



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, March 26, 2008

Electricity

NRC Found Security Violation at Exelon's 810 MW Three Mile Island Nuke Unit 1 in Pennsylvania

A NRC letter written March 20 outlined a preliminary finding on a security violation at the plant, which is "being considered for enforcement action." According to an NRC spokesman, the nature of the violation will not be made public because it would show vulnerabilities in the plant's security.

Bloomberg News, 09:58 March 26, 2008

30,000 PG&E Customers Lost Power in California March 25

Power was restored to all customers within one hour. The cause of the outage remains unknown.

http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=8068853&nav=menu544_2

OPG's 535 MW Lennox Oil- and Gas-fired Unit 4 in Ontario Shut March 26

The unit was shut early this morning. Traders estimate that the unit will restart in early April.

Reuters, 07:51 March 26, 2008

AES's 485 MW Alamosa Gas-fired Unit 5 in California Shut March 25

Reuters, 18:48 March 25, 2008

Entergy's 966 MW River Bend Nuke Unit 1 in Louisiana Reduced to 66 Percent by March 26

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 25 the unit was operating at 87 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Update: Duke Energy's 510 MW Moss Landing Power Gas-fired Unit 1 in California Returns to Service March 25

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit returned from an unplanned curtailment of 260 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200803251515.html>

Update: Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuke Unit 1 in Mississippi Ramped Up to 98 Percent by March 26

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 25 the unit was operating at 54 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Update: Exelon's 1,134 MW Limerick Nuke Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Ramped Up to 95 Percent by March 26

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 25 the unit was operating at 22 percent. The unit shut March 22 due to a problem with the main turbine control system on the electrical distribution of the plant.

Reuters, 06:10 March 26, 2008

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Update: TVA's 1,125 MW Watts Bar Nuke Unit 1 in Tennessee Ramped Up to 47 Percent by March 26

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 25 the unit was operating at 13 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Update: NMC's 522 MW Prairie Island Nuke Unit 1 in Minnesota Ramped Up to 76 Percent by March 26

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 25 the unit was operating at 50 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Petroleum

U.S. Refineries Operating at Lowest Rate since 2005 Despite Record Gasoline and Diesel Retail Prices

According to data released by the Energy Information Administration (EIA), refinery production rates decreased 1.6 percent to 82.2 percent of full operational capacity last week. The decrease is due to seasonal maintenance and output cutbacks due to the high cost of crude oil. This decrease has also led to low levels of gasoline and distillate stocks. The last time refinery rates and gasoline and distillate stocks were this low was in October 2005 after two major hurricanes curtailed production in the U.S. Gulf Coast.

Reuters, 10:58 March 26, 2008

Reuters, 10:33 March 26, 2008

Reformer Leak at Valero's 190,200 b/d Delaware City, Refinery in Delaware March 25

The refinery had already been running at reduced rates to perform work on the fluid catalytic cracker.

Bloomberg News, 20:05 March 25, 2008

Reuters, 15:40 March 25, 2008

Leak Causes Flaring at ExxonMobil's 586,000 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery March 24

According to a filing with state regulators, a leak in a faulty safety valve led to flaring for 14 hours. The emission event had no impact on production.

<http://www2.tceq.state.tx.us/eer/main/index.cfm?fuseaction=getDetails&target=105411>

Natural Gas

Alliance Pipeline and Questar Overthrust Holds Binding Open Season for Proposed 42-Inch Diameter Rockies Alliance Pipeline to Supply the Midwest and Northeast

The pipeline will provide natural gas supplies from Wyoming, Montana, and North Dakota to the Midwest and the Northeast markets. The pipeline is expected to be in service in 2011.

http://www.alliance-pipeline.com/contentfiles/115_RAP%20Press%20Release%20FINAL_240308.pdf

SRU Malfunction Led to Flaring at Keystone Gas Plant in Kermit, Texas March 25

<http://www2.tceq.state.tx.us/eer/main/index.cfm?fuseaction=getDetails&target=105384>

Other News

U.S. Biofuel Infrastructure Inadequate to Meet Demands

U.S. ethanol production capacity is sufficient, but the downstream infrastructure does not meet requirements for demand according to the 2007 U.S. energy bill. Investment in tanks, pumps, and terminal capacity is needed for biofuel infrastructure improvement.

World Refining & Fuels Today, March 26, 2008

New U.S. Ethanol Plants Difficult to Finance with Global Banking Crisis and Record Feedstock Prices

According to a refinery engineer, banks are cautious to fund new ethanol plants due to the high price of corn.
Reuters, 05:30 March 26, 2008

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 26, 2008			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	104.95	104.71	61.71
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	9.28	9.10	7.15

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Broken Insulator in Transmission Line Knocks Out Power to 22,000 National Grid Customers in New York March 26, Power Restored to All but 6,000 Customers within 30 Minutes

http://www.dailygazette.com/news/2008/mar/26/0326_outage/

Update: Louisiana Public Service Commission Approves AEP's Proposed 600 MW Coal-fired Plant in Arkansas

<http://www.aep.com/newsroom/newsreleases/default.asp?dbcommand=DisplayRelease&ID=1444>

Update: Iowa Refuses to Dismiss Alliant's Bid for Proposed Coal-fired Power Plant Despite Concerns over Greenhouse Gas Emissions

http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=9987749

Update: NRG Formed Nuclear Innovation North America LLC, a Company that Will Focus on New Advanced Design Nuclear Projects

http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=9990702

Update: Wisconsin Public Service Estimates its Proposed 500 MW Weston Coal-fired Unit 4 in Wisconsin Will Begin Operations in June 2008

Bloomberg News, 11:36 March 26, 2008

Woodside Petroleum Production in the Gulf of Mexico to Decrease 150,000 boe/d per Month Starting in April

http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news_article.cfm?id=9984854

Mexico's Doe Bocas Oil-Exporting Port Reopens March 25 after it Shut Due to Bad Weather

Reuters, 17:35 March 25, 2008

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/index.aspx>.

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