



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, March 06, 2008

Electricity

Update: At least 44,500 Ohio Customers Still in the Dark March 6

Approximately 43,000 FirstEnergy customers and 1,500 Dayton Power and Light customers remained without power as of this morning, March 6. Storms cut power to more than 150,000 Ohio customers March 4-5.

http://www.10tv.com/live/content/onnews/stories/2008/03/06/storm_astabula.html?sid=102

http://www.starbeacon.com/local/local_story_065193137.html

Entergy's 966 MW River Bend Nuke Unit 1 in Louisiana Shut by March 6

A turbine-control system fault shut the unit as it ramped up from a refueling outage. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 5 the unit was operating at 54 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Reuters, 9:57 March 6, 2008

Bloomberg, 11:35 March 6, 2008

Sycamore Cogeneration's 382 MW Sycamore Gas-fired Unit in California Reduced March 5

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit experienced an unplanned curtailment of 132 MW on March 5.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200803051515.html>

OPG's 515 MW Pickering 1 Nuke-fired Unit in Ontario Shut March 6

Another source reported that the unit restarted on March 5 after a February 28 outage.

Reuters, 9:57 March 6, 2008

Reuters, 14:22 March 5, 2008

Update: ERCOT Imported 30 MW of Electricity from Mexican Grid During Last Week's Energy Emergency

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) imported the power during an electricity emergency on February 26.

Reuters, 19:18 March 5, 2008

U.S. Government Agency Suspends Loan Program for Coal-Fired Power Plants Located in Rural Areas – Decision Puts Four Coal Projects' Financing in Question

Citing climate change concerns and growing costs, the Rural Utilities Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture suspended a loan program for coal-fired power plants to be located in rural areas, an official said March 4. The decision puts in doubt \$1.3 billion in planned loans for projects in Kentucky, Illinois, Arkansas and Missouri.

Among the impacted projects is Southern Montana Electric Generation & Transmission Cooperative's proposed Highwood Generating Station for which the company is now considering seeking a private loan.

http://www.omaha.com/index.php?u_page=1118&u_mod=&u_sid=10275032

<http://www.greatfallstribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080304/NEWS01/80304003/1002>

Petroleum

Update: Alon to Restart 70,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery by End of March

According to a recent statement Alon, the company is ahead of schedule in returning the refinery to operational status following an explosion and fire at a propylene unit that shut the facility in February.
Bloomberg, 03:49 March 6, 2008

O&G Discoveries in U.S. Gulf of Mexico in 2007 at Lowest Level in 10 Years – Wood Mackenzie Study

According to a study just released by Wood Mackenzie, new discoveries in the U.S. portion of the Gulf of Mexico in 2007 totaled an estimated 553 million boe, a more than 50 percent drop from 2006 and the lowest total in 10 years,
Reuters, 13:47 March 5, 2008

Crude Unit Shuts at Venezuela's 640,000 b/d Amuay Refinery

According to trade sources and a refinery source the unit has been shut for 30 days due to unspecified operational problems. The source indicated that the closure had not been generally known. Sources also indicated that PDVSA is also purchasing significant quantities of gasoil.
Reuters, 12:24 March 6, 2008

Imperial Oil's Retail Stations Short on Gasoline and Diesel in Western Canadian Refinery Problems to Blame – Some Stations May Close

Although Imperial Oil, a subsidiary of ExxonMobil, has cut back on shipments of gasoline and diesel fuel due to problems at its 184,000 b/d Strathcona refinery, near Edmonton, some of Imperial's 532 Esso stations in Western Canada may shut. Despite the curtailments, which began February 24, a spokesman said Imperial Oil would "unlikely be able to meet all our customer's requirements."
Bloomberg, 09:18 March 6, 2008
Reuters, 11:12 March 6, 2008

Natural Gas

Nothing to report.

Other News

Call for Better Communication and Sharing of Best Practices at March 6 Meeting of Rail Energy Transportation Advisory Committee (RETAC)

The Surface Transportation Board of the U.S. Department of Transportation (STB) chaired a public meeting today of the RETAC, which is an advisory committee to the SRB and also serves as a forum for discussion of emerging issues regarding the transportation of energy by rail. There were member presentations by representatives of western and eastern coal producers, western and eastern utilities, and by eastern railroads. A presentation by a representative of the western railroads (serving Powder River Basin) was promised for the next meeting of RETAC, scheduled for June 12, 2008. The main topics of discussion led to formation of new subcommittees to study: 1) how to improve communications and coordination among coal producers, railroads, and utilities, 2) railroad capacity issues; 3) best practices, and performance measures. The next meeting will offer presentations and discussions on these four topics as well as on freight railroad competition, issues related to the movement of ethanol by rail, and an overview of issues faced by western railroads moving coal out of the Powder River Basin
Source: Notes from DOE/OE representative who attended RETAC meeting.

DOE Spending to Broaden U.S. Energy Portfolio Has Had Minimal Effect—GAO Official at House Panel Meeting March 5

Over the last 30 years, the Department of Energy's (DOE) programs to further energy technologies and expand the United States' energy portfolio have yielded minimal results, according to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) official. The official, speaking at a House Panel on March 5, urged increased federal leadership.

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

link to Study: <http://www.gao.gov/docsearch/abstract.php?rptno=GAO-08-556T>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 6, 2008			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	104.30	101.50	60.66
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	9.37	9.21	7.55

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Chevron to Construct, Test Pre-Commercial 3,500 b/d Upgrader at 330,000 b/d Pascagoula, Mississippi Refinery for Processing Ultra-Heavy Oil

<http://www.downstreamtoday.com/News/ArticlePrint.aspx?aid=9145>

U.S. LNG Imports Fall as Increasing Foreign Demand Drives World Prices Higher—Average LNG Price Surges 30 Percent from October 2007, to January 2008, DOE Data Says

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/News/Articles/200803/LNG_Imports_Sluggish_More_Costly_In_9116.aspx

Henry Hub Spot Natural Gas Price Hits Two-Year High on Cold Weather March 5

Reuters, 14:16 March 5, 2008

Gas Compressor Trip Causes Flaring at Shell's 156,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery March 5

Reuters, 11:40 Mach 6, 2008

Emergency Teams Recover 1 Million Barrel Oil Tanker, Stalled and Adrift in Red Sea, Offshore Saudi Arabia

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601116&sid=aA4gc_18VIGQ&refer=africa

Links

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

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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