



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, March 20, 2013

Electricity

Update: More Than 42,000 Utility Customers in U.S. Southeast Remain Without Power March 20 after Powerful Storms Earlier This Week

Utilities in the U.S. Southeast on Wednesday continued to restore power to customers affected by powerful storms Monday night, when straight-line winds knocked out power to 318,432 utility customers in Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina. As of 2:30 p.m. EST Wednesday, 42,672 customers remained without power, mostly in Alabama. Alabama Power reported more than 1,500 workers from 10 states were assisting its 2,000 employees and crew members to restore power to its remaining affected customers. The utility estimated it would restore most customers by midnight Wednesday, and the remainder in the hardest hit areas by midnight Thursday.

<http://alabamapower.tumblr.com/post/45842834358/wednesday-noon-update>

U.S. Southeast Customer Power Outages			
March 18–20			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Alabama Power	AL	222,432	40,900
Georgia Power	GA	73,000	1,700
GreyStone Power Corporation	GA	9,000	3
Southern Rivers Energy	GA	8,000	69
Aiken Electric Cooperative	SC	6,000	0
TOTAL*		318,432	42,672

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

Sources:

<https://twitter.com/alabamapower>

<http://alabamapower.tumblr.com/post/45842834358/wednesday-noon-update>

<https://twitter.com/GeorgiaPower>

<https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaPower?WT.svl=fb2>

<http://www.outageentry.com/dvosm/dvOSM2.php?Client=GREYS>

<http://southernrivers.outagemap.com>

<http://www.aikenco-op.org/main/index.php>

Update: TVA Shuts 1,155 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 1 in Alabama March 19 Due to Lowering Condenser Vacuum

The Tennessee Valley Association (TVA) reported that on Tuesday morning, operators manually scrambled the Browns Ferry 1 reactor due to lowering main condenser vacuum, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The cause of the loss of vacuum was a significant leak on the 1C feedwater heater level control line. Condenser vacuum recovered following the scram, and all safety functions performed as designed. The reactor had been operating near 95 percent power for several hours due to the 1C3 heater isolating late on March 18. On the morning of March 19 the unit was operating at 90 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130320en.html>

Update: NRC Delays Decision on Post-Fukushima Vent Requirements; Says It Will ‘Broaden’ Analysis of Filtering Strategies

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Tuesday announced it has directed its staff to “follow a two-track approach” for further improvements to systems for safely venting pressure at 31 boiling-water reactors with Mark I and Mark II containments in the United States. The commission issued a Staff Requirements Memorandum that calls for enhancing a March 2012 Order requiring ‘hardened’ venting systems at the reactors, and it also initiated rulemaking activities to produce alternative methods of cooling core debris and retaining radioactive material in conjunction with venting during severe accidents. In January, the NRC staff recommended that filters be installed with the vents, but the nuclear industry has argued that the measure would be too costly. NRC staff have 60 days to finalize the enhanced Order, which will require the vents to handle the elevated pressures, temperatures, and radiation levels from a damaged reactor, and ensure plant personnel can safely operate the vents under these accident conditions. NRC staff have one year to gather more public input, complete their analysis, and produce a technical evaluation to support rulemaking on filtering. The staff must then develop a draft rule and final rule, all by March 2017.

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1307/ML13078A415.pdf>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/19/utilities-nuclear-nrc-idUSL1N0CBF6G20130319?feedType=RSS&feedName=financialsSector&rpc=43>

Petroleum

Chevron Shuts 29,400 b/d Petroleum Products Pipeline After Detecting Spill near Willard Bay, Utah March 18

Chevron Corp. on Monday shut a 29,400 b/d pipeline carrying diesel and jet fuel between its Salt Lake City, Utah refinery and Burley, Idaho after operators discovered a leak in Utah’s Willard Bay State Park. A company spokesman said at about 6:30 p.m. MDT Monday operators noticed a drop in pressure in the pipeline and closed valves to shut the pipeline, later confirming the leak and mobilizing emergency and cleanup crews. The exact volume of the spill was still undetermined Wednesday afternoon, but local officials estimated about 100—150 barrels of fuel spilled. Spilled diesel fuel was contained in a retention pond about a quarter of a mile from Willard Bay.

