



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, February 29, 2016

Electricity

NV Energy Reports Power Restored to Over 10,000 Customers after Circuit Breaker Failure in Nevada February 28

NV Energy reported that power was restored after several hours to 10,099 customers in South Reno, Nevada on Sunday night. An NV Energy representative said the cause of the outage was a “catastrophic failure” of a circuit breaker at one of its substations.

https://www.nvenergy.com/outage/view/outagelist_state.cfm

<http://www.kolotv.com/content/news/KOLO-8-experiences-signal-issues-370444311.html>

<http://mynews4.com/news/local/nv-energy-7000-without-power-in-reno-sparks-area>

DTE’s 1,089 MW Fermi Nuclear Unit 2 in Michigan Reduced to 60 Percent by February 29

On the morning of February 28 the unit was operating at 80 percent, reduced from full power on February 27.

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

Exelon’s 855 MW Quad Cities Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois Reduced to 87 Percent by February 29

On the morning of February 28 the unit was operating at full power.

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

Progress Energy’s 872 MW Brunswick Nuclear Unit 1 in North Carolina Shut by February 27

On the morning of February 26 the unit was operating at 87 percent. At this time, there was no further information available on the cause for the closure.

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

Update: Wolf Creek’s 1,165 MW Nuclear Unit 1 in Kansas at Full Power by February 29

On the morning of February 26 the unit was operating at 84 percent, reduced from full power on February 25.

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

SDG&E’s 575 MW Palomar Gas-fired Unit in California Reduced by February 28

The unit entered an unplanned curtailment of 300 MW.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201602281515.html>

Calpine’s 561 MW Los Medanos Gas-fired Unit in California Reduced by February 26

The unit entered an unplanned curtailment of 297 MW.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201602261515.html>

Update: Minnesota PUC Approves Route for Minnesota Power's 500 kV Great Northern Transmission Line from Canada to Minnesota February 26

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on Friday unanimously approved a route permit for Minnesota Power's Great Northern Transmission Line that will deliver renewable, carbon-free hydroelectricity from Canada to the utility's customers in Northeastern Minnesota. The approved 224-mile route would cross the border between the U.S. and Canada in Roseau County in northern Minnesota, running to an expanded Blackberry electric substation east of Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Because the route crosses an international border, a presidential permit from the U.S. Department of Energy is needed, and expected by March or April. Construction is expected commence in 2017 with target completion by 2020.

http://www.mnpower.com/Content/Documents/Company/PressReleases/2016/20160226_NewsRelease.pdf

Petroleum

ExxonMobil Reports Flexicoker Malfunction at Its 560,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery February 26

ExxonMobil Corp reported the loss of level in a tower resulted in elevated sulfur concentration in the flexicoker at its Baytown, Texas refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The company said process unit adjustments were made in order to minimize emissions, adding that there was no impact to production.

Reuters, 17:16 February 26, 2016

Shell Starting Up Units at Its 316,600 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery February 29

Royal Dutch Shell reported it was in the process of starting up units at its Deer Park, Texas refinery. The company said elevated flaring was possible during this period.

Reuters, 10:31 February 29, 2016

Husky Energy Says Small Process Unit Fire Extinguished at Its 12,000 b/d Prince George, British Columbia Refinery February 26

Husky Energy Inc said a small fire was extinguished in the process unit at its Prince George refinery in British Columbia on Friday afternoon. There were no injuries and the affected unit has been shut, a company spokesman said, adding that the refinery continues to operate.

Reuters, 18:45 February 26, 2016

Whiting Petroleum Will Suspend Its North Dakota Well-Completion Operations in April

Due to depressed crude prices, Whiting Petroleum Corp. said it will cut all spending by 80 percent in North Dakota, suspend its April well-completion operations, and operate only two rigs in the entire state. Until prices rebound, wells that are drilled won't undergo hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, the company said. For the year, the company said it expects to pump 128,000 to 138,000 b/d, down from about 155,000 b/d it produced in the fourth quarter of 2015. At the end of 2016, the company expects to have 73 wells drilled but uncompleted, with the intentions of resuming production growth upon a rebound in prices.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=147759&p=RssLanding&cat=news&id=2142938>

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/whiting-suspend-north-dakota-oil-completions-37242551>

