



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, January 21, 2016

Storm Watch

Major Winter Storm Forecast for Eastern U.S.; Power Outages Likely from Snow, Ice Accumulation, Wind

A potentially crippling winter storm is anticipated for portions of the mid-Atlantic Friday into early Saturday. Snowfall may approach two feet for some locations, including the Baltimore and Washington, D.C. metropolitan areas. Further north, there is uncertainty in snowfall along the coastal metropolitan corridor from New York City to Boston. Further south, significant icing is likely for portions of Kentucky and North Carolina. A combination of heavy snow and strong winds could lead to downed trees and power outages.

<http://www.weather.gov/>

Electricity

Utilities Prepare for Major Winter Storm Due to Hit East Coast over Weekend

Pepco said its crews were actively preparing in anticipation of a major snow storm forecast to impact the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area on Friday afternoon. The company reported that 150 internal linemen, 250 contractors, and more than 200 tree crews were available to respond, and that it was participating in mutual assistance calls with utilities in other states in the case that additional crews were needed. PSEG Long Island said it was closely monitoring the impending winter storm. Crews were performing system checks on critical transmission and distribution equipment, and logistics assessments to ensure the availability of critical materials, fuel, and other supplies. The utility said it plans to have additional personnel on hand to deal with any weather-related outages.

<http://www.pepco.com/library/templates/Interior.aspx?Pageid=6442454157&id=6442458473>

<https://www.psegliny.com/page.cfm/AboutUs/PressReleases/2016/012116-storm>

Update: RRI Energy's 130 MW Mandalay Gas-fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by January 20

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began on January 19.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201601201515.html>

Petroleum

Coast Guard Closes Section of Mississippi River after 22-Barge Breakaway in Louisiana January 20

The U.S. Coast Guard on Thursday reported a section of the Mississippi River near West Point a la Hache, Louisiana remained closed as it continued its response to a 22-barge breakaway. All 22 barges were loaded with coal and petroleum coke, and have since been accounted for. All but one of the barges had been secured and salvage operations were underway on Thursday morning to secure the final barge. The cause for the incident remains under investigation, and the Coast Guard expects to reopen the waterway once the section from mile markers 50 – 53 are deemed safe for navigation.

<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2777898/>

Refiners Summon Additional Personnel, Brace for Possible Glitches amid Winter Storm

Refineries along the East Coast and the Midwest were facing their first major test of the winter season as freezing temperatures descended upon the Northeast and Midwest ahead of a potentially historic storm that threatens to dump as much as 24 inches of snow in parts of the I-95 highway corridor running between Boston and Washington, D.C. this weekend, according to the National Weather Service. Operators were expected to call in additional workers later this week or over the weekend to help apply steam to pipes and gauges to prevent freezing, according to industry sources at the region's refineries.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=50728

ExxonMobil Says Operations Normal at Its 344,600 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery January 21

Exxon Mobil Corp reported normal operations at its Beaumont, Texas refinery.
Reuters, 10:43 January 21, 2016

Alon Reports Flaring at Its 70,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery January 20

Alon USA Energy said the reportable limit for sulfur dioxide was exceeded at its Big Spring, Texas refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
Reuters 7:14 January 20, 2016

U.S. Crude Oil Stockpiles Rose to Highest Level since 1990 – EIA

U.S. crude inventories rose by 4 million barrels in the last week to 486.5 million barrels, the highest level since 1990. Crude stocks at the Cushing, Oklahoma delivery hub rose by 191,000 barrels, EIA said.
Reuters, 11:05 January 21, 2016

Natural Gas

Southern Union Reports Amine System Failure at Its Keystone Gas Plant in Texas January 20

Southern Union reported a compressor shut down due to a piston malfunction, which prevented the engine from starting. The plant backed out approximately 4 MMcf of field gas and sent the remaining inlet gas to the flare system to minimize emissions.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=226275>

Other News

Flint Hills to Begin Construction on First Ethanol Terminal in Texas

Flint Hills Resources said it will begin construction this month on its first ethanol terminal in Texas, which will include a rail connection, two storage tanks, a truck-loading rack, water storage, and an operations building. The terminal is expected to be operational by December 2016.

Reuters, 9:47 January 21, 2016

International News

Militants Attack near Libya's Ras Lanuf Oil Terminal January 21 – NOC, Sources

Suspected Islamic State militants attacked oil installations close to Libya's Ras Lanuf terminal on Thursday, an engineer at the port and energy officials said. A National Oil Corporation (NOC) spokesperson said four storage tanks were on fire and the damage from the attacks will keep the port closed indefinitely. The NOC said the area was facing an environmental catastrophe, with huge columns of smoke covering the area and damage to power lines supplying residential and industrial districts. The country's oil production is 362,000 b/d less than a quarter of its 2011 high of 1.6 million b/d.

Reuters, 6:14 January 21, 2016

Reuters, 7:17 January 21, 2016

Yemen's Oil Storage Facilities Hit by Air Strikes January 21 – Workers

Air strikes by Saudi-led forces hit oil storage facilities at Yemen's Ras Isa port on the Red Sea on Thursday, killing at least five people, oil workers said. The air strikes targeted a facility used to load tanker trucks with refined products for domestic distribution. Ras Isa is Yemen's main oil export terminal, but no shipments have left the terminal since the Saudi-led Arab coalition intervened in Yemen in March 2015.

Reuters, 7:21 January 21, 2016

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
January 21, 2016			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	29.50	31.17	47.50
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.14	2.31	2.92

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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