



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, March 08, 2011

Electricity

Storms Knock Out Power to nearly 80,000 Customers across New England March 7

Snow and ice knocked out power to an estimated 79,258 customers in New York, Maine, Vermont, and New Hampshire on March 7, but fewer than 25,000 customers remained without power, as of latest reports. The following table lists peak and current outages, based on latest available data.

New England Customer Power Outages			
March 7-8, 2011			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
National Grid	NY	22,000	3,323
Central Hudson Gas & Electric	NY	11,159	4,478
NYSEG	NY	7,300	4,900
Central Maine Power	ME	12,399	2,100
Bangor Hydro Electric	ME	5,000	4,598
PSNH	NH	5,600	762
New Hampshire Electric Co-op	NH	3,400	1,743
National Grid	NH	2,400	1,426
CVPS	VT	10,000	756
TOTAL *		79,258	24,086

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

Sources:

National Grid (New York): <http://www1.nationalgridus.com/niagaramohawk/stormcenter/> ,
https://www.nationalgridus.com/niagaramohawk/a3-1_news2.asp?document=5893

Central Hudson Gas & Electric: <http://stormcentral.cenhud.com/default.aspx>

NYSEG: <http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Thousands-go-to-bed-in-the-dark-1047015.php> ,
<http://www.nyseg.com/OurCompany/News/2011/030811mechstorm11am.html>

Central Maine Power: <http://www.cmpco.com/OurCompany/News/2011/news110307b.html> ,
<http://new.bangordailynews.com/2011/03/08/news/more-than-6000-still-without-power-tuesday-in-wake-of-storm/?ref=latest>

Bangor Hydro Electric: <http://www.wabi.tv/news/18438/outage-updates> ,
http://www.bhe.com/about/outages/outage_notification.cfm

PSNH: <http://www.psnh.com/PowerOutagesStorms/Home/Storm-Updates.aspx> ,
<http://www.wmur.com/r/27102861/detail.html>

New Hampshire Electric Co-op: <http://www.nhec.com/oms.php> , <http://www.wmur.com/r/27102861/detail.html>

National Grid (New Hampshire): <http://www1.nationalgridus.com/granitestate/stormcenter/> ,
<http://www.wmur.com/r/27102861/detail.html>

CVPS: <http://www.vtoutages.com/> , http://www.manchesterjournal.com/ci_17555557

PG&E's 1150 MW Diablo Canyon Nuclear Unit 1 in California Reduced by March 7

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 200 MW by March 7. The unit, however, was operating at full power on the mornings of March 7 and March 8, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reported.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201103071515.html>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Update: Mountainview Power Company's 525 MW Mountainview Gas-Fired Unit 4 in California Returns to Service by March 7

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage.
<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201103071515.html>

Calpine's 751 MW Pastoria Gas-Fired Unit in California Reduced by March 7

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 516 MW by March 7.
<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201103071515.html>

Update: APS's 1,247 MW Palo Verde Nuclear Unit 3 in Arizona at Full Power by March 8

The unit ramped down from full power on the morning of March 4 to 80 percent power by March 5 and 40 percent power by March 6, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reported. The unit returned to 69 percent power by March 7 and full power by March 8, according to the NRC.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Update: Pepco's Reliability Plan "Cobbled Together," Could Fall Short of Goals: Independent Consultants

Pepco's plan to improve reliability throughout its service territory was "cobbled together" and "almost certainly poorly targeted," a group of independent consultants told Maryland regulators in a recently-filed report. The group referred to Pepco's plan as "a quick attempt to throw money at the problem, or, more accurately, to quickly promise to throw money at the problem," and said that the company acknowledged that it did not know if the plan would meet its goals. The report also criticized Pepco's tree trimming efforts. Pepco, for its part, rejected the conclusion that the plan was "cobbled together," a company spokesman said. He said the company was "spending millions in additional money to trim trees," and noted Pepco had trimmed 1,500 miles of tree line since last summer. The Washington Post, meanwhile, found in late December that Pepco, on average, ranked poorly – compared to other big-city utilities – in terms of customer reliability.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2011/03/07/AR2011030705133.html>

EPA Proposes Plan that Would Require OG&E, AEP/PSO to Reduce Pollution or Burn Natural Gas at Three Coal-Fired Power Plants in Oklahoma

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency proposed a plan that would require two companies – Oklahoma Gas & Electric (OG&E) and American Electric Power/Public Service Company of Oklahoma (AEP/PSO) – to install pollution-control equipment or burn natural gas within three years at three existing coal-fired power plants in Oklahoma, the EPA said on March 7. The plan would apply to multiple units: the 477 MW Unit 4 and the 517 MW Unit 5 at OG&E's Muskogee power plant, the 522 MW Unit 1 and the 524 MW Unit 2 at OG&E's Sooner plant, and the 460 MW Unit 3 and 460 MW Unit 4 at AEP/PSO's Northeastern plant, according to Reuters. AEP, for its part, said it would cost approximately \$700 million to complete new SO₂ scrubbers at the Northeastern facility. And, despite the EPA's proposal that the company's complete the installations within three years, AEP said the work would take about five years.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/46523116BBEEE1038525784C00693EC0>

Reuters, 11:08 March 8, 2011

Petroleum

Update: Fighting Continues in Libya as Sanctions Prompt Oil Firms, Banks to Stop Trading with Nation March 8

