



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, March 13, 2014

## Electricity

### Strong Winds Knock Out Power to Over 204,000 Customers in Carolinas, Mid-Atlantic March 12–13

Strong, damaging winds hit North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and West Virginia overnight Wednesday into Thursday, knocking out power to over 204,000 customers. High winds—with gusts up to 60 miles per hour—brought down trees and snapped power lines. As of 3:30 p.m. EST Thursday, utilities in impacted states reported 12,321 customers remained without power.

Mid-Atlantic, Carolinas Customer Power Outages			
March 12–13, 2014			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Pepco	DC/MD	5,000	1,648
Southern Maryland Electric Coop (SMECO)	MD	1,611	331
Potomac Edison	MD	2,100	333
BG&E	MD	26,000	3,914
Duke Carolinas	NC/SC	70,000	1,502
Dominion Power	VA	65,000	1,344
AEP Appalachian Power	VA	9,000	2,575
AEP Appalachian Power	WV	26,000	674
<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>204,711</b>	<b>12,321</b>

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

Sources:

- <http://www.pepco.com/home/emergency/maps/stormcenter/>
- <http://stormcenter.smeco.coop/>
- <http://outages.firstenergycorp.com/mdwv.html>
- <https://twitter.com/MyBGE>
- <http://outagemap.duke-energy.com/ncsc/default.html>
- <https://twitter.com/DukeEnergyStorm>
- <https://www.dom.com/storm-center/dominion-electric-outage-summary.jsp>
- <https://www.appalachianpower.com/outages/details.aspx?stormName=March%2012,%202014%20Wind%20Storm>
- [http://liveblog.wtop.com/Event/Wind\\_Power\\_Outages\\_Hit\\_DC\\_Region](http://liveblog.wtop.com/Event/Wind_Power_Outages_Hit_DC_Region)
- [http://www.newsadvance.com/news/local/apco-all-power-should-be-restored-by-thursday-night/article\\_dbfbadb8-aa41-11e3-8560-001a4bcf6878.html](http://www.newsadvance.com/news/local/apco-all-power-should-be-restored-by-thursday-night/article_dbfbadb8-aa41-11e3-8560-001a4bcf6878.html)
- <http://washington.cbslocal.com/2014/03/12/cool-down-will-bring-heavy-winds-rain/>
- <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/capital-weather-gang/wp/2014/03/12/pm-update-gusty-showers-this-evening-ahead-of-strong-winds-overnight-into-thursday-and-turning-much-colder/>

### FERC Study Finds Coordinated Attacks on Nine Substations Could Cause National Blackout - Wall Street Journal

A study by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) said that coordinated attacks on different sets of nine of the country’s 55,000 high voltage electric-transmission substations on a high demand summer day, coupled with an attack on a major transformer manufacturer, could cause a national blackout that would last for at least 18 months, according to the Wall Street Journal. Jack Wellinghoff, who was FERC Chairman at the time the report was prepared, told the Journal that “probably less than 100 critical substations needed to be protected from physical attack.” Only a handful of U.S. factories build large transformers that are used at substations.

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702304020104579433670284061220>

### **Update: Constellation's 1,120 MW Nine Mile Point Nuclear Unit 2 in New York Restarts March 12, Ramps Up to 16 Percent by March 13**

By the morning of March 12 the unit had restarted and was operating at 1 percent. Constellation reported unit 2 experienced an actuation of the alternate rod insertion (ARI) system, which resulted in a reactor scram on the afternoon of March 10.

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

### **Update: FirstEnergy's 1,235 MW Perry Nuclear Unit 1 in Ohio at Full Power by March 13**

On the morning of March 12 the unit was operating at 78 percent, down from 92 percent on March 11.

<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 74 Percent by March 13**

On the morning of March 12 the unit was operating at 38 percent. Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) reported the unit was reduced for repairs on a turbine stop valve. The unit'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***

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### **PBF Energy's 182,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery Operating Normally after Power Outages March 12**

PBF Energy Inc. reported that its Delaware City, Delaware, refinery was operating normally after power outages, according to a filing with state pollution regulators. On Wednesday, PBF reported a power disturbance at the refinery, according to a message on a community information line.

Reuters, 12:10 March 13, 2014

### **Update: Motiva Says Its 235,000 b/d Convent, Louisiana Refinery Back to Normal Operations March 13 after Fire February 24**

Motiva Enterprises LLC said on Thursday its Convent, Louisiana, refinery returned to normal operations following a fire at the facility on February 24. Maintenance activities were continuing at the refinery, a company spokeswoman said.

Reuters, 9:20 March 13, 2014

### **Albany County, New York Orders a Halt to Growth in Oil Processing**

Citing the potential impact on public health of Albany's growing role as a crude oil transportation hub, the county executive on Wednesday ordered a moratorium on the expansion of oil processing facilities at the Port of Albany. The unexpected decision by the Albany County executive effectively freezes plans by Global Partners to build seven new heating units at its Albany terminal until an investigation is done. Heating units are used to heat up tank cars to allow petroleum to flow more easily. Growth of oil-related facilities at the port could be slowed if county health officials decide that the oil terminals and shipping facilities have negative effects on residents nearby. The executive said in an interview that he had become increasingly concerned by the growth in rail traffic bringing crude oil from the Bakken oil shale fields in North Dakota, particularly given recent accidents and derailments.

