



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, March 30, 2016

Electricity

Dominion Reports Circuit Problem Knocks Out Power to 23,000 Customers in Virginia March 29

Dominion on Tuesday night reported 23,000 customers without power due to a circuit problem in Loudon County, Virginia. Power was nearly fully restored by early Wednesday morning.

<http://outagemap.dom.com.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/external/report.html?report=report-panel-county>
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/power-out-for-more-than-20000-in-loudoun-dominion-virginia>

OG&E Reports Brief Power Outage Affects 14,800 Customers in Oklahoma March 30

Oklahoma Gas and Electric (OG&E) reported 14,800 customers were without power early Wednesday morning. Local media reported a Western Farmer's switching station that feeds OG&E caused the outage. By 12:30 EDT, all power had been fully restored.

<https://twitter.com/OGandE>
<https://oge.com/wps/portal/oge/outages/systemwatch!/ut/>

Update: Duke Energy's 846 MW Oconee Nuclear Unit 1 in South Carolina at Full Power by March 30

On the morning of March 29 the unit had restarted and was operating at 19 percent. The unit was shut on March 6, when a transformer caught fire.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2016/>
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2016/20160307en.html>
<https://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/docs/eads/ead030716.pdf>

NMC's 522 MW Prairie Island Nuclear Unit 1 in Minnesota Reduced to 39 Percent by March 30

On the morning of March 29 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2016/>

Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuclear Unit 1 in Mississippi Shut on March 29

The unit shut from 30 percent due to a turbine trip.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2016/>
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2016/20160330en.html>

Update: Energy Northwest's 1,107 MW Columbia Generating Station Nuclear Unit in Washington to Restart This Week after Shutdown March 28

Energy Northwest's Columbia Nuclear Generating Station is expected to be restarted this week after it was shut on Monday to check an issue with a valve that was discovered during a maintenance test, a representative said on Wednesday. The shutdown did not pose any safety issues, and the valve, which had not been isolated properly before testing and triggered an alarm, was part of a secondary cooling system that cooled pumps and heat exchangers.

Reuters, 1:45 March 30, 2016

Update: BHE Renewables' 310 MW Solar Star Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by March 29

The unit returned from an unplanned curtailment of 144 MW that began on February 18.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201603291515.html>

NRG Says Its 377 MW Ivanpah Facility in California on Track to Fulfill PG&E Contractual Obligations

NRG Energy reported its Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System more than doubled its output last month, putting it on pace to meet its obligations to Pacific Gas and Electric Co (PG&E). The Ivanpah facility, the world's biggest solar-thermal power plant, generated 67,300 megawatt-hours (MWh) of electricity in February, up from about 30,300 MWh a year earlier, according to NRG, which operates the facility and co-owns it with BrightSource Energy Inc., and Google. NRG's vice president of operation for utility-scale renewable generation, said the improved performance shows the plant's technology is viable and that the facility is on track to fulfill its contractual obligations. The release of the February output data comes 12 days after California regulators gave NRG and its partners more time to avoid defaulting on a contract with PG&E for failing to supply power they had guaranteed. The facility received a \$1.6 billion loan guarantee from the U.S. Energy Department and began operating in February 2014. Instead of converting sunlight directly into electricity with photovoltaic cells, the system uses almost 175,000 mirrors to focus sunlight onto boilers atop three 450-foot towers, generating steam that drives a turbine. The plant experienced mechanical problems in 2014 that caused it to fall short of production targets for the first 24 months in operation. The deal approved by California regulators gives NRG and its partners until August 1 to avoid defaulting on its agreement with PG&E if it pays the utility for past shortfalls in generation and continues to meet future targets.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2016-03-29/nrg-says-massive-california-solar-plant-now-on-pace-to-meet-goal>

Petroleum

CVR Energy Reports FCCU Emissions at its 70,000 b/d Wynnewood, Oklahoma Refinery March 28

CVR Energy reported excess opacity from the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) regenerator at its Wynnewood, Oklahoma refinery.

Reuters, 15:30 March 30, 2016

Shell Reports Small Line Leak Stopped at Its 316,600 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery March 29

Royal Dutch Shell reported a small line leak at its Deer Park site, Texas was stopped, according to a community information line.

Reuters, 9:34 March 29, 2016

Chevron Reports Flaring Stops at Its 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery March 30

Chevron Corp reported flaring activity at its Richmond, California refinery has stopped. A hydroprocessing plant had a processing upset due to equipment malfunction, causing emissions, according to a filing with the California Emergency Management Agency.

