



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, March 12, 2014

Electricity

Winter Storm Knocks Out Power to 20,000 NIPSCO Customers in Indiana March 12

An early morning winter storm carrying a mix of freezing rain, heavy snow, and gusty winds left approximately 20,000 NIPSCO customers in Indiana without power Wednesday morning. As of 4:00 p.m. EST Wednesday, 5,714 customers remained without power. NIPSCO said crews were continuing to work to assess and make repairs as quickly as possible.

<http://www.nipSCO.com/en/stay-safe/outage-center.aspx>

<http://www.nipSCOoutages.com/WSSNisourceOutageMap/outagemap.html?action=city&reloaded=true>

<https://twitter.com/nipSCO>

Update: 3,600 Duke Energy Customers in North Carolina Remain Without Power March 12 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 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, 3,651 customers remained without power. Duke Energy said it was on schedule to complete restoration to nearly all customers by Wednesday night although a few outages may extend beyond that for customers with damaged meter boxes that have not been repaired or need electrical inspections.

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

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

FirstEnergy's 1,235 MW Perry Nuclear Unit 1 in Ohio Reduced to 78 Percent by March 12

On the morning of March 11 the unit was operating at 92 percent.

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

Exelon's 855 MW Quad Cities Nuclear Unit 2 in Illinois Reduced to 73 Percent by March 12

On the morning of March 11 the unit was operating at 93 percent.

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

Update: NPPD's 764 MW Cooper Nuclear Unit in Nebraska Ramps Up to 38 Percent by March 12

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.

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

Petroleum

Schumde Oil and Gas Company Reports Fire at Its Kingsley, Michigan Oil and Natural Gas Well March 9

Authorities are investigating but believe a mechanical problem was likely the cause of a March 9 fire at the Schumde Oil and Gas Company's oil and natural gas well near Kingsley, Michigan. The fire started when workers began flow tests. The fire subsided after crews cut off the oil and natural gas supply to the flare.

<http://www.record-eagle.com/local/x1387855973/Kingsley-oil-well-erupts-in-flames>

ExxonMobil Seeks PHMSA Approval to Restart 210-mile Part of Pegasus Crude Oil Pipeline in Texas by March 28

ExxonMobil plans to restart operations on a 210-mile leg of the Pegasus oil pipeline, running from Corsicana to Nederland, Texas no later than March 28, it said in a filing to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). ExxonMobil said that the section was not affected by a line rupture in Mayflower, Arkansas, which occurred on March 29, 2013 causing the line to remain shut since. The line would run at 80 percent of the operating pressure in place before the line spilled oil last year, according to the company. A PHMSA spokesman said the filing had been received but a decision was yet to be made on the restart.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=42556

U.S. DOE Plans to Release Up to 5 Million Barrels of Crude Oil from Strategic Petroleum Reserve

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) plans to shortly release up to 5 million barrels of crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, a government source said on Wednesday. The release would be a test sale, essentially to check the operational capabilities of the reserve system's infrastructure, the source said. The exact timing of the release is unclear. The release would be equivalent to about one-quarter of the crude oil used in the U.S. every day. The most recent release from the reserve was in 2011, in response to the civil war in Libya, when the DOE authorized a tap of 30 million barrels in coordination with the European Union, which tapped a similar amount from its reserves.

Reuters, 10:21 March 12, 2014

Natural Gas

Southern Natural Gas Pipeline Reports Unscheduled Outage at Auburn Compressor Station in Alabama March 12

Southern Natural Gas Pipeline experienced an unscheduled compressor unit outage at Auburn Compressor Station which is located on the south main line system in Lee County, Alabama. The company did not anticipate a reduction in firm transportation services; however, some reduction in IT and secondary firm (B-1) service could be required during the cold weather currently forecasted for Thursday, March 13.

<http://ixsnp.sonetpremier.com/ebbmastertpage/Notices/NoticesAutoTable.aspx?code=SNG&status=Notice&name=Critical%20Notices&sParam1=007&sParam7=35384&sParam11=D&details=Y>

Other News

Green Plains Renewable Energy Reports Fire, Explosion at Its Fergus Falls, Minnesota Ethanol Plant March 10

Authorities are investigating the cause of a March 10 fire and explosion in the dryer building of the Green Plains Renewable Energy ethanol plant in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. The plant remained closed indefinitely while officials assessed the damage and determined how to resume operations.

<http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/428915/>

International News

Update: Libya's Oil Output Hits 441,000 b/d – NOC

Libya was producing 441,000 b/d of oil on Wednesday after the El Sharara field resumed work, a spokesman for the state-owned National Oil Corp (NOC) said. The El Sharara field was pumping 214,000 b/d, he said. NOC had resumed production there after protesters suspended their action over the weekend.

Reuters, 9:01 March 12, 2014

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 12, 2014			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	98.40	102.15	93.05
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.65	7.92	3.64

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

Energy Assurance Daily provides a summary of public information concerning current energy issues. Published Monday through Friday to inform stakeholders of developments affecting energy systems, flows, and markets, it provides highlights of energy issues rather than a comprehensive coverage. *Energy Assurance Daily* is updated online Monday through Friday after 5:00 p.m. ET. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at:

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

Please direct comments and questions to: ead@oe.netl.doe.gov