



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, March 06, 2015

Electricity

Update: Over 69,000 Customers Remain Without Power March 6 after Winter Storm Hits Ohio, West Virginia

69,138 customers remained without power as of 3:30 p.m. EST on Friday after a winter storm producing heavy snow knocked out power to 133,750 customers in Ohio and West Virginia, Wednesday night into Thursday. Mon Power and Appalachian Power said they expect to restore the majority of customers to service Sunday night. AEP Ohio said much of the affected areas are heavily forested, with deep snow, bad road conditions, and fallen trees hampering access to lines and equipment.

Ohio, West Virginia Customer Power Outages			
March 6, 2015			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
AEP Ohio	OH	24,750	10,041
FirstEnergy Mon Power	WV	66,000	33,932
Appalachian Power	WV	43,000	25,165
TOTAL*		133,750	69,138

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

Sources:

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

<https://aepohio.com/outages/details.aspx?stormName=March+5+Southern+Ohio+Winter+Storm>

<https://twitter.com/AEPOhio>

<https://twitter.com/monpowerwv>

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

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

<https://appalachianpower.com/info/news/viewRelease.aspx?releaseID=1716>

<https://twitter.com/AppalachianPowe>

<http://outage.buckeyerec.com/>

<http://www.wowktv.com/story/28278511/more-than-66000-remain-without-power-in-wva-after-storm>

NMC's 522 MW Prairie Island Nuclear Unit 2 in Minnesota Shut on March 5

Plant operators shut down unit 2 as a precaution after a fire alarm sounded in the containment building. Officials stated that there was no indication of a fire and classified the incident as an "unusual event" and reported that the unit will remain offline while authorities continue to investigate.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20150306en.html>

<http://www.kare11.com/story/news/2015/03/05/prairie-island-nuclear-plantshut-down-after-alarm-sounds/24423765/>

BNSF Crude Oil Train Derails, Five Cars Catch Fire in Illinois March 5

A BNSF Railway train originating from North Dakota derailed on BNSF's mainline track at approximately 1:20 pm CST on March 5 in a rural area south of Galena, Illinois. There were no injuries reported. The train consisted of 105 loaded cars, which included 103 cars loaded with crude oil and 2 buffer cars loaded with sand. A total of 21 cars derailed, seven were damaged and five were still on fire after an initial pool fire occurred. All tank cars involved in the incident were the unjacketed CPC-1232 model with half-height head shields. Some oil was leaking from the derailed cars, said a spokeswoman for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, but there was no evidence that it had reached a nearby river. Local, state, and BNSF Railway emergency personnel were on the scene working to contain the incident. The cause of the derailment was under investigation and BNSF said it was working closely with the Federal Railroad Administration. BNSF warned customers of possible delivery delays of 48 hours due to the derailment.

<http://www.bnsf.com/media/statements/>

Reuters, 11:32 March 6, 2015

Reuters, 10:44 March 6, 2015

Train Carrying Liquefied Propane Derails in Vermont Due to Wheel Bearing Failure March 5

A 53-car, mixed freight train hauling 15 tanker cars of liquefied propane derailed in downtown Essex Junction, Vermont late Thursday evening. No flammable gas escaped the tanker cars and no injuries have been reported. The failure of a wheel bearing was the underlying cause and resulted in only one tanker car derailment. The track is operated by New England Central Railroad which stated that shortly after 12:00 PM Friday, the derailed train car was back on the tracks and that all roadways were open.

Reuters, 11:07 March 6, 2015

<http://www.wcax.com/story/28279870/train-derailment-snarls-traffic-in-essex-jct>

Update: Houston Ship Channel Reopens after Vessels Collide March 5

The Houston Ship Channel was briefly shut on Thursday afternoon after two vessels collided, but was reopened to clear a backlog of 50 ships that had been held up by four days of fog, the Houston Pilots said. No injuries or pollution were reported as a result of the crash between the tanker Chembulk Houston and the Monte Alegre container ship from Brazil, a port agent for the Houston Pilots said. Of the delayed vessels, there were 17 ships carrying 13.1 million barrels of crude oil waiting to enter the channel, according to industry firm ClipperData. Of the oil tankers, 10 carried Mexican crude oil, four had Saudi oil, and the other three were shipments carrying crude oil from Venezuela, Colombia, and Iraq, according to ClipperData.

