



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, March 01, 2016

Electricity

High Winds Knock Out Power to Over 55,000 Customers in Northeast, Canada February 29

Strong winds with gusts as high as 85 mph knocked out power to at least 55,600 customers in New Hampshire, New York, Vermont, Ontario, and Quebec on Monday night. As of 3:30 p.m. EST Tuesday, 4,374 customers remained without power. Green Mountain Power, the hardest hit utility with 18,300 customer outages, said it called in support crews from around Vermont and expects full restoration by late tonight. The table below shows total affected customers and the latest reported outages by utility. The “Affected” column shows the total count of customers that lost power at one point or another over the course of the storm as reported by the utility or, when unavailable, the highest number of customers reported without power from various local news articles, utility outage websites, and utility company social media, which were checked at various times throughout the day. These outages may not have occurred concurrently and are not the same as peak outages.

Northeast, Canada Customer Power Outages February 29–March 1, 2016			
Electric Utility	State/Province	Affected	Latest Reported
Eversource	NH	4,500	13
RG&E	NY	8,200	1
National Grid	NY	2,300	97
Green Mountain Power	VT	18,300	1,493
Hydro Quebec	Quebec	11,500	2,654
Hydro One	Ontario	10,800	116
TOTAL*		55,600	4,374

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

Sources:

<https://twitter.com/greenmtnpower>

<https://wss.greenmountainpower.com/customers/outages/>

<http://www.rge.com/Outages/outageinformation.html>

<https://twitter.com/HydroOne>

<http://poweroutages.hydroquebec.com/poweroutages/service-interruption-report/#map>

http://www.sentinelsource.com/news/local/high-winds-knock-out-power-bring-down-trees-overnight-in/article_c5af615d-ef74-5c0f-ae2c-c588da9540ac.html

<http://www.commonnews.org/site/site05/story.php?artid=14158&page=1#.VtW83vkrK00>

<http://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/strong-winds-cause-power-outages-across-the-province>

http://poststar.com/news/local/winds-cause-thousands-to-lose-power-overnight/article_ab8e15a4-df9a-11e5-9fed-03ed0393c02e.html

<http://www.whcc.com/news/ontario-wayne-power-outage-customers-counties-rge/4062865/>

Update: Exelon’s 855 MW Quad Cities Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois at Full Power by March 1

On the morning of February 29 the unit was operating at 87 percent, reduced from full power on February 28.

<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 29

The unit entered an unplanned curtailment of 253 MW.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201602291515.html>

BHE Renewables' 276 MW Solar Star Unit 2 in California Shut by February 29

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201602291515.html>

Duke Energy Progress Receives NCUC Approval to Transition its Asheville Plant in North Carolina from Coal to Natural Gas

Duke Energy Progress on Monday received approval from the North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) to transition to a smarter, cleaner energy future at its Asheville Plant. Under the agreement, the company plans to construct two 280 MW combined cycle natural gas-fueled electric generating units to replace its existing 376 MW coal plant, which will be retired by 2020. Construction of the natural gas-fired combined-cycle power plants is scheduled to begin in 2016 and be in service by late 2019.

<http://news.duke-energy.com/releases/duke-energy-progress-gains-approval-to-transition-to-a-smarter-cleaner-energy-future-at-the-asheville-plant>

Iowa Receives Over 30 Percent of Its Electricity from Wind – American Wind Energy Association

Iowa has become the first state in the nation to derive more than 30 percent of its electricity from wind energy. The American Wind Energy Association said more than 31 percent of the state's electricity came from wind turbines last year. South Dakota and Kansas followed closely at 25.5 percent and 23.9 percent, respectively. Governor Terry Branstad said Iowa has the potential to jump above 40 percent in the next five years. In a report released Monday the association said wind produced more than 190 million megawatt-hours of power in the U.S. last year.