Reuters, 12:16 March 13, 2014

### **Chevron Warns California Carbon Rules Will Make the State's Gasoline too Costly**

Pending California carbon regulations could make it too expensive to operate refineries in the state, drastically increasing gasoline prices, and costing thousands of jobs, a senior Chevron Corp. executive said. Chevron is especially opposed to a part of the bill, known as AB 32, that starting next year would require all California distributors of transportation fuels to purchase carbon permits to cover emissions from automobiles, a cost the Boston Consulting Group, in a study on behalf of the oil industry, estimates could exceed \$3.7 billion.

Reuters, 19:13 March 12, 2014

## **Athabasca, PetroChina's Dover Oil Sands Project in Alberta Approved March 12**

The Dover oil sands project backed by Athabasca Oil Corp. and PetroChina has received Alberta government approval, the second-last step needed before Athabasca can sell its share of the project to its Chinese partner for \$1.2 billion. The thermal oil sands project was approved by the Canadian province's cabinet on Wednesday, according to a posting on a government website. With the approval in hand, Athabasca needs only a final permit from the government's environment department before exercising a put that allows it to sell its stake to its Chinese partner. The final permit typically takes up to a month to issue.  
Reuters, 11:50 March 13, 2014

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## **Natural Gas**

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### **Suspected Gas Explosion in New York City Levels Apartment Buildings, Kills Seven People March 12; Con Edison Cuts Power and Gas Service to Area for Investigation**

A massive explosion leveled two apartment buildings in New York City Wednesday, killing at least seven people and leaving nine people missing. The mid-morning explosion occurred in Harlem, shortly after one resident in a nearby building reported the smell of leaking natural gas. The utility serving the neighborhood, Consolidated Edison, said it dispatched two crews to the scene, but that they arrived just after the explosion. Con Edison has shut down all electric and gas service in the immediate area, as crews work closely with the FDNY to make the area safe and determine the exact cause of this morning's explosion.

[http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html\\_dir/2014/03/13/2014031300564.html](http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2014/03/13/2014031300564.html)

[http://www.cnn.com/2014/03/13/us/manhattan-building-explosion/index.html?hpt=hp\\_t2](http://www.cnn.com/2014/03/13/us/manhattan-building-explosion/index.html?hpt=hp_t2)

[http://www.coned.com/newsroom/news/pr20140312\\_2.asp](http://www.coned.com/newsroom/news/pr20140312_2.asp)

### **Destin Pipeline Says Flows to 1.2 Bcf/d Pascagoula Gas Plant to be Reduced for 36 Hours Starting March 15**

Destin Pipeline Co. LLC said on Wednesday that flows to the Pascagoula Gas Processing Plant (PGP) will be at a reduced rate for about 36 hours starting on the morning of March 15. During this time, shippers should minimize any disruptions to flows as it may impact the gas plant's ability to stay online, Destin said. The 225-mile Destin gas pipeline system has the capacity to carry 1.2 billion cubic feet per day from the Gulf of Mexico north to interconnections with six major interstate gas lines.

<http://www.destin-pipeline.com/>

Reuters, 17:24 March 12, 2014

### **FERC to Issue Environmental Assessment for Dominion Cove Point LNG Export Project on May 15**

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Wednesday announced that it would issue its Environmental Assessment for the Dominion Cove Point LNG liquefaction and export project in Lusby, Maryland, on May 15. The proposed export facility will be within the 131-acre footprint of the LNG import facility. No new pipelines, storage tanks, or piers are needed at the facility. Dominion needs about 50 permits and approvals before construction can begin. The company filed notice for the pre-filing process with the FERC in June 2012 that it was planning to add export capability at its Cove Point terminal and the FERC has been researching and analyzing the application since then. Dominion filed the application in April 2013.

<http://dom.mediaroom.com/2014-03-12-FERC-to-Issue-Environmental-Assessment-for-Dominion-Cove-Point-LNG-Export-Project-on-May-15>

### **Southern Union Reports Flaring, Unit Shut at Its Keystone Gas Plant in Texas March 11**

Southern Union reported it flared some of the low-pressure gas coming into its Keystone plant when unit no. 24 went down due to a bad hydrax switch. The switch was replaced and the unit was put back online

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=195264>

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## **Other News**

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Nothing to report.

## International News

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Nothing to report.

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 13, 2014			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	98.36	100.77	92.14
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	4.66	6.42	3.71

Source: Reuters

## Links

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***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](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>

Please direct comments and questions to: [ead@oe.netl.doe.gov](mailto:ead@oe.netl.doe.gov)