



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, March 02, 2015

Electricity

Update: Dominion's 925 MW North Anna Nuclear Unit 1 in Virginia Restarts by March 1, Ramps Up to 77 Percent by March 2

By the morning of March 1 the unit had restarted and had ramped up to 28 percent. The unit shut from 95 percent power on February 26 when a feedwater regulating valve failed to close.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20150227en.html>

Update: TVA's 1,125 MW Watts Bar Nuclear Unit 1 in Tennessee Restarts, Ramps Up to 14 Percent by March 2

The unit experienced a manual reactor trip, from full power, on February 21 due to the rapid loss of the main condenser vacuum.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20150223en.html>

Update: Exelon's 1,134 MW Limerick Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Ramps Up to 92 Percent by February 28

On the morning of February 27 the unit was operating at 50 percent after restarting and ramping up to 17 percent by February 26. On February 23, one of two reactors experienced an abrupt "hot shut-down" when a leak in a nitrogen supply line caused an unexpected closure of one of the main steam isolation valves, sending steam to the unit's electrical generator.

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

<http://www.thereporteronline.com/general-news/20150224/valve-leak-shutdown-limerick-nuke-plant>

Duke Energy's 1,129 MW Catawba Nuclear Unit 2 in South Carolina Shut by February 28

On the morning of February 27 the unit was operating at full power.

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

Update: PG&E's 102 MW Electra Aggregate Hydro Units 1 and 2 in California Return to Service by February 27

The units returned from an unplanned outage that began by February 26.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201502271515.html>

Update: Calpine's 593 MW Metcalf Gas-fired Unit in California Returns to Service by February 27

The unit returned from an unplanned curtailment of 308 MW that began by February 22.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201502271515.html>

U.S. Coast Guard Cutting through Frozen Waterways So Petroleum Product Barges Can Reach Destinations in Northeast

Waterways around the Northeast are inundated by ice that is more than a foot thick in some places, making it difficult for barges to get through. In New York, the Coast Guard is cutting ice on the Hudson River so barges carrying heating oil, gasoline, and jet fuel can reach destinations. The thickest part is in the area of Germantown and Hudson, north of New York City. In some spots the ice is a foot-and-a-half thick, Coast Guard officials said. The barges traveling from New York City to Albany have the most difficult time transiting through that one area, so that's where the Coast Guard is devoting its effort to keep clean, according to the Coast Guard. In addition, ice cutting was needed in Portland Harbor, the Fore River, and parts of Casco Bay in Maine to allow for petroleum deliveries and for commuter ferries and fishing vessels to traverse the waterways. The demand for ice breaking this year has exceeded any demands that have been placed on the Coast Guard at any time in the last ten years, the Coast Guard said.

<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/2015/0302/Frozen-waterways-Lobstermen-and-ferries-battle-ice-in-Northeast>

Update: Response Teams Transition to Restoration Phase at CSX Oil Train Derailment Site in West Virginia

Response teams with the West Virginia Train Derailment Response Unified Command continue to make progress restoring the environment at the site of the February 16 incident. As work continues, the response team is transitioning from an emergency phase into a restoration phase of activity. Emergency response personnel have begun leaving the site and some of the large equipment used in the first phase of the incident is being removed. As of Thursday afternoon, February 26, rail operations through the area had resumed. Response crews continue to remove excavated soils from the site for disposal at a licensed facility in Charleston, West Virginia. This phase of the cleanup will take approximately two weeks to complete, pending weather conditions. Approximately 102,000 gallons of oily-water mixture have been recovered from containment trenches dug along the river embankment near the derailment site. The mixture will be removed to a disposal/oil recycling facility located in southwestern Pennsylvania. Approximately 82,000 gallons have been taken to the facility so far. The 172,105 gallons of crude oil recovered from the rail cars that is currently being stored at CSX's Handley Yard will be transferred into rail cars for transporting off-site. Air monitoring will continue in work areas as well as along the site perimeter, to help ensure the safety of the community and the workers who continue restoration efforts.

<http://www.dep.wv.gov/news/Pages/UPDATE-13-AND-FINAL---WEST-VIRGINIA-TRAIN-DERAILMENT-RESPONSE.aspx>

Update: USW, Shell to Resume Talks in U.S. Refinery Strike on March 4

Negotiations to settle the U.S. refinery strike are set to resume on March 4, the United Steelworkers (USW) union and Shell Oil Co, the lead oil company negotiator, said on Friday, the 27th day of the work stoppage. Talks between Shell and the USW broke off on February 20 after refinery owners refused a settlement. The union then ordered a strike by workers at three Motiva Enterprises refineries. A total of 6,550 workers are on strike at 15 plants, including 12 refineries that account for one-fifth of U.S. domestic refining capacity. Companies have called on temporary replacement workers to keep plants running at nearly normal levels.

