



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, March 28, 2014

Electricity

PPL's 1,105 MW Susquehanna Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Reduced to 85 Percent by March 28

On the morning of March 27 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/>

Exelon's 1,022 MW Clinton Nuclear Unit in Illinois Ramps Up to 55 Percent by March 28

By the morning of March 27 the unit had restarted and was operating at 3 percent. The unit shut March 25 due to the loss of a condenser vacuum.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2014/20140326en.html>

Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuclear Unit 1 in Mississippi Ramps Up to 89 Percent by March 28

On the morning of March 27 the unit was operating at 80 percent. The unit was restarted by March 21 after being shut by March 17 to repair a steam leak on non-safety-related equipment.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/>

Wind Generation Output in ERCOT Tops 10,000 MW, Breaks Record March 26

March winds brought a new wind power record to the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) region Wednesday evening, March 26, when instantaneous output reached a record 10,296 MW at 8:48 p.m. At the time the new record was set, wind generation was providing nearly 29 percent of the 35,768 MW of electricity being used in ERCOT. The new record beats the previous record set earlier in March by more than 600 MW, and the American Wind Energy Association reports it was a record for any U.S. power system. Of the total generation at the time, 1,433 MW came from wind generators along the Gulf Coast, while 8,863 MW came from other regions. Most came from West Texas, where transmission projects in the Competitive Renewable Energy Zones were recently completed to transport more power from that region to more populated areas of the state.

http://www.ercot.com/news/press_releases/show/26611

Petroleum

Update: All Restrictions Lifted on Houston Ship Channel March 27 after Oil Spill March 22; Operations Normal at ExxonMobil's 560,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery

All restrictions on marine traffic through the Houston Ship Channel were lifted on Thursday, after an oil spill in Galveston Bay, the U.S. Coast Guard said. The channel was shut March 22 when a Kirby Inland Marine fuel oil barge collided with a cargo ship near the entrance to Galveston Bay, spilling 4,000 barrels of heavy fuel oil. The waterway reopened on Tuesday, though ships had to check in at inspection and decontamination stations along the channel. The Coast Guard had banned ships from moving along the channel at night to prevent vessels from spreading the oil to the northern end of the Bay. More than 100 large vessels, many of them oil tankers, were forced to queue up on either side of the channel. Exxon Mobil Corp. said on Friday operations were normal at its Baytown, Texas refinery. The company was forced to cut production at the refinery due to the closure of the channel.

Reuters, 23:55 March 27, 2014

Reuters, 12:24 March 28, 2014

BP Revises Estimate of Oil Spill at Its 413,000 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery to 15–39 Barrels March 27

BP Plc on Thursday said that more oil than previously thought may have leaked into Lake Michigan on March 24 from its Whiting, Indiana refinery. The company revised estimates to 15–39 barrels spilled, higher than the previous assessment of 9–18 barrels leaked. BP said crews had recovered the “vast majority” of oil that had been visible on the surface of the lake and its shoreline. The leak occurred after a malfunction of a recently upgraded crude distillation unit, the largest at the refinery, which went through a \$4 billion overhaul to boost output.
Reuters, 16:52 March 27, 2014

Shell Restarting Unit at Its 100,000 b/d Scotford, Alberta Refinery March 27

Royal Dutch Shell Plc was restarting an unspecified unit at its Scotford refinery near Edmonton, Alberta, it said in a message posted on a community information line on Thursday. There could be flaring over the next 24 hours but there would be no material impact on production, the company said.
Reuters, 00:29 March 28, 2014

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Fines Global Partners for Exceeding Amount of Crude Oil Unloaded at Train Terminal

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) proposed a \$117,292 fine Thursday for Global Partners LP’s Columbia Pacific Bio-Refinery oil train terminal near Clatskanie, saying it committed a violation of state law by moving more crude oil than it was allowed. The Columbia Pacific Bio-Refinery operated as an ethanol fuel terminal until it went bankrupt in 2009. In June 2012, the ODEQ quickly approved a routine permit change that allowed it to annually move 50 million gallons of crude oil instead of ethanol from trains onto barges, saying the shift had an incidental effect on the site’s air pollution. Though the state permitted the terminal to unload 50 million gallons annually, it moved 300 million gallons last year, far exceeding its permit. Global Partners has contested the violation at the terminal and said it plans to appeal. The terminal is now seeking an air pollution permit that would allow it to move 1.8 billion gallons of oil annually, enough to bring in 50 trains per month.

