



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, March 27, 2017

Electricity

Exelon's 855 MW Quad Cities Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois Shut by March 27

On the morning of March 26, the unit was operating at 77 percent. The cause of the shutdown was not immediately known.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2017/>

Update: Entergy's 730 MW Palisades Nuclear Unit in Michigan Ramps Up to 60 Percent by March 25

On the morning of March 24, the unit was operating at 45 percent after restarting on March 23. The unit shut from 95 percent on March 18.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2017/>

CDWR's 237 MW Devil Canyon Hydro Units 1-4 in California Reduced by March 26

The units entered an unplanned curtailment of 117 MW.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201703261515.html>

CDWR's 933 MW Hyatt-Thermalito Hydro Unit in California Shut by March 26

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201703261515.html>

PG&E's 563 MW Gateway Gas-fired Unit in California Reduced by March 25

The unit entered an unplanned curtailment of 292 MW.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201703251515.html>

Owensboro Municipal Utilities to Permanently Shut Its 425 MW Elmer Smith Coal-Fired Power Plant in Kentucky by 2023

Owensboro Municipal Utilities will permanently shut its coal-burning units at the Elmer Smith Power Plant in Kentucky by 2023. A spokeswoman for the utility says the decision was made due to the age of the plant, environmental compliance, and low natural gas prices. The utility's governing commission is considering a number of options to supply power to its 26,000 electric customers, the spokeswoman added. Elmer Smith's unit 1 was commissioned in 1964, and the second, larger unit was built in the mid-1970s. The facility burns about 1.2 million tons of coal each year.

<https://twitter.com/publicpowerorg/status/844598594162343936>

Reuters, 13:01 March 27, 2017

Valero Says Its Wilmington, California Cogeneration Facility Expected to Startup End of 2017

Valero Energy Corp's Wilmington, California cogeneration facility is expected to startup in the fourth quarter of 2017, the company said in a filing to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Valero said the facility is expected to reduce power cost and improve efficiency.

Reuters, 7:57 March 27, 2017

Update: Syncrude's Synthetic Crude Shipments to Restart Mid-April after Mildred Lake Upgrader Fire in Alberta March 14

Syncrude Canada brought forward an eight-week turnaround at its oil sands plant in northern Alberta after a fire two weeks ago damaged the facility and forced a cut in crude production, majority-owner Suncor Energy said on Monday. Shipments of synthetic crude are expected to restart at up to 50 percent of the 350,000 b/d plant's capacity in mid-April and gradually ramp up to full rates once the maintenance is finished, the company said. The fire at the Mildred Lake upgrader, which processes mined bitumen into refinery-ready synthetic crude, broke out on March 14 after a line failure caused a leak near one of the naphtha hydrotreating units. Imperial Oil, which provides operational support to Syncrude and is a 25-percent owner in the joint venture, said there are currently no shipments of synthetic crude from the plant. Suncor said damage was largely isolated to a piperack adjacent to the hydrotreater, containing piping, cables, and electrical circuits. The company, which runs its own oil sands mining and upgrading plant about 12 miles away, said it will start handling some volumes of untreated Syncrude production to help manage inventories. Suncor also said it does not expect the Syncrude outage will affect its overall 2017 production guidance.

<http://www.suncor.com/newsroom/news-releases/2133485>

<http://www.imperialoil.ca/en-ca/company/media/news-releases/170327-imperial-provides-update-on-syncrude-incident-response>

<http://www.syncrude.ca/our-news/featured-stories/2017/update-on-mildred-lake-upgrader-incident/>

Reuters, 11:23 March 27, 2017

Hydrotreater at PBF's 192,500 b/d Chalmette, Louisiana Refinery Operating Normally March 27 – Sources

A hydrotreater was operating normally on Monday at PBF Energy's Chalmette, Louisiana, refinery, said sources familiar with plant operations. Energy industry intelligence service Genscape said the 45,000 b/d hydrotreater was shut for about 24 hours from Friday night to Saturday night.

Reuters, 14:57 March 27, 2017

Update: Valero Shuts FCCU at Its 335,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery March 27

Valero Energy Corp on Monday shut the 75,000 b/d fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Port Arthur, Texas, refinery, due to problems with steam supply, ending a restart that began on Saturday, sources familiar with plant operations said. The FCCU was shut on March 22 to repair a boiler on the unit before the restart began over the weekend.

Reuters, 15:03 March 27, 2017

Petrobras Reports Emissions at Its 112,229 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery March 27

Petrobras reported emissions from the complex cooling tower at its Pasadena, Texas refinery, according to a Texas Commission on Environmental Quality filing. Petrobras said once the source of the release is determined, it will then be corrected.