Reuters, 17:31 February 29, 2016

ERCOT Reports Sufficient Generation Expected to Meet Spring, Summer Demand March 1

Seasonal forecasts released on Tuesday by ERCOT, the operator of the electric grid and market serving most of Texas, anticipate the system will have sufficient generation available to meet projected peak demand requirements during the upcoming spring and summer seasons. The final Seasonal Assessment of Resource Adequacy (SARA) for spring 2016 identifies more than 79,000 MW of generation resources available to serve expected peak demand of approximately 58,000 MW.

http://www.ercot.com/news/press_releases/show/90390

Petroleum

Colonial's Line 2 Resumes Normal Operations after System Integrity Issue February 29; Line 1 Resumes Normal Operations March 1 after Maintenance

Colonial Pipeline said Tuesday its main distillate pipeline, the 1.16 million b/d Line 2, resumed normal operations late Monday after both mainline segments were shut from Atlanta, Georgia to Greensboro, North Carolina earlier on Monday due to an unspecified system integrity issue. Colonial's main gasoline pipeline, the 1.37 million b/d Line 1, resumed normal operations after maintenance by 2:00 p.m. EST, Tuesday. A community alerting system reported on Tuesday that officials discovered a spill of gasoline product from the Colonial pipeline in Gwinnett County near Dacula, Georgia, located more than 40 miles East of Colonial's Atlanta Junction. The alert said the spill occurred on Monday and was currently contained, but it did not specify whether the spill resulted in the brief shutdown of both mainline segments.

Reuters, 15:12 March 1, 2016

Reuters, 14:50 March 1, 2016

Reuters, 14:15 March 1, 2016

Update: Motiva Restarts Coker at Its 603,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery February 29, CRU Restart Next – Sources

Motiva Enterprises has restarted a 54,000 b/d delayed coking unit at its Port Arthur, Texas, refinery, sources familiar with plant operations said on Monday. The restart of the 49,000 b/d catalytic reforming unit (CRU) was awaiting increased feed from the refinery's second-largest crude distillation unit (CDU) before resuming production, the sources said. The 195,000 b/d CDU restarted last week and was expected to ramp up production over the weekend to provide feed to the reformer, according to the sources.

Reuters, 12:04 February 29, 2016

Shell Reports Small Unit Release at Its 156,400 b/d Martinez, California Refinery February 29

Royal Dutch Shell says its Martinez refinery in California experienced a small release on an unspecified unit, which was promptly repaired.

Reuters, 13:58 March 1, 2016

U.S. Crude-by-Rail Shipments Rose by 124,000 b/d in December – EIA

U.S. shipments of crude oil via rail in December rose by 124,000 b/d from the previous month to 722,000 b/d, according to data released Monday by the Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Reuters, 13:24 February 29, 2016

U.S. Oil Output Drops 43,000 b/d to 9.26 Million b/d in December – EIA

U.S. crude oil production fell 43,000 b/d in December to 9.26 million b/d, its third consecutive monthly decline, data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) showed on Monday. Most of the decline was from Texas, which plunged 65,000 b/d in December versus the prior month. North Dakota oil production dropped by 27,000 b/d, while U.S. offshore production in the Gulf Coast rose 112,000 b/d, according to the EIA's monthly production report.

Reuters, 13:10 February 29, 2016

Natural Gas

New York Governor Requests Halt on Spectra Energy's 342 MMcf/d Algonquin Natural Gas Pipeline Expansion Project February 29

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo on Monday asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to halt construction of Spectra Energy's Algonquin natural gas pipeline expansion project near Entergy's 2,069 MW Indian Point nuclear power station in New York City's suburbs. The plant has experienced unplanned shutdowns, a transformer fire, and a radioactive tritium leak, according to Cuomo who wants the plant closed. State health, environmental, utility, and security agencies say, at Cuomo's direction, they are launching an analysis of the safety risks from the Algonquin pipeline that would run from Pennsylvania to New England. The pipeline will add 342 MMcf/d of capacity to New England and is scheduled to be completed in November 2016.

