



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

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, March 25, 2010

## ***Electricity***

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### **Entergy's 730 MW Palisades Nuke Unit in Michigan Reduced to 80 Percent by March 25**

Operators reduced the unit to fix valves, a site spokesman said. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 24 the unit was operating at 97 percent.

[http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2010/03/entergy\\_corp\\_slows\\_palisades\\_r.html](http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2010/03/entergy_corp_slows_palisades_r.html)

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

### **Mirant's 337 MW Contra Costa Gas-fired Unit 7 in California Shut by March 24**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage by March 24.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201003241515.html>

### **Duke Energy's 150 MW Southbay Gas-fired Unit 2 in California Shut by March 24**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage by March 24.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201003241515.html>

### **Update: Southern's 856 MW Hatch Nuke Unit 1 in Georgia Ramped Up to 63 Percent by March 25**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 24 the unit was operating at 43 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

### **Update: AES's 498 MW Alamos Gas-fired Unit 5 in California Returns to Service by March 24**

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

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201003241515.html>

### **Update: We Energies to Commission 145 MW Glacier Hills Wind Farm in Wisconsin by End of 2011**

The company ordered 81 V90 1.8 MW wind turbines for the facility, a project supplier said in a release.

[http://www.evwind.es/noticias.php?id\\_not=4881](http://www.evwind.es/noticias.php?id_not=4881)

### **Nuclear Power Cheaper than Coal- and Gas-fired Power under Certain Conditions—IEA**

The economic feasibility of nuclear power varies with the cost of borrowing and the cost of carbon, the International Energy Agency said on March 25. When it is inexpensive to borrow money, and carbon prices are about \$30 per metric ton, nuclear power is cheaper than electricity derived from coal or natural gas. Conversely, when borrowing costs rise, coal- and gas-fired power becomes more competitive.

[http://www.iea.org/press/pressdetail.asp?PRESS\\_REL\\_ID=298](http://www.iea.org/press/pressdetail.asp?PRESS_REL_ID=298)

<http://www.nasdaq.com/aspx/stock-market-news-story.aspx?storyid=201003250832dowjonesdjonline000490&title=nuclear-power-cheaper-than-coal-when-finance-costs-low-iea>

### **Update: Marathon's Recently Expanded 436,000 b/d Garyville, Louisiana Refinery Ramps up to Full Capacity by Mid-March**

Marathon expanded the refinery's capacity from 256,000 b/d to 436,000 b/d. It completed the work in late 2009, and ramped the facility up to full capacity by mid-March, the company said. The site might eventually operate in excess of its stated capacity, according to a company official. That could make the refinery the nation's third-largest, ahead of BP's 455,790 b/d Texas City, Texas facility.

Bloomberg News, 12:19 March 25, 2010

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSWEN213020100325?type=marketsNews>

### **Update: Alon to Purchase Flying J's 66,000 b/d Big West Refinery in Bakersfield, California but will Not Operate the Facility at Full Capacity**

Alon plans to purchase Flying J's 66,000 b/d Big West refinery in Bakersfield, California, but does not expect to operate the facility at full capacity, its CEO said on March 24. Instead, Alon aims to deliver gasoil to the Big West refinery from a separate, company-owned refinery—the 53,000 Paramount, California facility—and then convert that gasoil, primarily, into gasoline and diesel. The Big West site shut about 16 months ago after its current owner, Flying J, declared bankruptcy. A bankruptcy judge approved Alon's planned purchase on March 24, but the deal is not yet final.

Bloomberg News, 09:05 March 25, 2010

<http://www.bakersfield.com/news/business/economy/x449497188/Californian-exclusive-Alon-plans-to-downsize-Big-West-refinery-process-no-more-crude-oil>

### **LUKoil Abandons Work on 2 Billion Barrel Anaran Oilfield in Iran Citing U.S. Sanctions**

LUKoil said on March 24 that it stopped further work on the project due to economic sanctions imposed by the U.S. government, which caused the company to lose \$63 million in 2009. It might return to the field "under more favourable economic" conditions.