Fighting continued near oil installations across Libya on March 8 amid claims from rebel leaders that Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi had proposed vacating power in exchange for a safe exit from the North African nation, the New York Times reported. At least one source close to Gadhafi denied the rebels' claims. Sanctions, meanwhile, prompted multiple banks and oil firms, including Morgan Stanley and Exxon Mobil, to stop trading crude oil with the North African nation by March 8, the Associated Press. Libya typically produces 1.6 million b/d of crude. Sources have varied as to how much of that production is down; estimates have ranged from 100,000 b/d to 1.2 million b/d. Despite the disruptions, multiple OPEC officials said yesterday that it was not yet necessary for other member nations to increase oil production.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/09/world/africa/09libya.html?hp>

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703386704576186361903201684.html>

Sunoco Extinguishes Fire at 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery March 7

The fire occurred in a vacuum tower on March 7, a Sunoco spokesman said. The company quickly controlled and extinguished the blaze, according to the spokesman. It was not clear if the incident affected production.
Reuters, 10:11 March 8, 2011

Update: After March 7 Power Outage, ExxonMobil Restarting Units at 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery March 8

A power outage forced shut a hydrogen unit and a hydrotreater on March 7, but the company was restarting the affected units on March 8, a company spokeswoman said.
Reuters, 12:37, March 8, 2011

Update: Interior Department Seeks Stay in Court's Order that Government Rule on Deepwater Drilling Applications in March 2011

The Interior Department requested a stay late last week in a federal judge's order that the department rule on several deepwater drilling permit applications during March 2011, saying the deadline could force the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) to "deny the applications outright." The order would, according to Interior, disrupt BOEMRE's process and require it to rule on applications that are not ready for approval.

<http://thehill.com/blogs/e2-wire/677-e2-wire/147643-interior-challenges-drilling-permit-ruling-warns-of-delayed-development>

Natural Gas

Nothing to report.

Other News

DOE Researchers Convert Plant Matter into Isobutanol

A team of researchers at the Department of Energy's (DOE) BioEnergy Science Center used bacteria to convert plant matter directly into isobutanol, which can be burned in regular car engines with a heat value higher than ethanol and similar to gasoline, DOE said on March 7.

<http://www.energy.gov/news/10163.htm>

Massey Energy Subsidiary to Produce about 1 Million Tons/Year of Coal at Reylas Surface Mine in West Virginia

Massey Energy's Highland Mining Company received a permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers to begin operating its Reylas Surface Mine in Logan County, West Virginia, Massey said on March 8.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=102864&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1536986&highlight=>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 8, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	104.55	98.84	81.46
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.73	3.93	4.56

Source: Reuters

Power Cable Failure Leads to Rolling Blackouts across Prince Edward Island, Canada, Cutting Electricity to as Many as 23,000 Maritime Electric Customers March 7

<http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/News/Local/2011-03-08/article-2310512/Power-cable-fails-unplugging-23,000-Island-households/1>

Nova Scotia Power Reports More than 10,000 Customers without Electricity in Nova Scotia, Canada March 8

<http://www.capebretonpost.com/News/Local/2011-03-08/article-2311308/Slow-start-to-morning-with-no-power/1>

Electrical Component Failure Causes Sirens to Sound at Constellation's 1,768 MW Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Plant in New York over Weekend – Company Refers to Incident at False Alarm

<http://www.9wsyr.com/news/local/story/Update-Nine-Mile-Point-alarms-checked-all-in/wSPDcAa-9kyaZ8prMU2MVw.csp>

<http://www.constellation.com/portal/site/constellation/menuitem.487e3f1fe004e1908d84ff10025166a0/>

Interior Department to Study Consequences of Potential “Very Large Oil Spill” in Arctic Ocean – Study Part of Court-Ordered Review into Oil-and-Gas Leases Offshore Alaska

<http://www.nytimes.com/gwire/2011/03/07/07greenwire-interior-to-assess-effects-of-possible-arctic-51349.html>

Update: U.S. District Judge Extends Court Ruling, Blocking Locals from Enforcing Ecuadorean Judge's \$18 Billion Ruling against Chevron in Environmental Lawsuit

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-07/chevron-wins-bid-to-extend-order-blocking-18-billion-ecuadorean-judgment.html>

Some 137 Oil Wells in Northern Alaska Fail to Comply with State Regulations, Alaska Oil and Gas Commission Says – Majority of Wells have Been Abandoned

<http://www.ktva.com/home/top-stories/137-Oil-Wells-Out-of-Compliance-117475439.html>

Storms, Tornado Lead to Natural Gas Leaks, Force about 1,500 Locals to Evacuate Temporarily in Southwestern Louisiana March 5-6

<http://www.660news.com/news/world/article/193211--1-killed-after-suspected-tornado-slams-southwestern-louisiana-gas-leaks-prompt-evacuation>

Unit Shutdown Leads to Flaring at Keystone Gas Plant in Texas March 7

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=151645>

Workers to Fix Leaky Exchanger at Cedar Hill Gas Plant in Texas March 8

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=151640>

Sasol to Purchase 50 Percent Share of Talisman Energy's Cypress A Site in Montney Basin, Canada – Site Contains Estimated 11.2 Tcf of Natural Gas

<http://af.reuters.com/article/investingNews/idAFJOE72709I20110308>

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

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