https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/governor.ny.gov/files/atoms/files/FERC_AIM_LetterFinal.pdf

Reuters, 16:46 February 29, 2016

Update: Tennessee Gas Pipe Line Reports Work Continuing on Pipeline Failure in Texas February 29

Tennessee Gas Pipe Line Co. on Monday reported work was continuing related to the pipeline failure in MLV 403-1 to MLV 404-1 near Falfurrias, Texas (Segment 409), after force majeure was declared on August 4, 2015. The company said further inspections will be required to return to service the valve section on line 1 from 403 to MLV 404. Current estimate of the return to service date is now March 7, 2016.

http://pipeline2.kindermorgan.com/Notices/NoticeDetail.aspx?code=TGP¬c_nbr=358709&date=3/1/2016&subject=¬c_type=-1¬c_sub_type=-1¬c_ind=C

http://pipeline2.kindermorgan.com/Notices/NoticeDetail.aspx?code=TGP¬c_nbr=356636&date=9/14/2015&subject=force%20majeure¬c_type=-1¬c_sub_type=-1¬c_ind=C

Update: Tallgrass Energy's REX Pipeline Lifts Force Majeure at Its Lost Creek Compressor Station in Wyoming February 29

Rockies Express Pipeline LLC (REX) on Monday afternoon lifted the force majeure it had issued earlier in the day due to an operational issue on unit 1 at its Lost Creek Compressor Station.

<http://pipeline.tallgrassenergyllp.com/Pages/NoticeDetail.aspx?pipeline=501&type=CRIT>

Tallgrass Energy's REX Pipeline Declares Force Majeure after Interruption at Its Mainline in Ohio March 1

Rockies Express Pipeline LLC (REX) on Tuesday declared a force majeure after an operational interruption on its mainline segment 390 in Monroe County, Ohio. REX said it was mobilizing repair crews however a return to service date was unknown at this time.

<http://pipeline.tallgrassenergyllp.com/Pages/NoticeDetail.aspx?pipeline=501&type=CRIT>

Henry Hub Natural Gas Prices in February Lowest Since 1999 – Reuters

Natural gas prices for February at the Henry Hub benchmark in Louisiana fell to the lowest level for the month since 1999 as near-record production from shale formations outpaced demand growth and inventories were at all-time highs. In February 1999, prices averaged \$1.79, whereas Henry Hub prices in 2015 averaged \$2.61, the lowest for the year since 1999. In their most recent estimates, analysts forecast Henry Hub prices would average \$2.89 in 2016 and \$3.34 in 2017

Reuters, 9:48 March 1, 2016

U.S. Lower 48 States' Natural Gas Output Fell in December 2015 – EIA

Natural gas output in the lower 48 states fell to 81.25 Bcf/d in December 2015 from 81.68 Bcf/d in November, the Energy Information Administration (EIA) said in its monthly production report.

Reuters, 13:00 February 29, 2016

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Update: Iraq-Turkey's Kirkuk-Ceyhan Oil Pipeline Will Be Repaired By End of Week – Kurdish Source

An oil pipeline from northern Iraq to Turkey which has been idled since February 17 will be repaired by the end of the week, a source in the Kurdistan regional government (KRG) said on Tuesday. The Turkish energy ministry said on Saturday it had begun work to repair the pipeline, which normally carries around 600,000 b/d of crude oil to the Mediterranean port of Ceyhan.

Reuters, 8:39 March 1, 2016

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 1, 2016			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	34.34	31.79	49.15
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	1.62	1.84	3.11

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

Energy Assurance Daily provides a summary of public information concerning current energy issues. Published Monday through Friday to inform stakeholders of developments affecting energy systems, flows, and markets, it provides highlights of energy issues rather than a comprehensive coverage. *Energy Assurance Daily* is updated online Monday through Friday after 5:00 p.m. ET. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at:

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

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