<http://www.standard.net/stories/2013/03/19/diesel-fuel-spill-contained-willard-bay>

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2013/03/20/us-pipeline-operations-chevron-idUKBRE92I19W20130320>

Phillips 66 to Increase Deliveries of Domestic Crude to Its U.S. Refineries by Rail, Terminaling, and Pipeline

Phillips 66 today announced it will increase deliveries of cost-advantaged North American crude oil to its U.S. refineries under agreements with several logistics providers for rail loading and terminaling services and a pipeline project. Details of the agreements include:

- Enbridge Energy Partners, L.P. subsidiary Enbridge Rail (North Dakota) LLC has agreed to a 3-year deal for railcar loading of Bakken shale crude at Enbridge’s Berthold, North Dakota terminal beginning in May 2013, with volumes ramping up to 35,000 to 40,000 b/d by November. The crude oil will be delivered to Phillips 66 refineries on the West and East Coasts, and the company may also pursue opportunities to send it to its Gulf Coast refineries.
- Targa Resources Partners LP has agreed to provide rail unloading and barge loading services at its Tacoma, Washington terminal for delivery to the Phillips 66 Ferndale, Washington refinery. The facility also allows for delivery into the San Francisco, California refinery, where crude imported from outside of North America could be replaced. Currently, the terminal is capable of receiving manifest rail (individual cars), but as volumes ramp up it will transition to unit train capability this summer. At full volume, the delivery capability is estimated to be approximately 30,000 b/d.
- Magellan Midstream Partners, L.P. has signed an agreement to transport advantaged crude on its pipelines near Phillips 66’s refinery in Ponca City, Oklahoma. The project will replace West Texas Intermediate crude from Cushing, Oklahoma with virgin crude from the nearby Mississippian Lime play. Small volumes are expected to be delivered to the refinery by late 2013, with approximately 20,000 b/d anticipated by the project’s completion date in January 2014.
- Phillips 66 is also investing in its own transportation assets in Oklahoma to transport an additional 40,000 b/d of Mississippian Lime crude to the Ponca City Refinery, and at the refinery to accept crude from the Magellan project.

http://www.phillips66.com/EN/newsroom/news_releases/2013NewsReleases/Pages/03-20-2013.aspx

Update: Chevron Delays CDU Restart Date at Its 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery Until Second Quarter

Chevron Corp. reported last week that the crude distillation unit (CDU) that has been out of service at its Cherry Point refinery since an August 6, 2012 fire is expected to be back in operation in the second quarter. Operators had previously estimated the unit would restart sometime in the first quarter this year.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-03-19/san-francisco-diesel-at-three-week-high-as-valero-repairs-unit.html?cmpid=yhoo>

Update: BP Reports Normal Operations at Its 225,000 b/d Cherry Point, Washington Refinery by March 18 after Weekend Flaring; Reports Sulfur Dioxide Emissions March 19

BP Plc. on Monday said its Cherry Point refinery in Washington was running normally after reporting flaring over the weekend, according to a source familiar with operations. Refinery operators had reported a release of sulfur dioxide to the flare on Sunday due to unknown causes in a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators again reported sulfur dioxide emissions in an incident involving an unspecified unit upset on Tuesday, according to another NRC filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1041274

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1041479

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-03-19/san-francisco-diesel-at-three-week-high-as-valero-repairs-unit.html?cmpid=yhoo>

Natural Gas

Power Supplier's Equipment Problems Cause Plant-Wide Power Failure at Atlas Pipeline's 195 MMcf/d Midkiff Gas Plant in Texas March 19

Atlas Pipeline reported its power provider's equipment problems caused a site-wide power failure at its Midkiff plant on Tuesday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Sharyland Utilities was working with Midkiff operators to restore power at the time of the filing. Emissions related to the incident ended within 8 hours.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=180636>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 20, 2013			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL			
West Texas Intermediate U.S.	92.96	92.14	106.25
\$/Barrel			
NATURAL GAS			
Henry Hub	3.95	3.71	2.14
\$/Million Btu			

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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