



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, March 10, 2015

Electricity

PSE&G Reports Radioactive Tritium Found in Ice at Its 1,049 MW Hope Creek Nuclear Power Plant in New Jersey March 5

An investigation is underway after PSE&G Nuclear officials announced March 5 that radioactive tritium was discovered in concentrations of 10 million picocuries per liter below snow and ice hanging from a building at the company's Hope Creek nuclear power plant, a level 500 times higher than federal water quality standards. Once identified, appropriate corrective actions were taken to mitigate the small impacted area. No groundwater threats have been identified. The Hope Creek nuclear power plant is part of PSE&G's Salem/Hope Creek complex on Artificial Island, New Jersey. The 2,370 MW Salem Nuclear power plant is also located in the complex.

<http://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/local/2015/03/06/hope-creektritium/24532349/>

Update: Exelon's 1,163 MW Byron Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois Restarts by March 9, Ramps Up to 29 Percent by March 10

By the morning of March 9 the unit had restarted and had ramped up to 5 percent. The unit was shut from full power on March 3 due to the main power transformer bushing short.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20150304en.html>

Update: TVA's 1,126 MW Sequoyah Nuclear Unit 2 in Tennessee Ramps Up to 62 Percent by March 10

On the morning of March 9 the unit was operating at 14 percent after restarting and ramping up to 2 percent by March 7. On March 2, the unit experienced an automatic reactor/turbine trip from full power.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20150303en.html>

FPL's 839 MW Saint Lucie Nuclear Unit 2 in Florida Reduced to 85 Percent by March 10

On the morning of March 9 the unit was operating at full power.

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

Petroleum

Second Collision in a Week Partially Halts Houston Ship Channel Traffic March 9; Unknown Amount of MTBE Spills in Port – Coast Guard

Marine traffic in the Houston Ship Channel was partially halted on Monday after a collision between a tanker and a bulk carrier, the U.S. Coast Guard said on Monday, days after another crash briefly halted vessels there. An unknown amount of the gasoline additive methyl tertiary-butyl ether (MTBE) was spilled in the port, the Coast Guard said. The double-hulled tanker Carla Maersk, which was carrying 216,000 barrels of MTBE and ruptured three of its tanks, was listing after colliding with a vessel carrying steel, the Coast Guard said. Fog caused traffic jams for days last week in the channel and 16 crude tankers were delayed as of Thursday. Since then, 11 have docked or made it into the channel while five are outside waiting to dock, or in the process of being lightered, ClipperData said.

<http://www.ctcac.us/go/doc/4703/2475849/>

Reuters, 18:24 March 9, 2015

Update: Both Derailed CN Trains Were Carrying Synthetic Crude to Valero's 265,000 b/d Jean Gaulin Refinery in Quebec

The two Canadian National (CN) oil trains that derailed and caught fire in recent weeks in northern Ontario were both carrying synthetic crude to Valero Energy Corp's 265,000 b/d Jean Gaulin refinery near Quebec City, Quebec, Valero said on Tuesday. Saturday's CN Rail derailment came less than a month after another CN train carrying oil derailed and caught fire in northern Ontario. The railway had said both were carrying crude from Alberta, but declined to give their exact destination. A CN spokesman said the train that derailed in February had been carrying petroleum distillates in addition to synthetic crude. A spokesman for Canada's Transportation Safety Board (TSB), which is investigating the incidents, said the contents of the tank cars are a subject of interest and the TSB will be testing the contents to determine what they were. In a note to shippers on Tuesday, CN said a temporary bypass track would likely be completed by late afternoon, reopening its main line in northern Ontario.
Reuters, 12:56 March 10, 2015

Update: U.S. Chemical Safety Board Investigating Explosion at ExxonMobil's 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery at Request of U.S. Congressmen

U.S. Chemical Safety Board investigators were scheduled Monday to begin their probe into what caused the February 18 explosion at ExxonMobil's Torrance, California refinery. The visit was initiated by a formal request sent to the board Friday by U.S. Representatives Ted Lieu and Maxine Waters. In their letter, Lieu and Waters wrote that the Torrance accident was not an isolated incident and that the facility experienced other explosions in 1988 and 1994. ExxonMobil said it was working closely with state and federal agencies to determine the cause of the explosion and were cooperating with authorities who are investigating the incident. At a hearing last week conducted by state senators at Torrance City Hall, the refinery's manager said the blast was caused by excess pressure in the electrostatic precipitator. Lieu and Waters said in their letter that they want investigators to find out whether ExxonMobil broke any laws or regulations and whether the company's safety procedures were acceptable. The lawmakers said that hydrofluoric acid was being stored near the explosion site.
http://www.csb.gov/assets/1/16/Reps_Lieu_and_Waters_Exxon_Letter_3.6.2015.pdf
<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-torrance-refinery-investigation-20150309-story.html>