Reuters, 1:23 March 30, 2016

Reuters, 12:41 March 30, 2016

Coast Guard Responding to 12,000 Gallon Oil Spill in Louisiana March 29

Coast Guard, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office, the Environmental Protection Agency, and PSC Industrial Outsourcing were responding to an oil spill near Bayou Teche, Louisiana on Tuesday. An estimated 12,558 gallons of crude oil escaped containment during a transfer at PSC Industrial Outsourcing on Monday. The crude oil entered Bayou Teche and is headed east towards Charenton. Roughly three to four thousand feet of 18-inch hard boom have been deployed and shore to shore hard boom with sorbent boom has been placed on the east and west boundaries of the affected area. Air monitoring is being conducted at the spill site and a roving patrol is conducting air monitoring in the local community, according to the Coast Guard.

<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2803902/>

Houston Ship Pilots Suspend Boardings Due to Fog March 29 – Coast Guard

The Houston Pilots and the Galveston-Texas City Pilots suspended boardings because of restricted visibility caused by fog, the Coast Guard said on Tuesday. The Coast Guard added that this event was not at all unusual this time of year.

Reuters, 9:26 March 29, 2016

Medallion Announces Successful Close of Binding Open Season for Its 45,000 b/d Howard Lateral Crude Oil Pipeline in Texas March 29

Medallion Pipeline Company, LLC on Tuesday announced the successful closing of the binding open season for its proposed crude oil pipeline extension, the Howard Lateral. Based on a binding capacity bid received during the open season, Medallion has executed a long-term Transportation Service Agreement which provides a capacity commitment sufficient to move forward with the Howard Lateral and a partial expansion of Medallion's Wolfcamp Connector mainline. The Howard Lateral extends approximately 49 miles from multiple origin points in Howard County, Texas, to the southeast to a new point of interconnection on Medallion's Wolfcamp Connector mainline in Glasscock County, Texas, and will be capable of transporting approximately 45,000 b/d of crude oil for delivery on a bi-directional basis. Adjacent to one of the Howard Lateral origin points will be truck unloading facilities which will be owned and operated by Medallion Pipeline's affiliate, Medallion Crude Oil Logistics, to provide shippers the option to truck crude oil quantities to those facilities for delivery to that origin point on the Howard Lateral. <http://medallionmidstream.com/medallion-announces-successful-close-of-howard-lateral-crude-pipeline-open-season/>

U.S. Refinery Utilization Rate at Highest Level Seasonally Since 2005 – EIA

U.S. refinery utilization rates last week rose 2 percentage points to 90.4 percent of total capacity, the highest level seasonally since 2005, data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) showed on Wednesday. The gains were mostly from a 3.6 percentage point jump in the U.S. Gulf Coast region to 94.4 percent, along with a 3.2 percentage point hike to 83.4 percent on the East Coast, data showed. Reuters, 10:49 March 30, 2016

Natural Gas

ANR Extends Unplanned Compressor Maintenance at Its Sandwich Compressor Station in Illinois March 30

ANR on Wednesday extended the unplanned compressor maintenance at its Sandwich Compressor Station located in the Northern Fuel Segment (ML-7). This will reduce the Sandwich North capacity by 55 MMcf/d, leaving 1,891 MMcf/d available. Based on current nominations, it is anticipated that the reduction will have no impact to services. <http://anrebb.transcanada.com/>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Pemex Restarting Catalytic Plant at Its 220,000 b/d Salamanca Refinery in Mexico March 29

Mexican state oil giant Pemex said on Tuesday that engineers were in the process of restarting a catalytic plant at the company's Salamanca oil refinery. The plant at the refinery went offline on Tuesday morning and it was not yet clear whether output had been affected, Pemex said. Reuters, 10:46 March 29, 2016

OPEC Oil Output Increases to 32.47 Million b/d in March

Supply from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has risen in March to 32.47 million b/d from 32.37 million b/d in February, according to the survey, based on shipping data and information from sources at oil companies, OPEC, and consultants. Iran has increased output by 230,000 b/d since December, according to Reuters surveys. Iranian officials say the increase in supplies is much larger. Saudi Arabia kept output steady compared with February, sources in the survey said, citing stable to slightly lower exports in March. Saudi production was assessed at 10.18 million b/d versus 10.20 million b/d in February. Reuters, 11:50 March 30, 2016

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 30, 2016			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	36.68	38.18	48.11
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	1.77	1.75	2.63

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

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. ET. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at:

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

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