



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, March 22, 2010

Electricity

Entergy's 836 MW Arkansas Nuclear Unit 1 in Arkansas Shut by March 22

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 21 the unit was operating at 90 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

LCRA's 615 MW Fayette Power Project Coal-fired Unit 2 in Texas Shut March 18

According to a filing with state regulators, the Lower Colorado River Authority reported unit 2 at its Fayette plant tripped offline due to a control system problem.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=137262>

Reuters, 15:21 March 19, 2010

AES's 498 MW Alamos Gas-fired Unit 5 in California Shut by March 19

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage by March 19.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201003191515.html>

Update: Exelon's 619 MW Oyster Creek Nuke Unit in New Jersey Ramped Up to 90 Percent by March 22

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 21 the unit was operating at 65 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: PSE&G's 1,096 MW Salem Nuke Unit 1 in New Jersey Reduced to 90 Percent by March 22

The unit was slowed to perform unscheduled maintenance on an isolation valve associated with the feed water heaters, a company spokesperson said. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 21 the unit was operating at full power.

Bloomberg News, 11:58 March 22, 2010

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: Exelon's 1,111 MW La Salle Nuke Unit 2 in Illinois at Full Power by March 22

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 21 the unit was operating at 80 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: FPL's 565 MW Duane Arnold Nuke Unit in Iowa Ramped Up to 96 Percent by March 21

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 20 the unit was operating at 65 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: APS's 1,243 MW Palo Verde Nuke Unit 1 in Arizona Ramped Up to 80 Percent by March 22

Arizona Public Service (APS) is returning the unit from an outage on March 7 in which an electrical fault at the plant caused a minor explosion. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 21 the unit was operating at 29 percent.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-03-08/u-s-nuclear-output-falls-as-pinnacle-west-shuts-palo-verde.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20100308en.html>

Update: Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuke Unit 1 in Mississippi at Full Power by March 20

The unit returned to full power after a feed-pump trip on March 8 shut the unit. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 19 the unit was operating at 81 percent.

<http://www.vicksburgpost.com/articles/2010/03/17/news/doc4ba0fd4b3bd8d233329122.txt>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: Reliant's 775 MW Ormond Beach Gas-fired Unit 2 in California Returns to Service by March 20

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

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201003201515.html>

Summer Forecast Poor for Washington State's Hydroelectric Power Facilities due to Weak Water Flow as Snowpack Measured-in at Unusually Low Levels

Two large utilities that serve electric customers throughout Washington State are facing negative summer power predictions as summertime river flow forecasts for the state were announced recently. State officials announced the snowpack or snow volumes that typically contribute to river and stream flow intensity is at unusually low levels, ranging from 70 percent of average across the state, but down to 34 percent of average in other locations. Tacoma Power and Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), both large hydroelectric generating utilities, said the forecast for the summer output looks negative but will be able to meet customer needs. Expectations for revenue deriving from hydroelectric power in 2010 has as a result, been reduced dramatically.

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2010/03/21/1117954/snowpack-pretty-darn-low.html#ixzz0ivqcFIe>

California Announces Above Average Snowpack Levels in Sierra Nevada Area, PG&E Hydroelectric Portfolio in Good Position for Summer Demand

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) recently reported that based on monthly surveys of the snowpack located in the Sierra Nevada area, the water content of the snow is about 110 percent of the statewide average and almost double the amount at the same time last year. PG&E said after three seasons of below-normal predictions, the recently announced figures places their hydroelectric power plants in good position for summer demand as most of the hydroelectric power delivered to their customers comes from a network of infrastructure relying on the storage reservoir for water that is the Sierra Nevada snowpack.

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/2010/03/20/1074645/above-normal-snowpacks-make-for.html>

NRC Allows SCE's San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station in California 'More Time' to Enact Mandatory Security Requirements

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) updated its security requirements in 2009, and ordered all nuclear plants to protect against radiological sabotage by implementing comprehensive site security programs with a March 31, 2010 deadline. San Onofre appealed the deadline and the NRC is allowing the plant to have until October 31 and January 2011 to make separate but required modifications designed to update aging equipments and incorporate state-of-the-art technology.

<http://taxdollars.freedomblogging.com/2010/03/19/san-onofre-gets-more-time-to-ward-off-radiological-sabotage/53499/>

Petroleum

BP Reported Leaking Feed Line at its 410,000 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery March 18

In a report to state regulators, BP reported a leak in a feed line at its refinery in Whiting, Indiana that led to a hydrogen sulfide release.

Bloomberg News, 14:45 March 18, 2010

Second Bomb Threat in One Week Reported at Total's 232,000 Port Arthur, Texas Refinery March 19

Total SA found a suspicious note at its Port Arthur refinery and construed it as a bomb threat, with an investigation ongoing. Local emergency management officials report the note was very ambiguous and does not guarantee it was a bomb threat. Total SA company officials report this is the second bomb threat posed at the refinery in one week.

