



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, March 18, 2009

Electricity

Update: Exelon's 1,093 MW Peach Bottom Nuke Unit 3 in Pennsylvania at Full Power by March 18

Operators at the plant reduced the unit on March 16 for a planned control rod pattern adjustment following an outage over the weekend. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 17 the unit was operating at 60 percent.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN1833560120090318>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Update: Entergy's 858 MW Arkansas Nuclear Unit 2 in Arkansas Ramped Up to 73 Percent by March 18

The unit was shut on March 13 when a feed water regulating valve failed. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 17 the unit was operating at 10 percent.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN1833527320090318>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Update: NPPD's 764 MW Cooper Nuke Unit in Nebraska at Full Power by March 18

The unit returned to full power following the repair of a tube leak in a non-nuclear part of the plant. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 17 the unit was operating at 79 percent.

<http://www.forbes.com/feeds/afx/2009/03/12/afx6158582.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

NRC Regulators Praise Safety Improvements at Palo Verde Nuclear Plant in Arizona

The 4,209 MW-rated nuclear plant operated by Arizona Public Service Company has been placed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in Category 4 classification, one level above shutdown, since February 2007 for problems that date to 2003. The recent NRC findings indicate the plant has made notable improvements addressing safety deficiencies.

<http://www.azcentral.com/business/articles/2009/03/17/20090317biz-paloverde0318.html>

<http://www.azstarnet.com/sn/business/284707.php>

NRC Restores TVA's Permit to Finish Building Bellefonte Nuclear Generating Station in Alabama

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced March 13 it has reversed its decision and is reinstating the construction permit for the partially-built 1,256 MW Bellefonte Nuclear Generating Station located in Alabama. A representative with TVA said the decision clears the way to begin an assessment this year on whether the utility should finish original reactors at Bellefonte or build a pair of new generation reactors at the same site. TVA suspended construction at Bellefonte in 1988 when the growth in power demand slowed. The halt came after the agency had invested more than \$4 billion in the plant during the 1970s and 1980s.

http://www.yournuclearnews.com/nrc+restores+permit+to+build+bellefonte+plant_26705.html

<http://www.tva.gov/environment/reports/bellefonte3/>

Horizon Wind Energy Plans 200 MW Meadow Lake Wind Farm in Indiana

Meadow Lake will be comprised of 121 wind turbines for a total of 200 MW. The project is slated to be completed by October 2009.

<http://www.energycurrent.com/index.php?id=3&storyid=16804>

Petroleum

Valero Restarts Catalytic Cracker at its 92,000 b/d Ardmore Oklahoma Refinery March 17

According to a Valero representative, the unit was taken offline on March 11 to repair a compressor, yet work was extended because of an "unforeseen delay."

Bloomberg News, 11:15 March 18, 2009

Ivanhoe Energy's Estimated Oil Sands Resource Increased by 81 Percent at Tamarack Project in Alberta

Ivanhoe Energy's officials announced today that an evaluation performed by independent engineers estimates the company's Tamarack Project in the Athabasca region of Western Canada contains contingent resources of 441 MMbbls of bitumen. This estimate represents an increase of 81 percent over the prior estimate announced in mid-2008. The new estimate would support a project with an capacity of approximately 50,000 b/d for more than 30 years.

http://biz.yahoo.com/cnw/090318/ivanhoe_energy_albrta.html?v=1

Natural Gas

Power Outage Reported at Waha Gas Plant in Texas March 17

According to a filing with state regulators, the power company which services the Waha Gas Plant in Texas had to replace a faulty transformer, which caused a total power outage at the plant. Power was then restored.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=121447>

Other News

Duke Energy's Contract to Buy Mixed-Oxide Fuel from Government Production Plant Allowed to Expire

Duke Energy's contract to buy nuclear fuel made from bomb material has expired, leaving the federal government with a \$4.8 billion fuel-making plant under construction with no customers for its product. The federal government had selected Duke as the only utility to put mixed-oxide (MOX) into regular use, along with conventional fuel, at its Catawba nuclear plant in South Carolina and its McGuire nuclear plant in North Carolina. Under the original contract Duke signed, the federal Savannah River Site in Aiken, South Carolina would begin producing MOX in 2007, yet the production plant is only 15 percent complete with construction to finish in 2017.

<http://www.charlotteobserver.com/business/story/602528.html>

President Obama's Cap-and-Trade Program Could Cost up to \$2 Trillion

According to Senate staffers who were briefed by the White House, President Obama's climate plan which includes the proposed cap-and-trade legislation could cost the industry close to \$2 trillion, yet the figure could not be confirmed.

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2009/mar/18/obama-climate-plan-could-cost-2-trillion/>

U.S. to Consider Imposing Duties on Nations with No Climate-Change Curbing Initiatives

According to a recent statement to the House Science and Technology Committee from Energy Secretary Steven Chu, the U.S. is considering imposing duties on imports from countries that do not try to limit their carbon emissions.

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601103&sid=a12Mcbou_MNA&refer=us

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 18, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	47.94	43.91	107.58
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.78	4.43	9.59

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Approximately 10,000 Ameren Customers without Power in Illinois March 17

http://www.ameren.com/Outage/ADC_IllinoisOutageInformation.asp

PECO Preparing for Spring Maintenance with Fly Over Patrols of its Entire Electric Transmission System in Pennsylvania

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=124298&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1267351&highlight=>

Workers Strike at Total's 345,000 Gonfreville, France Refinery Disrupts Shipments, Union Official Says

Bloomberg News, 11:54 March 18, 2009

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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