<http://beta.thehindu.com/news/international/article303757.ece>

### **Iraqi Kurds to Boost Oil Export Capacity to 200,000-250,000 b/d by End of 2010**

The 200,000-250,000 b/d range would be more than twice the region's current export capacity, according to the Kurdish Regional Government's Natural Resource Minister. The Kurds also plan to construct a 1 million b/d pipeline, the official said. The line would connect with Iraq's existing northern export pipeline, and enter service by 2014. The autonomous region is not exporting any oil, at present due to a payment dispute with the national government.

<http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=iraqi-kurds-plan-to-double-oil-export-capacity-2010-03-25>

## **Natural Gas**

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### **Low Carbon Prices, Renewable Development and Energy Efficiency Measures to Stunt U.S. Natural Gas Demand Growth—Brattle Group**

Growth in natural gas demand "may not necessarily be forthcoming despite its environmental and commercial advantages," the Brattle Group says in a report. Lower carbon prices, growth in renewable-based power supply and "continuing growth in conservation and energy efficiency programs" should prevent a "boom in natural gas demand," according to the group.

<http://www.brattle.com/documents/UploadLibrary/Upload838.pdf>

## **Other News**

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### **Study Sees 1 Billion Gallons of Camelina Biofuel by 2025**

Producers will generate 1 billion gallons of Camelina biofuel for the aviation and biodiesel industries by 2025, Biomass Advisors forecast on March 25. Camelina sativa, according to the group, "is a non-food, low-input energy crop that can be grown as a rotation crop in place of summer fallow."

<http://www.pnewswire.com/news-releases/one-billion-gallons-in-camelina-biofuel-by-2025-89105252.html>

## Evidence Suggests Unknown Foreign Entities Have Probed Power Grid Networks—CSIS

There is evidence that unknown foreign entities have probed the computer networks of the power grid," but it appears unlikely "that foreign powers have left behind some kind of cyber time bomb that could be triggered at some later date," according to a paper from the Center for Strategic and International Studies. To read the paper, click on the first link below.

[http://csis.org/files/publication/100322\\_ElectricalGridAsATargetforCyberAttack.pdf](http://csis.org/files/publication/100322_ElectricalGridAsATargetforCyberAttack.pdf)

<http://www.fierceregovernmentit.com/story/u-s-electrical-grid-probed-not-yet-attacked-says-paper/2010-03-24>

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 25, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	81.05	82.07	52.60
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	4.02	4.27	4.13

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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### Update: Entergy Identifies and Stops Source of Tritium Leakage at 563 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant by March 25

[http://www.entergy.com/news\\_room/newsrelease.aspx?NR\\_ID=1721](http://www.entergy.com/news_room/newsrelease.aspx?NR_ID=1721)

### Police Say Man Fired Gun at Electric Transformer in Lake Placid, Florida March 21—Incident Cut Power to Nearly 1,500 Residents

<http://www2.highlandstoday.com/content/2010/mar/24/la-man-charged-with-firing-at-transformer/>

### Crude-Carrying Tanker Truck Overtums, Spills Unspecified Quantity of Oil onto Highway in Wyoming March 24

[http://www.timescall.com/news\\_story.asp?ID=21385](http://www.timescall.com/news_story.asp?ID=21385)

### Local, State and Federal Agencies Participate in Oil Spill Drill along Northeast U.S. Coast March 25

[http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100325/GJNEWS\\_01/703259641](http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100325/GJNEWS_01/703259641)

### Underground Natural Gas Leak Forces Local Evacuations in North Ridgeville, Ohio by March 23

<http://chronicle.northcoastnow.com/2010/03/23/large-bubbling-gas-leak-shut-lorain-road-forced-10-people-from-homes-overnight/>

## 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**

*Energy Assurance Daily* provides a summary of public information concerning current energy issues. Published Monday through Friday to inform stakeholders of developments affecting energy systems, flows, and markets, it provides highlights of energy issues rather than a comprehensive coverage. *Energy Assurance Daily* is updated online Monday through Friday after 5:00 p.m. EST. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at:

<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

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