



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

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday, March 29, 2006

## *Electricity*

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### **Source of Vibration at Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant Found – If FERC Agrees, Entergy Can Boost Output by 5 Percent**

Entergy Nuclear announced that it has discovered the source of a vibration at its Vermont Yankee nuclear plant that had prevented it from increasing the plant's output the full amount that was authorized by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The NRC will now evaluate the situation before allowing the increase in output to proceed.

[http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news\\_article.cfm?id=6501050](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6501050)

### **As DOE Defines Electric Transportation Corridors, Grid Operators Urge Focus on Big Picture**

In a joint filing, six members of the ISO/RTO Council urged the Department of Energy to keep focused on the big picture as it defines the national electric transportation corridors and not to attempt to develop a master plan for electric power transportation.

[http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news\\_article.cfm?id=6503046](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6503046)

### **Update: Progress Energy's 838 MW Unit 3 at its Crystal River Nuclear Plant in Florida At 100 Percent of Capacity March 29**

The plant had been shut on March 18 so that work on a step-up transformer could be performed.  
Reuters, 07:30 March 29, 2006.

### **Update: PSEG's 1,130 MW Unit 2 at its Salem Nuclear Plant in New Jersey at 100 Percent of Capacity March 29**

The unit had been operating at about half power so that steam generator feed pumps could be repaired  
Reuters, 07:30 March 29, 2006.

### **Cabrillo Power's 329 MW Gas-fired Unit 4 at its Encina Plant in California Shut March 28**

Reuters, 19:51 March 28, 2006

## *Petroleum*

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### **EIA Sees Nearly All U.S. Refiners to Stop Production of MTBE Before Summer**

EIA Administrator Guy Caruso told a Senate committee that nearly all U.S. refiners would stop production of the fuel additive MTBE prior to the beginning of the summer. He indicated that any problems associated with the switch to ethanol would be limited to the summer and to those areas that do not have a solid supply of ethanol such as the East Coast states and some Texas cities.

Reuters, 14:08 March 29, 2006.

### **EIA Sees Ethanol Imports on Rise – Profitable Despite Tariff**

EIA Administrator Guy Caruso told a Senate committee that despite tariffs, ethanol imports are profitable for refiners and that the volume of imports should increase this year compared to last year.  
Reuters, 10:56 March 29, 2006.

### **Strike in France Bottleneck for Oil and Gas Tankers**

Sixteen oil, natural gas and chemical tankers have been delayed at the port of Marseille by the strike in France and are either unable to enter the harbor or are docked but have been prevented from moving cargo either on or off their ships. Approximately 570,00 b/d of refining capacity of France is located near the port.

<http://www.platts.com/Request%20More%20Information/>  
<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/8351895.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>

### **Production Startup at 30,000 boe/d Glenelg Field in North Sea**

Total has begun production from its Glenelg field in the North Sea. The field is expected to produce 30,000 boe/d when fully operational.

<http://www.platts.com/Natural%20Gas/News/8354850.xml?p=Natural%20Gas/News&sub=Natural%20Gas>

## **Natural Gas**

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### **Cost Problems and Delays Hinder LNG Development**

According to a report in World Gas Intelligence, developing logistical and financial problems could slow development of some projects by as much as 18 months and result in stopping development of other projects altogether.

[http://www.energyintel.com/PublicationHomePage.asp?publication\\_id=10](http://www.energyintel.com/PublicationHomePage.asp?publication_id=10)

### **LNG Imports Blocked by Strike in France**

Workers at GDF's LNG import terminal at the port of Montoir-de-Bretagne as well as tug boat sailors were on strike preventing the off-loading of LNG cargo. (See related story under Petroleum)

Platts LNG Daily <http://www.platts.com/Request%20More%20Information/>  
<http://www.platts.com/Natural%20Gas/News/8351719.xml?p=Natural%20Gas/News&sub=Natural%20Gas>

### **As Domestic Markets Grow Indonesia Will Export Less LNG**

The domestic market for energy is growing rapidly in Indonesia to the point where the world's leading exporter of LNG is beginning to phase out long-term contracts to supply LNG. On March 28, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono announced that when the largest export contracts are renewed in 2010 and 2011, most of the gas now going to Japan would remain in Indonesia.

<http://asia.news.yahoo.com/060328/3/2i3kl.html>

## **Other News**

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### **Update: Rail Bottleneck Means Coal Stocks in Short Supply at Another Power Plant**

According to a report in Platts, the bottleneck in rail transportation has reduced coal stocks to a ten-day supply at the Westar energy Center in Lawrence, Kansas. This is the third power plant to report running short of coal since the beginning of March.

Source: Platts Coal Trader at <http://www.coaltrader.platts.com>.  
<http://www.platts.com/Coal/News/7355811.xml?p=Coal/News&sub=Coal>

## Energy Prices

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<b>U.S. Oil and Gas Prices</b>			
March 29, 2006			
	<b>Today</b>	<b>Week Ago</b>	<b>Year Ago</b>
<b>CRUDE OIL</b>			
<b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b>	66.00	60.03	53.96
\$/Barrel			
<b>NATURAL GAS</b>			
<b>Henry Hub</b>	7.16	7.06	7.18
\$/Million Btu			

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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### **TransCanada to Expand its Dawn Gas Hub for Second Time in Two Years**

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

### **Coal Transfer Plant In Iowa Damaged by Fire but No Impact on Operations**

[http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news\\_article.cfm?id=6502079](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6502079)

### **Turkey Concerned That Increase in Number of Oil Tankers Coming from Black Sea Poses Serious Environmental Threat**

<http://www.upi.com/Energy/view.php?StoryID=20060328-113225-2462r>

### **Update: Cyclone Forces Closure of More than 150,000 b/d of Australian Oil Production**

[http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060329/wl\\_asia\\_afp/australiaweathercyclone\\_060329053212:\\_ylt=Asm9rj2dHYXbQ2YL.JthyWeAsnsA:\\_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCUI](http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20060329/wl_asia_afp/australiaweathercyclone_060329053212:_ylt=Asm9rj2dHYXbQ2YL.JthyWeAsnsA:_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCUI)

Reuters, 03:54 March 29, 2006.

Reuters, 20:47 March 28, 2006.

## 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 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.

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