



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, March 23, 2010

Electricity

DTE's 1,089 MW Fermi Nuke Unit 2 in Michigan Reduced to 50 Percent by March 23

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 22 the unit was operating at full power. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Multiple Companies' 346 MW Antelope Qfs Wind Farm in California Reduced by March 22

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 106 MW by March 22.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201003221515.html>

SMUD's 102 MW Solano Wind Farm in California Shut by March 22

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage by March 22. The wind farm currently has 52 wind turbine generators, according to the SMUD.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201003221515.html>

http://www.co.solano.ca.us/BOSAgenda/MG25999/AS26062/AS26064/AS26065/AI27246/DO28077/DO_28077.PDF

Update: APS's 1,243 MW Palo Verde Nuke Unit 1 in Arizona Ramped Up to 89 Percent by March 23

An electric fault led to a minor explosion, causing damage to bus work and forcing offline the unit late on March 7, the company said in a previous filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that on the morning of March 22 the unit was operating at 80 percent.

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

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Entergy's 966 MW River Bend Nuke Unit 1 in Louisiana at Full Power by March 23

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 22 the unit was operating at 89 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Constellation's 825 MW Calvert Cliffs Nuke Unit 1 in Maryland Ramped Up to 15 Percent by March 23

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 22 the unit was not operating.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Southern's 856 MW Hatch Nuke Unit 1 in Georgia Ramped Up to 47 Percent by March 23

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 22 the unit was operating at 21 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Reliant's 741 MW Ormond Beach Gas-fired Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by March 22

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage.
<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201003221515.html>

AEP to Restart 558 MW Welsh Coal-fired Unit 1 in Texas March 22-25

American Electric Power (AEP) expected to shut and restart the unit from March 22-25 as it performed "maintenance on the boiler feed pump recirculation regulator," it said in filings with state regulators.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=137329>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=137323>

NRC Investigating Mid-February Pump Failure at OPPD's 502 MW Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant in Nebraska

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) began a special inspection yesterday "to review the circumstances surrounding the failure of an auxiliary feedwater pump" in mid-February, it said in a news release. The failure occurred during testing on February 17; it was the third such malfunction over the prior twelve months. Operators restarted the pump, but the NRC decided to investigate, citing the "repeat nature of the problem."

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2010/10-011.iv.html>

TVA to Fill Waste Storage Capacity by 2028 at Nuclear Power Facilities in Alabama and Tennessee

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is storing 3,013 metric tons, combined, of highly radioactive nuclear waste at three nuclear power plants in Alabama and Tennessee—its 3,494 MW Browns Ferry plant in Alabama, its 2,441 MW Sequoyah facility in Tennessee, and its 1,270 MW Watts Bar site in Tennessee—and that figure could double by 2050, if the United States fails to provide an alternative storage site, according to a news source. Watts Bar will run out of storage space in 2015 (or 2020, pending a storage rack adjustment), followed by Browns Ferry in 2018, and Sequoyah in 2028, a TVA spokesman said.

<http://www.timesfreepress.com/news/2010/mar/22/nuclear-waste-piling-up-in-region/?local>

Update: Sithe Global Power Plans 800 MW Gas-and-Solar-Based Power Plant in Nevada, Instead of Previously-Proposed Coal-fired Facility

The "Toquop Energy Project" would include 700 MW of gas-fired capacity and 100 MW of solar-based power, Sithe Global Power said. The company originally planned to construct a 1,100 MW gas-fired power facility, but later—citing price concerns—proposed to instead build a coal-fired plant. Locals and environmentalists, however, objected to the coal project, and Sithe decided to pursue the gas-and-solar-based site. The company expects to begin construction in 2011, open the solar-derived section in 2012, and launch the gas-fired portion in 2015.

<http://www.lvrj.com/business/sithe-to-use-solar--natural-gas-for-mesquite-power-plant-88851337.html>

CL&P Plans 345-kV, 35-mile GSRP Transmission Line in Connecticut and Massachusetts

Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) plans to construct 12 miles of 345-kV transmission line between North Bloomfield and Suffield, Connecticut, and another 23 miles of 345-kV line in Massachusetts, the company said in a release. The project, or "Greater Springfield Reliability Project" (GSRP), would include 115-kV transmission system upgrades in Massachusetts.