Reuters, 21:07 February 27, 2015

Update: State Senate to Hold Joint Hearing on Explosion at ExxonMobil's 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery March 5

On March 5 the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee and the Environmental Quality Committee will hold a joint hearing at Torrance City Hall to address the recent refinery explosion at ExxonMobil's Torrance, California refinery. Witnesses from the community, ExxonMobil, first responders, and air quality/environmental agencies will answer questions on the emergency response, the refinery's safety record, the impacts to the community, and the state's continued efforts to better prevent and coordinate the response to refinery incidents. In late March, the Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee and the Senate Transportation Committee will conduct an oversight hearing about transportation fuel pricing being affected by supply disruptions and global market trends, including refinery incidents. The hearing will focus on better protecting consumers from volatility of oil prices, including diversifying fuel choices.

<http://sd24.senate.ca.gov/news/2015-02-26-senate-demands-oversight-oil-refinery-explosion-and-effect-gas-prices>

Update: PES Restarts Units at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery February 23–24

Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES) restarted the 137 and 531 carbon monoxide boiler at the Girard Point section on February 24 and the 868 and 869 units at the Point Breeze section after a steam upset on February 23. The 865 hydrotreater unit at the Point Breeze section was put into circulation for fuel gas/steam emergency availability on February 20.

Reuters, 15:16 February 27, 2015

Flint Hills Reports Hydrogen Sulfide Emissions Due to Mechanical Problems at Its 280,500 b/d Rosemont, Minnesota Refinery February 28

Reuters, 11:23 March 2, 2015

Update: Citgo Reports FCCU at Normal Rates at Its 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery March 2

Citgo Petroleum Corp on Monday said its no. 2 fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at the Corpus Christi refinery was back online at normal rates. The refinery had reported excess opacity during the startup of the FCCU on February 26.

Reuters, 10:38 March 2, 2015

Reuters, 18:32 February 26, 2015

Valero Reports Coker Shut, Flaring at Its 200,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery March 1

Valero Energy Corp reported the off-gas compressor was lost and it shut the coker unit 107 which led to flaring at its Corpus Christi, Texas refinery, according to a filing with the National Response Center.

Reuters, 11:33 March 2, 2015

Reuters, 20:08 March 1, 2015

Total Reports Flaring at Its 225,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery March 1

Reuters, 21:10 March 1, 2015

EnLink Midstream Extends Open Season for Its Ohio River Valley Condensate Pipeline System Project in Ohio

The EnLink Midstream companies, EnLink Midstream Partners, LP and EnLink Midstream, LLC, on February 27 announced an extension of the binding open season period to solicit volume commitments for interstate common carrier transportation service on a new condensate pipeline system Ohio River Valley (ORV) Condensate Pipeline. The open season, which was scheduled to end February 27 has been extended to end on April 15. The ORV Condensate Pipeline will transport condensate from points in Harrison, Belmont, Guernsey, Noble, Monroe, and Washington Counties, Ohio to Bells Run Station in Washington County, Ohio, Black Run Station in Muskingum County, Ohio, and, if Ohio River Valley Pipeline, LLC elects to construct extension(s) of its system, to one or more connecting facilities in Holmes, Coshocton, and Harrison County, Ohio. The design capacity of the ORV Condensate Pipeline will be dependent upon the level of interest shown by potential committed shippers during the open season.

<http://enlk.enlink.com/investor/investor-news/investor-news-details/2015/EnLink-Midstream-Extends-Open-Season-for-Ohio-River-Valley-Condensate-Pipeline-System-Project-2272015/default.aspx>

Natural Gas

PSE&G Unveils 5-Year Proposal to Replace Aging Gas Infrastructure in New Jersey

Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) on Monday announced a proposal to invest \$1.6 billion over the next five years to proactively modernize its gas systems. The utility requested the funding, about \$320 million per year, in a filing with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. PSE&G's Gas System Modernization Program would include replacing an average of approximately 160 miles of cast iron and unprotected steel gas mains, and about 11,000 unprotected steel service lines to homes and businesses per year, over five years. The mains and service lines would be replaced with strong, durable plastic piping, which is much less likely to have leaks and release methane gas. The new elevated pressure systems also enable the installation of excess flow valves that automatically shut off gas flow if a service line is damaged, and better support the use of high-efficiency appliances.

https://www.pseg.com/info/media/newsreleases/2015/2015-03-02.jsp#.VPR81_nF-5g

Enable Midstream Announces Open Season on Its Line AD Expansion in Oklahoma

Enable Midstream Partners, LP announced today that Enable Gas Transmission, LLC (EGT), a wholly-owned subsidiary, is holding a non-binding open season to allow interested parties an opportunity to obtain new firm interstate natural gas transportation capacity resulting from an expansion of EGT's Line AD in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Expansion Capacity will provide enhanced transportation options from receipt points in the South Central Oklahoma Oil Province (SCOOP) region, as well as the Woodford and Cana Basins, the Granite Wash and the Colony Wash supply basins in Oklahoma. Together with existing EGT system capacity and EGT capacity on third party pipelines, the Oklahoma Expansion Capacity will fill a transportation need for natural gas delivery to pipeline interconnections in the Bennington, Oklahoma area and at or upstream of the Perryville Hub. The open season ends on March 19.