http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2014/03/oil_train_terminal_near_clatsk_1.html

Oil Supply Reaching Two-year Low in Cushing, Oklahoma Due to TransCanada’s 700,000 b/d Crude Oil Pipeline

Oil supplies were reaching a two-year low in Cushing, Oklahoma as TransCanada’s 485-mile, 36-inch diameter Gulf Coast Pipeline delivers crude oil to Valero’s refinery and others in South Texas. The Gulf Coast Pipeline was draining the inventory at the Cushing hub, pushing levels to the lowest amount since early 2012, according to the Energy Information Administration. The inventory was less than 29 million barrels on March 21, some 20 million barrels lower than a year ago. The pipeline started delivering crude oil from the hub to refineries on the Texas coast in January. These refineries typically have treated imported oil from overseas, but are adjusting to accommodate domestic oil from the Eagle Ford Shale and the Permian Basin. The pipeline relieves a choke point that had built up there in the fourth quarter of 2013.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/dallas/news/2014/03/27/oil-supply-reaches-two-year-low-in-cushing-thanks.html>

PBF Energy to Buy 3,000 New Crude Oil Rail Tank Cars

PBF Energy will take delivery of about 2,000 coiled and insulated crude tank cars and about 1,000 non-coiled general purpose crude tank cars by the end of 2015, according to a filing made with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 27.

<http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1534504/000153450414000023/creditagreement.htm>

Natural Gas

ExxonMobil Reports Cat-3 Unit Shut at Its 65 MMcf/d Dollarhide Gas Plant in Texas March 26

ExxonMobil reported the cat-3 unit was shut to replace a first stage discharge valve. While attempting to restart the unit, a bad first stage piston was found. The unit remained shut while awaiting the new piston and operations shut in all flowing wells to mitigate flaring.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=196000>

Other News

White House Looking at New Regulations to Cut Methane from Oil, Gas Sector

The White House said on Friday it would look at whether new regulations were needed to cut emissions of methane from the oil and gas industry, part of President Barack Obama's plan to address climate change. Regulators would start by proposing new rules later this year to reduce venting and flaring from oil and gas wells on public lands, one way to begin cutting emissions of the potent greenhouse gas, said Dan Utech, Obama's top energy and climate aide. Most oil and gas production takes place on privately owned land. The Environmental Protection Agency was going to study this year whether additional broader regulations were needed for methane emissions under the Clean Air Act, Utech said. Obama wants to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions to 17 percent below 2005 levels by the year 2020.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2014/03/28/strategy-cut-methane-emissions>

Reuters, 12:07 March 28, 2014

International News

Militants Claim Further Sabotage on Nigerian Undersea Pipeline March 27

Militant scuba divers in the Niger Delta in Nigeria said on Thursday they further sabotaged an undersea pipe where leaks forced Shell Nigeria to stop exports from its 400,000 b/d Forcados oil terminal on March 4. A statement purportedly from the militants said they sabotaged the pipeline on March 1 and scuba divers early Thursday caused further damage to the ongoing repair works.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=42734

Libyan Protesters Block Oil Pipeline to Mellitah Port As Strikes Expand – NOC

Libyan protesters blocked a pipeline carrying oil condensates from the southwestern al-Wafa oilfield to the Mellitah port, state-owned National Oil Corp. (NOC) said on Thursday. An NOC spokesman said a gas pipeline from the al-Wafa field, which produces around 30,000 b/d of very light oil, to Mellitah was still

working. http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/132291/Libyan_Protesters_Block_Oil_Pipeline_To_Mellitah_Port_As_Strikes_Widen#sthash.xJ1Z79W.dpuf

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 28, 2014			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	101.65	99.98	96.64
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.39	4.31	4.08

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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