Natural Gas

Atlas Pipeline Reports Differential Pressures at Its 195 MMcf/d Midkiff Gas Plant in Texas February 25

After repair of the East molecular sieve bed, Atlas reported increasing differential pressures within the consolidator cryogenic, indicating an ice ball in the demethanizer tower. In order to remove the moisture, operations warmed the cryogenic plant and gas was routed to the control flare until the plant resumed normal operations.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=228317>

Tallgrass Energy's REX Pipeline Lifts Force Majeure at Its Wamsutter Echo Springs Compressor Station in Wyoming February 29 after Making Repairs to Damaged Hydraulic Filter February 28

Rockies Express Pipeline LLC (REX) on Monday said the force majeure declared on Sunday at its Wamsutter Echo Springs Compressor Station was lifted. On Sunday, REX identified a damaged hydraulic filter housing on unit 2 at its Wamsutter Echo Springs Compressor Station and declared force majeure in order to facilitate unplanned repairs.

<http://pipeline.tallgrassenergy.com/Pages/NoticeDetail.aspx?pipeline=501&type=CRIT>

<http://pipeline.tallgrassenergy.com/Pages/NoticeDetail.aspx?pipeline=501&type=CRIT>

Tallgrass Energy's REX Pipeline Declares Force Majeure Due to Operational Issue at Its Lost Creek Compressor Station in Wyoming February 29

Rockies Express Pipeline LLC (REX) on Monday declared force majeure due to an operational issue on unit 1 at its Lost Creek Compressor Station. REX was mobilizing repair crews and a return to service date was unknown.

Effective for the Gas Day Monday, February 29, and until further notice, REX will schedule down nominated quantities at the Lost Creek Sweetwater receipt point to 115 MMcf/d.

<http://pipeline.tallgrassenergy.com/Pages/NoticeDetail.aspx?pipeline=501&type=CRIT>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Update: Repairs Begin on Iraq-Turkey's Kirkuk-Ceyhan Oil Pipeline February 27 after Flows Stopped February 17 – Turkish Energy Minister

According to the Turkish Energy Minister, crews have commenced repairs and aim to quickly restore flows on the Kirkuk-Ceyhan crude pipeline, which transports crude oil from fields across Northern Iraq to the Mediterranean Port of Ceyhan for exports. The pipeline, which has been repeatedly sabotaged in recent months, normally throughputs an average of 600,000 b/d. The energy ministry said the pipeline was most recently suspended on February 17 due to temporary security measures, and added that militants from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) carried out a bomb attack on the pipeline in the Idil district of Sirnak province on February 25. The ministry said there was no fire as a result of the bomb as the crude flow had already been stopped, but the 40-inch and 46-inch diameter pipes were damaged. Rising security threats in Turkey's southeast mean Iraqi Kurdish exports to world markets through the pipeline could remain halted for another two weeks, Turkish shipping and industry sources said on Friday.

Reuters, 9:43 February 27, 2016

Homeland Security ICS-CERT Confirms Hackers Brought Down Ukrainian Power Grid in December 2015

The Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team (ICS-CERT) on Friday posted an alert regarding last year's massive power outage in Ukraine. On December 23, 2015, Ukrainian power companies experienced unscheduled power outages impacting a large number of customers. DHS reported it was not clear how long the affected networks were targeted, but a trio of power stations were affected by cyber-attackers who had remote access into associated networks, plus valid credentials to freely access the affected systems. Ultimately, the attackers installed malware which deleted data, corrupted hard disks, corrupted firmware on vital serial-to-Ethernet devices, and cut power to servers and their backup batteries. Public reports indicate that the BlackEnergy (BE) malware was discovered on the companies' computer networks, however the role of BE in this event remains unknown pending further technical analysis, according to DHS. An interagency team comprised of representatives from the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center (NCCIC), ICS-CERT, U.S. Computer Emergency Readiness Team (US-CERT), U.S. Department of Energy, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation traveled to Ukraine to collaborate and gain more insight.

<https://ics-cert.us-cert.gov/alerts/IR-ALERT-H-16-056-01>

<http://inhomelandsecurity.com/hackers-brought-ukrainian-power-grid-december-homeland-security-ics-cert-confirms/>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
February 29, 2016			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	31.65	31.32	49.15
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	1.66	1.81	3.11

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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