<http://enablemidstream.investorhq.businesswire.com/press-release/company-news/enable-midstream-announces-oklahoma-expansion-capacity-open-season-additi>

Atlas Reports Equipment Failure at Its 200 MMcf/d Driver Gas Plant in Texas February 27

Atlas reported the cold separator unit flow transmitter failed, causing the expander to shutdown with the inlet and residue units. Operators replaced the flow transmitter and put the compressors back online.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=210745>

Other News

Snow, Cold Weather Slows Freight Trains across New England

This winter's heavy snowfall is causing delays and unpredictable deliveries for industrial customers who depend on New England's freight railroads to receive supplies and move products to market. Pan Am, the largest railroad in New England, seems to be struggling the most to keep up with the movement of trains – particularly trains traveling through Massachusetts eastbound from points west. The railroad maintains about 1,700 miles of track in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and eastern New York. For the past two weeks, it has issued several “embargo” orders to railroads in the West that delay or at times stop trains heading to Pan Am's intermodal yard in Ayer, Massachusetts, so crews have time to clear the yard and process the trains. At the yard, which is a major freight point in New England, containers are transferred between trains and trucks. Rather than moving approximately 12 trains a day through Massachusetts, the railroad is moving about seven a day. The region has been hit this winter with both unusually cold weather and high snowfall amounts – both of which wreak havoc on trains. At very cold temperatures, air brake systems can lock up if moisture gets into the lines and freezes. Mechanical switches can stick, wires tighten and snap. Light snow can be sucked into engine filtration systems. The snow then melts and causes electric motors to break down. Compressed air used for braking doesn't travel as well through lines in extreme cold, so trains are shortened for safety. In large rail yards, it's difficult to keep sidetracks and switches clear of snow and plow trucks can't plow the same way they would a parking lot. Pan Am doesn't have enough manpower to handle a heavy winter, the publisher of Atlantic Northeast Rails & Ports said. He said the national railroad, CSX, appears to be having far fewer problems in its rail yard in Worcester, located just 30 miles from Ayer.

<http://www.pressherald.com/2015/02/28/freight-slows-as-snow-cold-pummel-trains/>

International News

Libya's Bahi, Mabrouk Oilfields Shelled by Islamist Militants, Es Sidra Port Pipeline Damaged March 2

Islamist militants shelled Libya's Bahi and Mabrouk oilfields on Monday, damaging a pipeline to the Es Sidra oil port, a spokesman for forces protecting energy infrastructure said. Militants claiming loyalty to Islamic State have been blamed for attacks last month on an oilfield and pipeline in Libya, where two rival governments are battling for control. A spokesperson said it was still difficult to assess damage and fighting was continuing. He added that oil security forces were also confronting militants at a third oilfield, al-Dahra.

Reuters, 14:50 March 2, 2015

Update: Libya's Oil Production Reaches Over 400,000 b/d – NOC Official Says March 1

Libya's oil production was at more than 400,000 b/d, an increase from recent levels when fighting between rival armed groups closed two key ports, an official from the National Oil Corporation said on Sunday. Production was still well below the 1.6 million b/d levels before the 2011 civil war that ousted Muammar Gaddafi. In January, the Tripoli government said production had dropped to 363,000 b/d with exports at about 200,000 b/d. The NOC spokesman also rejected a report by United Nations sanctions monitors that said Libyan authorities were unable to stop the illicit trade in oil or the flow of weapons in and out of the country. He said all oil port and export operations were carried out under the authority of the inspection agency of the NOC, which is responsible for shipping crude oil.

Reuters, 10:49 March 1, 2015

Lithuania Signs Non-Binding Deal to Import U.S. LNG

Lithuanian liquefied natural gas (LNG) importer Litgas signed a non-binding agreement to purchase LNG from the U.S.'s first export terminal, the company said on Saturday. The Baltic states and Poland are looking to imports from the U.S. to reduce their dependence on supplies from Russia. Lithuania opened a floating import terminal last year and Poland plans to open another one later in 2015. North America's first LNG export terminal, Cheniere Energy Inc's Sabine Pass, is expected to send first cargoes by late 2015. Russia's Gazprom was sole gas supplier to the Baltic states until the end of 2014, and Poland gets about half of its gas from Russia.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/lithuania-signs-non-binding-deal-094723732.html>

Russia's Emergencies Ministry Says Torzhok-Dolina Gas Pipeline Shut after Explosion March 2, Gas Export Unaffected

Russia's Emergencies Ministry said on Monday that a gas trunk pipeline Torzhok-Dolina has been shut off after explosion in Tver region. A source at Russian top natural gas producer Gazprom said gas export has been unaffected.

Reuters, 5:11 March 2, 2015

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 2, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	49.54	49.29	102.50
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.75	2.99	4.56

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