



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, March 24, 2010

## *Electricity*

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### **Snow, Winds Knock Out Power to More than 57,000 Customers in Colorado March 23-24**

Heavy snow and wind disrupted travel, downed tree branches, and cut power to about 36,400 Xcel Energy customers and 20,732 Black Hills Energy customers in Colorado on March 23-24, a news source said. Xcel had restored power to all but 7,500 customers and Black Hills had returned service to all but 986, as of latest reports.

<http://www.blackhillsenergy.com/eoc/mainoutage.do>

<http://www.thestate.com/2010/03/24/1214287/denver-storm-cancels-flights-leads.html>

<http://www.krdo.com/Global/story.asp?S=12193907>

### **Substation Equipment Failure Cuts Power to about 40,000 PG&E Customers in California March 22**

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) restored service to all affected customers within about two hours, a spokeswoman said.

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/22915612/detail.html>

### **Calpine's 751 MW Pastoria Gas-fired Unit in California Reduced by March 23**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 281 MW by March 23.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201003231515.html>

### **Update: Multiple Companies' 346 MW Antelope Wind Farm in California Ramps up by March 23**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned curtailment of 106 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201003231515.html>

### **APS Declares 'Unusual Event' after Unidentified Leakage at 1,403 MW Palo Verde Nuke Unit 1 in Arizona March 22**

Operators identified a rising level and temperature trend in the Reactor Drain Tank (RDT) on March 22, and declared an "unusual event" due to an unidentified leakage of greater than 10 gallons per minute, the company said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The company lifted the unusual event by March 23. The incident occurred within the containment building and did not, consequently, pose any threat to the public.

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

### **Update: Tests Reveal 12 Cracked Nozzles at FirstEnergy's 980 MW Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Plant in Ohio March 21**

The nozzles are "corrosion-resistant alloy steel tubes" that enable workers to "adjust the nuclear fission by moving control rods into and out of the reactor core," a previous news source said. FirstEnergy discovered the cracks and shut the unit nearly one month ago. It expects to begin repairs in about a week, but it is unclear how long the unit will remain offline.

[http://www.cleveland.com/business/index.ssf/2010/03/cracks\\_found\\_in\\_critical\\_react.html](http://www.cleveland.com/business/index.ssf/2010/03/cracks_found_in_critical_react.html)

<http://www.ohio.com/business/87712397.html>

<http://toledoblade.com/article/20100323/NEWS16/100329913/-1/NEWS24>

<http://abclocal.go.com/wtv/story?section=news/local&id=7346284>

## **Companies Plan up to 483 MW of New Wind Power in Ohio**

Three companies— Hardin Wind Energy, LLC, Buckeye Wind, and JW Great Lakes Wind, LLC—received approval from the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) to construct up to 483 MW of new wind power, combined, the OPSB said in multiple news release. The projects include:

- Hardin Wind Energy's plans to construct an approximately 300 MW wind farm in Hardin County. The company expects to break ground in mid-2010 and open the project in two phases.
- Buckeye Wind's proposal to install more than 50 wind turbines, and generate up to 135 MW of electricity. The company plans to begin construction later in 2010 and open the site by the end of 2011.
- JW Great Lakes Wind, LLC's bid to build as many as 27 wind turbines, and produce about 48 MW of power. The company expects to break ground in 2010 and begin production in mid-2011.

<http://www.opsb.ohio.gov/opsb/mediaroom/mediarelease.cfm?id=4353>

<http://www.opsb.ohio.gov/opsb/mediaroom/mediarelease.cfm?id=4354>

<http://www.opsb.ohio.gov/opsb/mediaroom/mediarelease.cfm?id=4355>

## **Petroleum**

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### **U.S. Crude Oil Imports Rise 1.2 Million b/d, Week-Over-Week, in Seven Days Through March 19**

The American Petroleum Institute (API) credits weather conditions and postponed refinery shipments for the jump in imports, which triggered a 7.5 million barrel increase in U.S. crude oil stocks. An API representative said it is also possible that the severe weather seen in February from the Northeast down to the Gulf Coast had an impact in the crude stock build.

