



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, March 17, 2011

Electricity

Update: Entergy's 730 MW Palisades Nuclear Unit in Michigan at Full Power by March 17

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 16 the unit was operating at 52 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: AES's 225 MW Huntington Beach Gas-Fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by March 16

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage by March 16.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201103161515.html>

Ontario Power Generation Reports More than 19,000 Gallons of Demineralized Water Leak into Lake Ontario at its Pickering A Nuclear Plant in Ontario March 15

The incident was caused by a pump seal failure. The Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission said in a statement that the "radiological risk to the environment and people's health is negligible."

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/story/2011/03/16/pickering-nuclear-leak.html>

Update: NRC Places Temporary Hold on License Renewal for Entergy's 563 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Vermont by March 16

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) had said that the agency expected to renew the facility's operating license for an additional 20 years on March 10, one day before an earthquake and tsunami crippled nuclear facilities in Japan. An NRC spokesman said that a lack of manpower necessitated the delay as the agency provides assistance in Japan.

http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/articles/2011/03/16/vermont_yankee_license_extension_on_hold/

Luminant's 593 MW Monticello Coal-Fired Unit 1 in Texas Restarts Following Repairs by March 17

The unit restarted after a boiler pump malfunction caused a trip March 16-17.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152059>

Petroleum

Update: Opti Canada, Nexen Report Long Lake Oil Sands Production in Alberta Dropped 14 Percent from January to February Following Unit Shutdown

Bitumen production at Long Lake dropped from 27,000 b/d in January to 23,100 b/d in February according to Nexen and its partner Opti Canada. Nexen warned that output would continue to be affected in the coming months. The Long Lake project was designed to produce 72,000 b/d, but has not yet achieved that level of output.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/business/Opti+Canada+oilsands+project+sees+output+drop/4450239/story.html>

Eagle Rock Restores Most of its East Texas O&G Production Following Restart of Tristream Energy's Eustace Facility

Eagle Rock Energy Partners shut its oil and gas production in East Texas on August 11, 2010 after Tristream Energy shut its Eustace treating and processing facility for unscheduled repairs. Eagle Rock plans to restore the remainder of its shut-in wells over the coming weeks as the Eustace plant ramps up to full capacity.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=105200

Update: Except for Tobruk, All of Libya's Oil Export Terminals were Back under Central Control by March 15

Forces loyal to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi have retaken Ras Lanuf. According to a Libyan oil workers' union, all of Libya's oil export terminals (with the exception of Tobruk in the east) are back under the control of pro-Gadhafi forces. Agoco, an oil company based in the rebel-controlled east, is currently pumping oil only to Tobruk. In related news, Eni has halted its 280,000 b/d of oil production in the country, but the company is still producing some natural gas for the generation of electricity.

Reuters, 07:44 March 17, 2011

<http://af.reuters.com/article/libyaNews/idAFLDE72G14Z20110317>

http://www.adnkronos.com/IGN/Aki/English/Business/Italy-Eni-has-stopped-pumping-Libyan-oil-CEO-says_311795287074.html

Natural Gas

Gas Line Shut after Explosion and Fire at CenterPoint Energy Pipeline in Minneapolis, Minnesota March 17

The fire broke out at 9:45 a.m. EDT following an explosion near one of CenterPoint's maintenance facilities. One grocery store was evacuated and portions of two highways were shut down due to the incident. The fire was extinguished around 11:00 a.m. EDT.

DJN, 13:15 March 17, 2011

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/centerpoint-pipeline-explodes-2011-03-17>

Other News

Update: Nuclear Industry Questions Evacuation of U.S. Citizens within 50-Mile Radius of Damaged Nuclear Power Plant in Japan

The U.S. Nuclear Power Industry raised doubts about the scientific basis of the U.S. Government's recommendation that its citizens evacuate or stay indoors if they are within 50 miles of the earthquake-and-tsunami-stricken Fukushima nuclear power plant in Japan. The U.S. State Department declared on March 16 that the recommendation was made based on U.S. guidelines, and does not reflect any judgment on the Japanese government's own recommendations. Japan has evacuated the area within 12 miles of the plant.