Update: ExxonMobil Working to Get Parts of Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery Back Online Next Month

ExxonMobil Corp said it was working to get parts of its Torrance, California refinery back online next month, according to a regulatory filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Gasoline production at the refinery near Los Angeles has been halted since the February 18 explosion.
Reuters, 13:10 March 10, 2015

ExxonMobil Shuts FCCU after Leak at Its 502,500 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana Refinery March 7 – Source

ExxonMobil shut a 110,000 b/d fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Baton Rouge, Louisiana, refinery after a leak on Saturday, according to a source familiar with the refinery's operations. The unplanned shutdown of unit PCLA-2 leaves both of the plant's FCCUs shut at the same time. PCLA-3 is already closed for maintenance. Work to repair the PCLA-2 leak in a fractionator is expected to last at least a week, possibly longer, according to the source. The planned work on PCLA-3 is expected to last about two more weeks, the source said.
Reuters, 12:21 March 9, 2015

Motiva Shuts Heavy Oil Cracker Unit at Its 235,000 b/d Convent, Louisiana Refinery March 9 – Source

Motiva Enterprises shut a heavy oil cracker unit unexpectedly after an operational problem at its refinery in Convent, Louisiana, according to a source. The refinery restored production to one of the two trains in the unit, according to another source familiar with the plant's operations. The company had planned maintenance on the unit to start later this month, and has postponed the work until July because of an ongoing strike by the United Steelworkers at the plant, according to a source.
Reuters, 12:12 March 9, 2015

Motiva Preparing to Restart FCCU at Its 600,250 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery –

Sources

Motiva Enterprises was preparing to restart the 92,000 b/d fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Port Arthur, Texas, refinery, sources familiar with plant operations said on Monday. The FCCU was the centerpiece of a planned seven-week overhaul on several units that began on January 13. During the work, the top of the unit's main column was removed to permit replacement of the FCCU's reactor. The sources said the refinery needs to get the FCCU back into production to begin converting gas oil produced by its crude units for gasoline production. The refinery is nearing the capacity of its storage space for the gas oil. The refinery is one of 12 in the country where workers are on strike.

Reuters, 20:42 March 9, 2015

Valero Reports Flaring at Its 132,000 b/d Benicia, California Refinery March 10

Reuters, 14:49 March 10, 2015

Belle Fourche Pipeline Spills 10,000 Gallons of Oil in North Dakota March 6

The North Dakota Department of Health reported March 7 that a Belle Fourche Pipeline Co. pipeline was struck by equipment and ruptured March 6, spilling 10,000 gallons of oil in McKenzie County. Officials stated that the leak was mostly contained to the excavated site and did not pose a threat to public health.

<http://kfgo.com/news/articles/2015/mar/07/pipeline-leak-causes-10000-gallonspill-in-mckenzie-county/>

Natural Gas

Atlas Reports All Inlet Gas Compressors Shut due to Power Loss at Its 200 MMcf/d Driver Gas Plant in Texas March 9

Atlas reported a mechanical failure power loss to the inlet oil pumps that shut down all inlet compressors on pump flow failure. The 4160 breaker that tripped during a thunderstorm was reset and the inlet compression was put back online.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=211065>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Libya Shuts Two Zueitina Oil Co. Oilfields for Security Reasons – Oil Official

Libya has shut two oil fields belonging to the eastern Zueitina Oil Co. for security reasons, an oil official said on Tuesday. Only the fields called 103A and 103B were still operating, said the official. Staff had been evacuated from the Zella and Fida fields which are located east to oilfields which have been attacked recently by militants. Reuters, 10:30 March 10, 2015

Iraqi Kurdistan's Kirkuk-Ceyhan Crude Oil Pipeline Halted since March 9 – Turkish Officials

Pumping of oil along Iraqi Kurdistan's pipeline carrying Kirkuk and Kurdish crude oil to the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan has been halted since Monday due to repairs necessitated by theft, Turkish officials and an industry source said. The official said the pipeline could reopen Wednesday. Crude oil flow in the pipeline recently averaged around 450,000 b/d and at times rose as high as 500,000 b/d, a source said.

Reuters, 7:11 March 10, 2015

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 10, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	49.23	50.38	102.62
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.72	2.84	4.90

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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