<http://nuwnotes1.nu.com/apps/mediarelease/clp-pr.nsf/0/F3C732A37CAD5FE6852576EE00536F71?OpenDocument>

Pattern Energy Plans 138 MW St. Joseph Windfarm in Manitoba, Canada

A project affiliate has already begun construction, and Pattern Energy expects to open the facility by late 2010, according to a news release.

http://www.patternenergy.com/press_releases/2010-0321-PSR-StJoseph-Final.pdf

Centerpoint Energy, Oncor, AEP and Others Launch Smart Meter Texas Portal by March 23

The Smart Meter Texas common portal and data repository allows consumers to "view their electric usage history down to 15-minute intervals," according to a news release.

<http://www.centerpointenergy.com/newsroom/newsreleases/fb38de0007687210VgnVCM10000026a10d0aRCRD/>

United States Could Have 1 Million Plug-in Electric Vehicles in 10 Years—IRC

The U.S. automotive fleet could include one million plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) in 10 years, and power companies need new tools to manage that growth, the ISO/RTO Council (IRC) says in a study. The IRC, a group of U.S. and Canadian power grid operators, expects more than 684,000 of those PEVs to operate within its service areas. If every PEV charged simultaneously, that could add electric load of 3,785 MW. Staggered charging, however, would reduce the impact.

<http://www.isorto.org/site/apps/nlnet/content2.aspx?c=jhKOIZPBImE&b=2613997&ct=8107539¬oc=1>

Petroleum

BP to Restart Ultraformer at 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery March 23-27

The company expected to restart the unit from early this morning, March 23, until early on March 27, it said in a filing with state regulators. The filing did not say when or why the unit went offline.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=137347>

Canada Exporting More Heavy Crude to U.S. Gulf Coast amid Lagging Mexican Production, Waning Alternatives

Canada plans to export more oil sands-derived heavy crude to refiners along the U.S. Gulf Coast, according to a news source, as deliveries slow from more-traditional sources. Canada accounted for just 2.2 percent of the Gulf Coast's refining inputs in 2009, but producers expect that number to rise amid waning Mexican output and reduced deliveries from Venezuela and Saudi Arabia.

DJN, 10:10 March 23, 2010

Update: Cairn Says Rajasthan, India Oilfields Could Yield up to 240,000 b/d of Oil

Cairn Energy PLC plans to produce 125,000 b/d at its Rajasthan, India oilfields by the second half of 2010, and expects the fields to eventually yield as much as 240,000 b/d, it said on March 23. The 240,000 b/d figure marks a 65,000 b/d jump from the company's previous estimate.

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704896104575139113268171500.html?mod=WSJ_business_MoreArticles

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/International-Business/Cairn-ups-reserves-output-goal-shares-rise/articleshow/5715934.cms>

Natural Gas

Icon NGS Plans up to 45 Bcf of Natural Gas Storage Capacity in Northern Louisiana

Icon NGS plans to install up to 45 Bcf of natural gas storage capacity in Northern Louisiana via its newly-acquired "Fort Necessity" natural gas storage project in Franklin Parish, Louisiana, and a separate storage facility on and around the South Tallulah Dome in Madison Parish, Louisiana, it said in a news release. The company plans to open Fort Necessity's first cavern in the third quarter of 2012, and the South Tallulah storage site in 2013. The Fort Necessity project, based on a previous federal approval, would include 15 Bcf of working gas capacity, interconnections with multiple pipelines, withdrawal rates of up to 1.5 Bcf/d, and injection rates of up to 500 MMcf/d. It is not clear, based on Icon NGS' news release, whether the South Tallulah project would make up the remaining 30 Bcf of planned capacity, or if the company expects to construct additional caverns at the Fort Necessity site.

