



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Electricity Delivery and
Energy Reliability

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday, March 22, 2006

Electricity

Kewaunee Nuclear Plant to Get Follow-up Inspections from the NRC

Although the Nuclear Regulatory Commission concluded that the plant operated safely during 2005, the Commission announced that because there were two safety violations during the year, that the plant had a “moderate degradation in safety performance.” Consequently, the commission plans follow-up inspections in order to more closely monitor the situation. The plant was acquired by Dominion from Wisconsin Public Service Corp in July 2005.

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=409568>

Update: Exelon’s 1,017 MW Clinton Nuclear Plant in Illinois Restarted March 22

Exelon Corp. restarted its Clinton nuclear generating station in Illinois on March 22. The unit tripped automatically on March 20. By early morning on March 22, the unit had ramped up to 16 percent of capacity. Bloomberg, 12:39 March 22, 2006.

Update: Cleco Corp to Begin Construction of 600 MW Plant in Louisiana

Cleco’s board of directors approved the 600 MW \$1 billion project on March 17. That action means that the company will begin construction in April with an estimated completion in 2009. The project has been approved by Louisiana Public Service Commission, and the necessary environmental permits are in place. Plans call for the primary fuel to be petroleum coke.

<http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/060322/20060322005117.html?v=1>
http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/060322/cleco_power_plant.html?v=1

Petroleum

FCC Unit at Citgo’s 165,000 b/d Corpus Christi Refinery Shut for Repairs

Citgo has shut a fluid catalytic cracking unit at its 165,000 b/d refinery in Corpus Christi, Texas, for repairs. According to Bloomberg, traders in the area estimate that the unit will be out of service for two to three days while both planned and unplanned work is performed. Bloomberg, 10:45 March 22, 2006.

ConocoPhillips in Final Phases of Restart of its 247,000 b/d Belle Chasse Refinery in Louisiana

ConocoPhillips announced that it is close to completing the restart of its 247,000 b/d Belle Chasse in Louisiana, shut since it was damaged in August 2005 by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. According to remarks delivered to an industry meeting by the Chairman and CEO, the refinery will be fully operational by the end of this month. Reuters, 14:45 March 21, 2006

Office of Naval Intelligence Analyst: Nigerian Oil Production Situation is Precarious for Foreseeable Future

Speaking at a maritime security conference in Florida, a senior global maritime analyst from the U. S. Office of Naval Intelligence said that Nigeria is no longer able to guarantee security in the oil-producing region of the country and concluded that for the foreseeable future, oil production hangs precariously in the balance.
Reuters, 13:46, March 22, 2006.

Opening of Haradh Field Boosts Saudi Oil Production Capacity 2.7 Percent

The Haradh field adds approximately 330,000 b/d of capacity, boosting the total capacity for Saudi Arabia to 11.33 million b/d.
Bloomberg, 06:46 March 22, 2006.

Natural Gas

NOAA Draft Report Critical of Open-Loop System for Offshore LNG Facilities

A draft report on best practices for offshore LNG terminals submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) criticizes the open-loop approach for revaporizing LNG at offshore LNG facilities. The report states that the approach “substantially increases the impact on the marine environment.”
<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Other News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 22, 2006			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL			
West Texas Intermediate U.S.	60.03	62.11	49.43
\$/Barrel			
NATURAL GAS			
Henry Hub	7.06	7.10	7.11
\$/Million Btu			

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

WOOD Mackenzie Sees Supply Certainty Growing as U.S. Market Grows

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

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 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.

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