



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, March 11, 2014

Electricity

Update: 9,000 Duke Energy Customers in North Carolina Remain Without Power March 11 after Winter Storm Hit Area March 6–7

Duke Energy crews in North Carolina continued to restore power to the more than 405,000 customers who were affected by the severe ice storm that hit the area March 7. As of 3:30 p.m. today, 9,243 customers remained without power. Duke Energy said it was on schedule to complete restoration to nearly all customers by Tuesday night.

<http://outagemap.duke-energy.com/ncsc/default.html>

<https://www.progress-energy.com/carolinas/home/storms-outages/index.page>

California ISO Sets 4,093 MW Solar Generation Record March 8

Solar power production in California hit a new record of 4,093 MW on Saturday, March 8, according to the California Independent System Operator Corporation (ISO). The previous record was 3,926 MW set the day before on March 7. Electricity generated from solar has more than doubled from June 7, 2013 when ISO recorded 2,071 MW of peak production—and output has more than quadrupled from the summer of 2012. Meanwhile, when combining ISO wind resources of 5,890 MW and solar resources of 5,231 MW, the two resources now account for 11,121 MW interconnected to the ISO grid. In total, all renewables (including geothermal) make up about 15,000 MW of the ISO generation mix.

http://www.caiso.com/Documents/CaliforniaISO_BreaksNewSolarProductionRecord.pdf

Constellation's 1,120 MW Nine Mile Point Nuclear Unit 2 in New York Shut March 10

Unit 2 experienced an actuation of the alternate rod insertion (ARI) system, which resulted in a reactor scram on the afternoon of March 10. On the morning of March 10 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2014/20140311en.html>

Update: Exelon's 1,146 MW Limerick Unit 1 Nuclear Power Plant in Pennsylvania to Remain Shut for Refueling

Exelon Corp. decided to keep unit 1 at the Limerick power plant shut for a refueling outage expected to start later this month, according to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The plant shut on March 4 due to a faulty capacitor on an electrical circuit card for the turbine electro-hydraulic control system.

Reuters, 10:39 March 10, 2014

Update: NPPD's 764 MW Cooper Nuclear Unit in Nebraska Reduced to 10 Percent for Work March 10, Ramps Up to 45 Percent by March 11

Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) reported its Cooper nuclear power plant was reduced for repairs on a turbine stop valve. The plant's power was reduced to 10 percent on Monday and the repairs to the turbine stop valve were completed and tested Monday evening, according to NPPD. Power was increased to around 45 percent afterwards and will remain around that level for two days to replace exciter brushes on motor generator sets and some other minor maintenance and surveillance work. The company said it decided to do the work now rather than during a previously scheduled down power later in the month.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/>

Reuters, 10:49 March 11, 2014

Update: FirstEnergy's 1,235 MW Perry Nuclear Unit 1 in Ohio Ramps Up to 92 Percent by March 11

On the morning of March 10 the unit was operating at 80 percent, up from 58 percent on March 9.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/>

Update: Shell's Ho-Ho Pipeline Still Shut March 10 After 364 Barrel Crude Oil Leak in Texas Last Week

Royal Dutch Shell's entire Houston-to-Houma (Ho-Ho) crude oil pipeline remained shut on Monday, following a reported leak late last week, the company said. Construction crew members accidentally punctured the Ho-Ho line near Port Neches, Texas, on Thursday afternoon, releasing about 364 barrels of crude oil. A Shell spokesperson said the company was unable to speculate how long the line would remain shut. The company has deployed absorbent booms and vacuum trucks to the site of the leak to contain and recover the crude.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=42543

Enbridge Reports 3 Barrel Crude Oil Spill at Trenton Pump Station on Its 475,000 b/d North Dakota Pipeline Company System March 6

Enbridge Inc. reported a crude oil spill on March 6 at the Trenton pump station of its North Dakota Pipeline Company LLC system, according to a report with the North Dakota Department of Health, Environmental Health Section, made public on Monday. Three barrels of crude oil were spilled due to a pump leak, the filing with said. The release was contained, the filing added.

Reuters, 00:36 March 11, 2014

West Virginia DEP Investigating 800–1,000 Gallon Oil Spill from Private Well March 6

An estimated 800–1,000 gallons of oil leaked from a private well near West Union, West Virginia and into an unnamed tributary which flowed into Tom's Fork Creek March 6, the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) reported. Preliminary results found a pipe in the well may have frozen over and burst, resulting in the spill.