[http://icon-ngs.com/images/UserFiles/file/FTN%20Tallulah%20Press%20Release%203_22_2010%20\(2\).pdf](http://icon-ngs.com/images/UserFiles/file/FTN%20Tallulah%20Press%20Release%203_22_2010%20(2).pdf)

Other News

Update: Governor Signs Law Requiring Colorado to Derive 30 Percent of Its Electricity from Renewable Sources by 2020

The legislation also calls for 3 percent of the standard to be met by local solar power, Colorado Governor Bill Ritter said in a release.

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite?c=Page&childpagename=GovRitter%2FGOVRLayout&cid=1251573387639&pagename=GOVRWrapper>

Virent Energy Systems, Shell Begin Converting Plant Sugars to Gasoline and Gasoline Blend Components at 10,000 Gallons/Year, Demonstration-Sized Facility in Wisconsin

What is significant about this plant is that it is not fermenting the sugars into alcohol (i.e., ethanol), but directly into gasoline and blending components which can be moved in current petroleum product pipelines.

<http://www.virent.com/News/press/03-23->

[10_Virent_and_Shell_Start_Worlds_First_Biogasoline_Demonstration_Plant.pdf](#)

Update: Twenty-Four Vessels Waiting to Pass after Weekend Barge Accident along Illinois River March 23

The Illinois River remained shut between mile markers 55.5 and 56.5, as of March 23, after a weekend barge accident, the U.S. Coast Guard said. Twenty-four barge-towing vessels were waiting to pass through the shuttered segment, as of latest reports. That marked a two-vessel increase from yesterday. The affected ships were carrying petroleum, ethanol, gasoil, among other products, according to a Coast Guard source.

Bloomberg News, 09:30 March 23, 2010

Fiber Optic Systems Technology Installs Sensing Systems along Two Oil-and-Gas Pipelines in Alberta, Canada and on Oil Refinery in South America

<http://www.stockhouse.com/News/USReleasesDetail.aspx?n=7673479>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 23, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	81.44	81.61	52.65
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.02	4.29	3.99

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Small Modular Reactors Could "Significantly Expand the Options for Nuclear Power and its Applications"—Energy Secretary Chu

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704231304575092130239999278.html?mod=WSJ_Opinion_LEFT_Second

Duke to Install 250 MW of Wind Turbines in United States during 2010

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-03-22/wind-energy-investment-of-65-billion-may-curb-carbon-update1-.html>

NRC to Meet With Southern Co., Discuss Performance At Company's 1,776 MW Farley Nuclear Power Plant in Alabama—Agency Says Facility Met Safety Objectives during 2009

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2010/10-009.ii.html>

NRC Plans Open House to Discuss 2009 Safety Performance at Constellation's 1,901 MW Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Facility and Entergy's 882 MW James A. Fitzpatrick Nuclear Plant March 25

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2010/10-008.i.html>

Update: Buena Vista Biomass Power Postpones Plans for 18 MW Biomass-based Power Plant in California as County Prepares Environmental Impact Report—Site Will Enter Service in January 2011, at the Earliest

<http://www.bv-biomass.com/>

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100323/A_NEWS/3230317/-1/a_news14

DEP Reports 4,055-Gallon Oil-Based Asphalt Emulsion Spill at Marathon's Floreffe Tank Farm in Jefferson Hills, Pennsylvania March 22

<http://www.post-gazette.com/pg/10082/1044875-55.stm>

Iraq Seeks to Increase Oil Output by 500,000 b/d, to Total 3 Million b/d, By End of 2011—Oil Minister

<http://www.energyintel.com/#latest>

Range Energy's Partly-Controlled Khalakan Block in Kurdistan, Iraq Contains "Best Estimate" 1.642 Billion Barrels of Oil in Place

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=89876

Explosion Injures Two Workers at Natural Gas Well in Wise County, Texas March 19

<http://www.star-telegram.com/2010/03/19/2053649/2-workers-burned-in-explosion.html>

Mesa Energy Holdings' Acreage in Wyoming County, New York Contains About 106 Bcf of Potential Recoverable Natural Gas

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=89830

Ice Slows Vessels on St. Clair River between Michigan and Ontario, Canada by March 23—Multiple Refiners Report no Affect to Production

Bloomberg News, 09:13 March 23, 2010

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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