Bloomberg News, 16:27 March 19, 2010

Update: Unidentified Units Restarting at Tesoro's 120,000 b/d Anacortes, Washington Refinery March 19

The company said March 19 it is restarting unidentified units at its Anacortes refinery which had been shut due to a steam boiler outage on March 17. The company predicted the units would be operating again within two days.

Reuters, 15:59 March 19, 2010

Substation Fire Shuts Isomax Unit at Chevron's 260,000 b/d El Segundo, California Refinery March 19

A Chevron company spokesperson said a fire at an on-site substation caused the isomax unit at its El Segundo refinery to shut down. The company says the isomax unit is also called a hydrocracker at other refineries, and the unit is designed to crack heavy crude oil into jet fuel. The El Segundo refinery provides about 40 percent of the jet fuel to Los Angeles International Airport.

Bloomberg News, 21:31 March 19, 2010

Reuters, 19:04 March 19, 2010

http://www.chevron.com/products/sitelets/elsegundo/about/what_we_do.aspx

Natural Gas

Enbridge Announces Plans to Hold Open Season for Proposed Natural Gas Liquids Pipeline from the Marcellus Shale to Midwest Markets

The company announced March 22 it intends to develop a natural gas liquids (NGL) pipeline from the Marcellus Shale in Southern Pennsylvania and Northern West Virginia to markets in the Midwest. The proposed pipeline is currently targeted to deliver into existing NGL infrastructure in the Chicago, Illinois and an open season for the project is expected to launch second quarter of 2010.

<http://cnrp.ccnmatthews.com/client/enbridge/releaseen.jsp?actionFor=1135345>

Number of Natural Gas Drilling Rigs Operating in U.S. Climbed to a 13-Month High of 970 Total, Baker Hughes Reports

International energy consultants, Baker Hughes, released data last week reporting the number of rigs drilling for natural gas in the U.S. increased by 12 the week of March 15 to a total of 970, marking a 13-month high.

Reuters, 14:25 March 19, 2010

Other News

Georgia Port Authority Captain of the Port Shuts Down Savannah River Following Oil Spill March 21

According to the Coast Guard, a vessel named Liberty spilled an estimated 7,000 gallons of diesel fuel into the Savannah River the morning of March 21, prompting the captain of the port to close the river to vessel traffic. A unified command has responded to the spill and it is currently contained.

http://www2.wsav.com/sav/news/local/article/clean_up_continues_on_savannah_river_following_fuel_spill/107939/
<http://savannahnow.com/news/2010-03-22/oil-spill-shuts-down-savannah-river>

Illinois River Closed for One Mile Due to Towing Vessel Colliding with Florence Highway Bridge

The U.S. Coast Guard closed the River from Mile Marker 55.5 to 56.5 on Saturday. The collision took place on Monday March 15. Salvage operations of the towing vessel are underway. Currently the vessel queue is 22 vessels with 232 barges.

<http://www.piersystem.com/go/doc/425/502075/>

Captain of the Port of New Orleans Announces Intermittent Closures of Gulf Intracoastal Waterway for Nine Weeks Beginning April 7

Captain of the Port of New Orleans announced today that beginning April 7 and continuing for a period of nine weeks, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will begin late afternoon and evening closure of the IHNC Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) for 14.5 hours a day to complete installation of foundation pilings for future GIWW sector Gate. The channel will be closed to all marine traffic during the set hours. Exceptions can be made.

www.uscg.mil/

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 22, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	80.86	79.67	51.68
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.01	4.35	3.68

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

No Equipment Damage Reported at Houston Refining's 270,600 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery Following a Blown Rupture Disc March 21

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=137291>

Valve Leak Reported at Flint Hills Resources' 287,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery March 20 – Event Lasts Less than One Hour

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=137284>

DOE and EPA Announce Expansion of Testing Program for Energy Star Appliances – Agencies Say Energy Star Brand Requirements will be Stricter

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews.aspx?xmlpath=RSSFeed/HeadlineNews/ElectricPower/6882826.xml>

Shell and Nexen Announce Discovery of ‘At Least’ 100 Million Bbls of Oil in Appomattox Prospect in the Mississippi Canyon of Gulf of Mexico

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703580904575131424144242114.html?mod=dist_smartbrief
http://www.shell.com/home/content/investor/news_and_library/press_releases/2010/eastern_gulf_mexico_portfolio_19032010.html

OPEC Energy Ministers Called for Tougher Rules on Speculation in Oil and Commodity Markets at UN Commodities Forum March 22

Reuters, March 22, 2010

Update: Mexico Reopens One of its Three Main Crude Oil Exports March 22 Following Closure Linked to Bad Weather

Reuters, 12:15 March 22, 2010

Three National Nigerian Petroleum Company (NNPC) Workers Killed in Niger Delta Region by Armed Robbers March 220

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKLDE62LIYS20100322>

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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Please direct comments and questions to: ead@oe.netl.doe.gov