<http://www.wboy.com/story/24918292/dep-investigating-oil-spill-near-west-union>

Alon Reports FCCU Upset at Its 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery March 10

Alon USA Energy Inc. reported Big Spring, Texas, refinery returned to normal operations after a short-term upset at a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU), according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The FCCU malfunction that lasted for less than an hour caused flaring at the refinery, the filing said. The refinery operators had temporarily reduced feed to the unit to stabilize it and later returned them to normal targets.

Reuters, 18:19 March 10, 2014

Tesoro Reports Unit Shutdown at Its 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery March 9, Sulfuric Acid Accident March 10

Tesoro Corp. reported that a small flange leak led to a unit shutdown at its Golden Eagle refinery in Martinez, California, on March 9, according to a filing with Contra Costa Health Services. On Monday, two workers were sprayed by sulfuric acid at the refinery, the second such incident in less than a month, according to the Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Program.

Reuters, 18:05 March 10, 2014

Natural Gas

U.S. DOE Authorizes Magnolia LNG to Export Additional 4 mtpa to FTA Countries from Proposed Lake Charles, Louisiana LNG Export Terminal

Magnolia LNG, LLC announced on March 6 that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), granted authorization to export an additional 4 million tonnes per annum (mtpa) of LNG, from its proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) project site at the Port of Lake Charles, Louisiana (Magnolia LNG Project). This follows the DOE's initial approval granted on February 26, 2013 to export up to 4 mtpa of LNG to Free Trade Agreement (FTA) countries with the U.S. The DOE authorization is valid for first LNG sales to commence within 10 years and then for a period of 25 years from first LNG sales. LNG sales are permitted to all existing, and any future, countries that have, or enter into, a Free Trade Agreement with the Government of the United States.

<http://www.magnoliangl.com/IRM/Company/ShowPage.aspx/PDFs/2022-93501878/USDOEAUTHORIZES8MTPAEXPORTTOFTACOUNTRIES>

Other News

USGS Says Oil, Gas Wastewater Disposal Cause of Earthquakes in Oklahoma in 2011

In a new study involving researchers at the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), scientists observed that a human-induced magnitude 5.0 earthquake near Prague, Oklahoma in November 2011 may have triggered the larger M5.7 earthquake less than a day later. This research suggests that the M5.7 quake was the largest human-caused earthquake associated with wastewater injection. Historically, earthquakes in the central United States have been uncommon. Yet in the year 2011 alone, numerous moderate-size earthquakes occurred in Colorado, Texas, Oklahoma, Ohio and Arkansas. Many of these earthquakes occurred near waste-water injection wells, and some have been shown to be caused by human activities.

<http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=3819#Ux9ORvldW5g>

International News

Update: Libya's Prime Minister Voted out of Office after North Korean Tanker Escapes with Rebel Oil March 11

Libya's parliament voted Prime Minister Ali Zeidan out of office on Tuesday after a tanker loaded with oil from a rebel-held port escaped the navy, officials said. Deputies said they had mounted a no-confidence vote after the tanker managed to load crude at Es Sider port and escaped the navy, which earlier claimed it had seized the ship. The ship had moved into international waters early on Tuesday morning after a brief firefight with government forces, port workers allied to the rebels and an oil official said.

Reuters, 12:42 March 11, 2014

Update: Libya's El Sharara Oil Field Increases Output to 200,000 b/d March 11

Libya's El Sharara oilfield Tuesday increased production to around 200,000 b/d, up from 150,000 b/d on Monday, a senior official at the field said on Tuesday after protesters suspended a blockade. It was unclear when the field, located in Libya's southwestern Fezzan region, would reach its full capacity of 340,000 b/d, the official said. Protesters making political and financial demands had blocked the field for several weeks.

Reuters, 8:08 March 11, 2014

Update: Shell Reopens Nembe Creek Trunkline in Nigeria March 10

Shell said on Monday that it had reopened its Nembe Creek Trunkline in Nigeria on Monday after the removal of crude theft points. The pipeline, which carries Bonny Light crude oil, had been shut since February 23, the spokesman said.

Reuters, 12:39 March 11, 2014

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 11, 2014			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL			
West Texas Intermediate U.S.			
\$/Barrel	100.51	105.34	91.35
NATURAL GAS			
Henry Hub			
\$/Million Btu	4.63	6.70	3.57

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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