.83	1.92	3.19

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>

Please direct comments and questions to: ead@oe.netl.doe.gov