DJN, 11:42 March 17, 2011

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/16/japan-quake-usa-nuclear-idUSWBT01439020110316>

Japanese Earthquake/Tsunamis

Update: Japanese Refineries Ramping Up Production, though Three Remain Offline

Though output is still significantly below pre-earthquake levels, various refineries affected by the earthquake have begun to ramp up production, while other refineries that were unaffected by the disaster are operating at increased rates. According to the chairman of the Petroleum Association of Japan, the country's refinery rates dropped from 4.0 million b/d to 2.7 million b/d after the earthquake. Processing is due to recover to 3.4 million b/d by the end of March. Three refineries remain shutdown: JX Holdings' 145,000 b/d Sendai refinery, JX Holdings' 252,000 b/d Kashima refinery, and Cosmo Oil's 220,000 b/d Chiba refinery. Japanese refiners have cancelled 4 million barrels of refined-product export orders that were due by the end of March.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=26039

Update: Japan Uses Helicopters, Riot-Control Water Cannons to Cool Used Nuclear Fuel at Tokyo Electric Power's Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Reactors No. 3 and 4

The International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed on March 17 that the Japanese military carried out four helicopter drops of seawater on reactor unit 3 at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant in an attempt to cool the nuclear fuel. The helicopters dropped 30 metric tons of seawater on facility. Fire trucks are also blasting water at the reactors.

<http://www.iaea.org/newscenter/news/tsunamiupdate01.html>

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-03-17/japan-uses-helicopters-water-cannons-to-quell-meltdown.html>

http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/RS_Attempts_to_refill_fuel_ponds_1703111.html

Update: NRC Chairman Warns that All Cooling Water is Gone at Spent-Fuel Pool at Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Reactor No. 4 in Japan

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) chairman Gregory Jaczko told members of Congress on March 16, that the NRC believes that "there is no water in the spent-fuel pool" at the No. 4 reactor. He indicated that radiation levels at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in Japan could give emergency workers "lethal doses" of radiation "in a very short period of time." However, the chairman also indicated that information on what is happening is very limited. Japanese officials believe that some water remains in the pool based on helicopter observations.

Reuters, 14:42 March 16, 2011

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-16/pools-storing-spent-fuel-may-present-biggest-risk-at-fukushima.html>

<http://www.newser.com/article/d9m0mk600/japan-begins-air-drop-on-stricken-reactor-progress-on-power-line-could-ease-nuke-crisis.html>

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-03-17/japan-uses-helicopters-water-cannons-to-quell-meltdown.html>

http://www.world-nuclear-news.org/RS_Attempts_to_refill_fuel_ponds_1703111.html

Update: New Power Line May Be Close to Restoring Power to Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Plant March 17

Japanese officials stated early March 17 that a new power line may soon be able to revive pumps at the plant, which would allow Tokyo Electric Power to halt rising temperatures and potentially avert a full-scale meltdown. As of latest reports, more than 320 workers are now working at the plant, up from 50 engineers yesterday.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-03-17/japan-uses-helicopters-water-cannons-to-quell-meltdown.html>

<http://www.newser.com/article/d9m0mk600/japan-begins-air-drop-on-stricken-reactor-progress-on-power-line-could-ease-nuke-crisis.html>

Update: Japanese LNG Imports Predicted to Rise Significantly to Make Up for Lost Nuclear Electric Generation: EIA, Bentek Energy LLC

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/Japan/pdf.pdf>

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2011-03-17/natural-gas-futures-surge-most-in-eight-months-on-storage-drop.html>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 17, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	100.95	101.76	82.33
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.86	3.81	4.38

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Substation Failure Knocks Out Power for Three Hours to 11,300 Omaha Public Power District Customers in Nebraska March 16

<http://www.ketv.com/r/27217832/detail.html>

Xcel Energy and SunPower Complete 19 MW Greater Sandhill Solar Power Plant in Alamosa County, Colorado March 17 – the Plant Had Begun to Generate Power on December 22, 2010

<http://investors.sunpowercorp.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=558404>

Propane Leak from Paraco Gas's 500-Gallon Tank Leads to Evacuation of 100 People in Rhinebeck, New York March 15 – The Tank Was Undergoing Maintenance for a Minor Leak when a Valve Froze in an Open Position

<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/article/20110315/NEWS01/110315003/0/NEWS01/Rhinebeck-evacuates-over-100-propane-gas-leak?odyssey=nav|head>

Truck Filled with 8,000 Gallons of Propane Overturns, Tearing Down Power Lines and Prompting the Evacuation of 40 Houses in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania March 15

<http://www.wgal.com/r/27206254/detail.html>

Holly Issued \$62,500 in Potential Fines by OSHA for 14 “Serious” Violations at its Tulsa Refinery in Oklahoma Related to Process Safety Management, Emergency Response Procedures, Ventilation, and Potential Ignition Sources

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=26023

Compressor Vibrations Cause Unit Shutdowns at Dollarhide Gas Plant in Texas March 16

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152066>

Process Upset in Flare Gas Recovery System at Total's Port Arthur Refinery in Texas March 16

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152056>

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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