



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday, February 08, 2006

Electricity

Xcel's 593 MW Prairie Island Nuke Unit 1 in Minnesota Shut February 5

The unit was shut down because planned repairs to a backup generator were more extensive than expected.

<http://www.twincities.com/mld/pioneerpress/13807636.htm>

TXU's 1,150 MW Comanche 1 Nuke Unit in Texas Reduces Output February 8

TXU reduced output at Comanche 1 to 88 percent to repair a valve. The unit should be repaired today.

Bloomberg news, 09:11 February 8, 2006

Update: Exelon's 619 MW Oyster Creek Nuclear Station in New Jersey Ramps up to 98 Percent February 8

Reuters, 07:06 February 8, 2006

FP&L Plans New Power Plant in Palm Beach County, Florida

The new plant will feature two natural gas-fired units of about 1,200 megawatts each and be completed about 2009.

<http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/060208/1225679.html?.v=2>

Steps to Establish a Transmission Monitoring System for Transmission Owners and Operators Within the Eastern and Western Interconnections

This Joint Report from DOE and FERC concludes that technology can provide a means to address deficiencies in the transmission monitoring system and can provide better information to all system operators. The report focuses on how such a system could be established if one is to be pursued.

<http://www.ferc.gov/legal/staff-reports/trans-mon-rpt.pdf>

Hurricane Update: 124,000 Former Entergy Customers Still without Power

Before these customers can be reconnected to the grid, damaged wiring must be inspected. Getting that inspection and permit from one of the city's few electrical inspectors is time consuming.

<http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-katrina-turning-on-the-lights.0.2836874.story?coll=sns-ap-nationworld-headlines>

Petroleum

Cargo Ship Blocks Suez Canal

A 93,000-ton cargo ship drifted during a sandstorm Wednesday and blocked all transit on the waterway between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, a Canal Authority official said. About 8 percent of world sea trade passes through the canal, which is 120 miles long and 330 yards wide at its narrowest, according to the Canal Authority.

<http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-egypt-suez-canal.0.5679112.story?coll=sns-ap-nationworld-headlines>

MMS Issues Draft Proposed 5-Year Plan for OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program

The Interior Department's Minerals Management Service (MMS) today released for comment a proposal in draft form that discusses MMS's 2007-2012 Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) leasing plan, which is currently in development. As part of the draft leasing plan, MMS will study the potential for oil and gas development off the coast of Virginia and a previously undeveloped area in the North Aleutian Basin off the coast of Alaska. MMS is also considering realigning the boundaries of its Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area to correspond with new Federal OCS offshore administrative areas announced in early January. Concurrently, and as directed by Congress, an inventory of oil and gas resources on the OCS has been conducted. MMS estimates of undiscovered resources are 85.9 billion barrels of oil and 419.9 trillion cubic feet of natural gas that are technically recoverable from all federal offshore areas. The estimate for both oil and gas increased about 15 percent compared to the 2001 report.

<http://www.mms.gov/oc/press/2006/press0208.htm>

Hurricane Update: Gulf of Mexico Oil Production Statistics

10.99 percent of the 819 manned platforms in the Gulf are still evacuated as of February 8, 2006. Today's shut-in oil production is 364,195 BOPD. This shut-in oil production is equivalent to 24.27 percent of the daily oil production in the GOM, which is currently approximately 1.5 million BOPD. The cumulative shut-in oil production for the period 8/26/05-2/8/06 is 124,502,898 bbls, which is equivalent to 22.74 percent of the yearly production of oil in the GOM (approximately 547.5 million barrels).

www.mms.gov

Hurricane Update: Status of Shell Gulf of Mexico Offshore Operations

As of December 2005, Shell has restored Gulf of Mexico production to 340 thousand barrels of oil equivalent (boe) per day (Shell share) of the approximately 450 thousand boe per day (Shell share) prior to hurricane Katrina and Rita and up from a level of 200 thousand boe per day at the end of the third quarter. Progress continues on the Mars platform and it is expected to start production by the middle of 2006. Full production is expected to be restored in the second half of 2006.

Source: Shell Oil Company

Natural Gas

MMS Issues Draft Proposed 5-Year Plan for OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program

See story under Petroleum.

Williams, PG&E and Fort Chicago Energy Agree on Northwest Natural Gas Pipeline

The three parties will hold equal interest in the proposed Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline, a 250-mile natural gas pipeline serving Oregon, Washington and northern California from a proposed liquefied natural gas terminal in Coos Bay, Oregon. The pipeline, designed to transport 1 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day, would be completed about 2010.

http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/060208/williams_pipeline.html?v=1

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Hurricane Update: Gulf of Mexico Natural Gas Production Statistics

10.99 percent of the 819 manned platforms in the Gulf are still evacuated as of February 8, 2006. Today's shut-in gas production is 1.554 BCFPD. This shut-in gas production is equivalent to 15.54 percent of the daily gas production in the GOM, which is currently approximately 10 BCFPD. The cumulative shut-in gas production 8/26/05-2/8/06 is 631.326 BCF, which is equivalent to 17.297 percent of the yearly production of gas in the GOM (approximately 3.65 TCF).

www.mms.gov

Other News

Update: Mine Safety and Health Administration Issues Emergency Mine Safety Rules

The Mine Safety and Health Administration has responded to congressional demands for improved mine safety by issuing emergency rules requiring mines to have better underground breathing devices and evacuation methods.

Reuters, 12:26 February 8, 2006

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
February 8, 2006			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL			
West Texas Intermediate U.S.	62.55	66.56	45.20
\$/Barrel			
NATURAL GAS			
Henry Hub	7.72	8.68	5.95
\$/Million Btu			

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Venezuela Removes ExxonMobil From Project Amid Differences with Oil Policies

http://biz.yahoo.com/ap/060207/venezuela_exxon_mobil.html?.v=4

GM, Ford to Increase Ethanol Fuel Stations in U.S. Midwest

Bloomberg News, 13:28 February 8, 2006

DOE Official says U.S. Still Mulling Strategic Stockpile of Natural Gas and Refined Petroleum Products

Reuters, 11:13 and 11:33 February 8, 2006

Links

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

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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