<http://imarketnews.com/node/10777>

### **Update: Chevron Resumes Normal Operations after Isomax Unit Shutdown at 260,000 b/d El Segundo, California Refinery March 19-24**

A fire at an on-site substation forced the isomax unit offline on March 19, a spokesperson said previously. The company resolved the issue quickly, and the facility returned to normal operations, according to a spokesman. The El Segundo refinery provides about 40 percent of the jet fuel to the Los Angeles International Airport.

[http://www.chevron.com/products/sitelets/elsegundo/about/what\\_we\\_do.aspx](http://www.chevron.com/products/sitelets/elsegundo/about/what_we_do.aspx)

Reuters, 11:51 March 24, 2010

Bloomberg News, 21:31 March 19, 2010

Reuters, 19:04 March 19, 2010

### **ExxonMobil Reports Coker Snag at 238,600 b/d Joliet, Illinois Refinery March 22**

The issue was related to a de-butanizer coker, the company said in a filing with state regulators. It was not clear if the incident had any impact to production.

Bloomberg News, 15:51 March 23, 2010

### **Yemeni Navy Thwarts Somali Pirates' Attempt to Capture Oil Tanker Offshore Yemen March 24**

The Yemeni oil tanker was en route from southeast Yemen to the port of Aden, to the southwest, at the time of the incident, a news source said.

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90001/90777/90854/6929522.html>

### **Saudi Forces Arrest 101 Terror Suspects, Including 12 al-Qaeda Cell Members—Suspects Were Plotting Attacks on Energy Infrastructure, Officials Say**

The suspects were planning to attack energy installations and military locations in Saudi Arabia's eastern, oil-producing region, officials said on March 24.

Bloomberg News, 11:05 March 24, 2010

### **CIG Declares Force Majeure Due to Unplanned Shutdown of Cheyenne Plains Jumper Compressor Station in Wyoming March 25-31**

Colorado Interstate Gas Company (CIG) plans to shut its Cheyenne Plains Jumper Compressor Station tomorrow, March 25 through March 31, as it repairs “a bent compressor crankshaft,” it said in a notice. The company expects the shutdown to reduce throughput at its Red Cloud Meter Station (RCD) from 255 MMcf/d to 85 MMcf/d, and at its High Pressure Pool constraint from 426 MMcf/d to 256 MMcf/d. The RCD’s current subscribed capacity is 139.8 MMcf/d.

<http://ebb.cigco.com/ebbCIG/Notices/NoticeView.asp?sPipelineCode=CIG&sSubCategory=Critical&sNoticeId=8018>

## **Other News**

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### **Update: EPA Proposes to Collect Emissions Data from Oil & Gas, CO2 Storage Industries**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposes to collect emissions data from the oil and natural gas sector, industries that emit fluorinated gases, and from facilities that inject and store carbon dioxide (CO2) underground for the purposes of geologic sequestration or enhanced oil and gas recovery, the agency said in a March 23 release. Those sectors would be in addition to the 31 industries already bound by recently finalized EPA mandates. The newly covered sectors would begin collecting emissions data on January 1, 2011, and submit first annual reports to the EPA on March 31, 2012. Methane, according to the EPA, is the primary greenhouse gas emitted from oil and natural gas systems, and is more than 20 times as potent as CO2 at warming the atmosphere. Fluorinated gases are even stronger and can stay in the atmosphere for thousands of years, the EPA says.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/8d717a8525394687852576ef00595ffc!OpenDocument>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/24/science/earth/24epa.html>

### **Update: White Energy Resumes Full Production at 110 MMGal/Yr Plainview BioEnergy Ethanol Plant in Texas**

The facility shut in early 2009 after its owner, White Energy, declared bankruptcy. The company restarted production in October 2009, and had returned to full rates, as of March 20, a news source said. The site had previously processed only corn, but now processes both corn and milo.