Reuters, 13:20 March 27, 2017

Natural Gas

Update: Hilcorp Completes Production Shut-In Procedures in Middle Ground Shoal, Alaska March 27

Hilcorp on Monday said it safely completed production shut-in procedures over the weekend to repair an 8-inch natural gas pipeline in the Middle Ground Shoal area of the Cook Inlet. On February 7, Hilcorp identified a natural gas leak from the pipeline, located at a depth of 80 feet of water, and part Hilcorp's Middle Ground Shoal (MGS) Fuel System. The system consists of approximately 15 miles of in-service natural gas pipeline and serves to fuel four existing production platforms. The gas pipeline is now operating at minimum pressure (65psi) and the reduced leak rate is estimated to be 0.085–0.115 MMcf/d. Pumps were circulating filtered sea water through the adjacent oil pipeline to reduce the risk of freezing in the line. Production will be restored when Hilcorp, along with federal and state regulators, confirm that it is safe. Based on current weather forecasts and ice conditions Hilcorp expects to mobilize equipment and deploy divers to begin repair operations within the next 10 days.

<http://hilcorpresponse.com/>

Update: East Tennessee Natural Gas Reports Its Lewisburg Compressor Station in Tennessee Returns to Full Capability March 24

East Tennessee Natural Gas (ETNG) on Friday reported the outage at its Lewisburg compressor station on the 3200 Line in Tennessee has been resolved and the station has returned to full capability. On March 20, ETNG reported an unplanned outage at the station and reduced capacity to approximately 154 MMcf/d.

<https://infopost.spectraenergy.com/InfoPost/ETHome.asp?Pipe=ET>

Enbridge Reports SCOT Plant Temporarily Shut at Its Pittsburg Gas Plant in Texas March 24

Enbridge reported an upset due to high inlet pressure and had to bypass the SCOT and flare inlet gas in order to maintain safe facility and pipeline pressures. The equipment was brought back into compliance as safely and quickly as possible. To mitigate emissions during this event, the thermal oxidizer and flare were utilized.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=254753>

Williams Partners' Transco Pipeline Seeks FERC Approval for Its 400 MMcf/d Northeast Supply Enhancement Project in Northeastern U.S.

Williams Partners L.P. on Monday announced that Transco filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) seeking authorization for its Northeast Supply Enhancement project, which would create 400 MMcf/d of incremental firm transportation capacity to markets in the northeastern U.S. for the 2019/2020 winter heating season. Subject to approval by FERC, the Northeast Supply Enhancement project will consist of approximately 10 miles of 42-inch pipeline looping facilities, three miles of onshore 26-inch looping facilities, 23 miles of offshore 26-inch looping facilities, the addition of 21,902 horsepower at an existing compressor station, a new 32,000-horsepower compressor station, and related appurtenant facilities. The target in-service date is December 1, 2019. Transco delivers natural gas to customers through its 10,200-mile pipeline network whose mainline extends nearly 1,800 miles between South Texas and New York City.

<http://investor.williams.com/press-release/williams/williams-partners-transco-pipeline-seeks-ferc-approval-northeast-supply-enhan>

FERC Approves Cheniere's Fourth Sabine Pass LNG Train in Louisiana March 24

Cheniere Energy received permission from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on Friday to introduce natural gas to the fourth liquefaction train at the Sabine Pass liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminal in Louisiana. Each train can liquefy about 0.65 Bcf/d.

<https://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/advResults.asp>

Reuters, 17:03 March 24, 2017

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Update: Libya's Es Sider Terminal Loads First Tanker since Oil Port Clashes – Official

Libya's largest oil terminal, Es Sider, loaded its first tanker since fighting between armed groups earlier this month halted shipments from two ports. The Suezmax vessel Demetrios, which can carry as much as one million barrels, was loading at least 630,000 barrels of oil for export to China, the official said. Fighting between rival groups erupted on March 3, disrupting output and forcing Es Sider and Ras Lanuf, the country's third-biggest terminal, to halt shipments. The Libyan National Oil Corp said the country's production had recovered to 700,000 b/d as operations at Es Sider and the nearby port of Ras Lanuf restarted following clashes this month.

Reuters, 6:06 March 25, 2017

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-03-26/libya-s-biggest-port-loading-first-oil-tanker-since-clashes>

Iraq's Southern Oil Exports Average 3.16 Million b/d in March – Sources

Iraq's southern crude oil exports have averaged 3.163 million b/d in March on bad weather and lower production due to field maintenance, two industry sources said, as the country seeks to comply more with the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) output cuts. Production in March has been reduced by more than its share of the 210,000 b/d required under the OPEC accord, the sources said. Iraq cut some 210,000 b/d from its southern fields developed by international oil companies and other fields managed by its national oil firms, the industry sources said. Southern exports were 3.27 million b/d in February. Northern production has been reduced by around 30,000–40,000 b/d so far in March from February, the sources added. Iraq's Oil Minister said on Saturday his country was in full compliance with the output-cut agreement. The bulk of Iraq's oil is exported via the southern terminals. Smaller amounts are shipped from northern Iraq via Ceyhan in Turkey.

Reuters, 18:16 March 25, 2017

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 27, 2017			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	46.97	47.74	38.09
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.92	2.83	1.72

Source: Reuters

Links

This Week in Petroleum from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://www.eia.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

Weekly Petroleum Status Report from EIA

http://www.eia.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html

Updated after 10:30 AM & 1:00 PM ET every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://www.eia.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM ET every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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

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