Reuters, 16:26 March 5, 2015

Total Reports Emissions at Its 225,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery March 5

Total reported an upset at the steam producing unit caused process gases to oversupply the flare gas recovery system, resulting in excess emissions. The refinery implemented steam shedding procedures.

Reuters, 17:41 March 5, 2015

Shell Reports Process Unit Startup at Its 145,000 b/d Puget Sound, Washington Refinery March 2

Reuters, 20:27 March 5, 2015

Shell Reports Operations Normal at Its 156,400 b/d Martinez, California Refinery March 6

Shell reported operations were normal on Friday after an unplanned unit shutdown on February 28 at its Martinez, California refinery, according to a filing with Contra Costa Health Services.

Reuters, 2:32 March 6, 2015

Reuters, 18:10 March 5, 2015

U.S. Crude Oil Exports in January Reached 491,000 b/d – U.S. Census Bureau

U.S. crude oil exports reached 491,000 b/d in January, headed exclusively to Canada, foreign trade data from the U.S. Census Bureau showed on Friday. January U.S. exports are some 49,000 b/d higher than December figures of 442,000 b/d, data showed. Volumes to Canada reached an all-time record in January, according to historical data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA).

Reuters, 9:53 March 6, 2015

<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2015/CB15-35.html>

Enbridge Optimizes Regional Oil Sands Infrastructure Expansions in Alberta

Enbridge Inc. on Thursday announced plans to optimize a previously announced expansion of its Regional Oil Sands System. The optimization includes expansion of the Wood Buffalo Extension segment between Cheecham and Kirby Lake from 30-inch diameter to 36-inch diameter; connection of the Wood Buffalo Extension to the 36-inch diameter Athabasca Twin at Kirby Lake; and expansion of the Athabasca Twin from 450,000 b/d to 800,000 b/d through additional horsepower. Following the optimization and finalization of scope and definitive cost estimates for the projects, Enbridge's commercially secured expansion investments on its Regional Oil Sands System, in-service from 2014 to 2017, will total \$5.6 billion. By 2017, Enbridge will connect 11 oil sands projects to regional hubs in Edmonton and Hardisty, Alberta. Enbridge expects to file an amendment application with the Alberta Energy Regulator in the second quarter of 2015. The Wood Buffalo Extension, the Athabasca Pipeline Twin, and the proposed Norlite Diluent Pipeline will be the conduit to ship diluent to, and blended bitumen from, the Fort Hills Mine project, which has an anticipated first oil date of fourth quarter 2017.

<http://www.enbridge.com/MediaCentre/News.aspx?yearTab=en2015&id=1926625>

Natural Gas

Canada's NEB Recommends Approving NGTL's Wolverine River Lateral Loop Project in Alberta

Canada's National Energy Board (NEB) on Thursday issued a report recommending approval for NOVA Gas Transmission Ltd. (NGTL) to construct and operate the Wolverine River Lateral Loop (Carmon Creek Section) Project. The proposed project, northeast of Peace River, Alberta, involves the construction and operation of a 38-mile pipeline, 20 inches in diameter, to transport sweet natural gas. Approximately 35 miles of the pipeline would be built alongside existing linear disturbances. Other project facilities would include tie-in connections to existing facilities, valve sites, launcher and receiver facilities for inline inspection, and cathodic protection.

<https://www.neb-one.gc.ca/bts/nws/nr/2015/nr13-eng.html>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Russia Gets \$15 Million Gas Payment from Ukraine, Cut Off Averted

Gazprom said on Thursday it had received a \$15 million prepayment from Ukrainian state energy firm Naftogaz, averting a possible cut in supply, at least for a few days. The money is enough to cover 45.6 million cubic meters of gas, or about five days of supply at current rates of delivery, Gazprom said. Gazprom had warned that supply to Kiev could be cut off as soon as Friday if no payment was made. Russia and Ukraine have agreed to discuss a new gas deal before a current temporary pact expires at the end of March.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=46745

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 6, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL			
West Texas Intermediate U.S.	50.04	49.15	100.77
\$/Barrel			
NATURAL GAS			
Henry Hub	3.27	3.11	6.42
\$/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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