<http://www.myplainview.com/articles/2010/03/20/agriculture/doc4ba50c91a6966132581197.txt>

### **Update: State Land Board Okays Arch Coal’s Bid to Lease 570 Million Ton Coal Deposit in Otter Creek Valley, Montana March 18**

Arch Coal has 10 years to develop a mine, under the terms of the lease.

[http://www.missoulian.com/news/local/article\\_3fc5a006-32b4-11df-8cc5-001cc4c002e0.html](http://www.missoulian.com/news/local/article_3fc5a006-32b4-11df-8cc5-001cc4c002e0.html)

## **Energy Prices**

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices March 24, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	80.44	82.33	52.25
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	4.08	4.38	4.17

Source: Reuters

**Equipment Malfunction Briefly Cuts Power to More than 16,000 Flathead Electric Customers in Montana March 23**

<http://www.keci.com/Two-Power-Outages-in-the-Flathead-in-as-Many-Days/6641925>

**City of St. George, Utah Plans Early-May Start-Date for 40-Plus MW Expansion at Existing 40 MW Gas-fired Millcreek Generation Facility**

<http://www.thespectrum.com/article/20100324/NEWS01/3240326>

**State Siting Board Approves American Transmission Systems, Inc.'s Plans to Construct 138-kV, 10-mile Transmission Line in Ohio March 22**

<http://www.opsb.ohio.gov/opsb/mediaroom/mediarelease.cfm?id=4356>

**Thieves Take about 4,000 Pounds of Copper Wire from National Grid Facility in North Andover, Massachusetts March 17**

[http://www.eagletribune.com/punews/local\\_story\\_081212204.html](http://www.eagletribune.com/punews/local_story_081212204.html)

**Fuel Tanker Overturns, Spills As Much as 7,000 Gallons of Diesel in Pennsylvania March 24**

[http://www.timesonline.com/bct\\_news/news\\_details/article/1373/2010/march/24/wpa-tanker-crash-spills-diesel-driver-injured.html](http://www.timesonline.com/bct_news/news_details/article/1373/2010/march/24/wpa-tanker-crash-spills-diesel-driver-injured.html)

**Update: PBF May Purchase Valero's 210,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery and Reopen Site as Import Terminal, Prior to Any Refining Restart**

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20100324/BUSINESS/3240345/New-plan-for-Delaware-City-refinery>

**Update: Bankruptcy Judge Okays Alon-Subsidiary Purchase of Flying J's 66,000 b/d Big West Refinery in Bakersfield, California March 23**

<http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/3972688>

**BP-Husky Refining Receives State Siting Board Okay to Construct Substation Alongside 131,000 b/d Toledo, Ohio Refinery—Company Expects to Open Facility by May 2011**

<http://www.opsb.ohio.gov/opsb/mediaroom/mediarelease.cfm?id=4352>

**Colombian Army Rescues Five Occidental Petroleum Workers after March 19 Kidnappings**

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-colombia-kidnap24-2010mar24,0,7795398.story>

**BP to Enhance Data Capability, Boost Oil Output by 100,000 b/d by 2017**

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=89904](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=89904)

**Petrobras Begins 10,000 b/d Production at Tiro and Sidon Oil Sites Offshore Brazil by March 23**

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=89883](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=89883)

**Ecosse Energy's Indonesian Acreage Contains "Best Estimate Ultimate Recoverable Oil in Place" of 206 Million Barrels, or 87 Percent Higher than Previous Estimate**

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=89902](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=89902)

**Sandhills Natural Gas Plant Shuts, Restarts in Texas March 23**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=137412>

## Operators to Replace Cracked Channel Head and Refractory at Slaughter Natural Gas Processing Plant in Texas March 23-April 14

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=137400>

### Links

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***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](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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