



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, February 13, 2008

Major Developments

Venezuela Halts Oil Shipments to ExxonMobil

Venezuela decided to cut off supplies to ExxonMobil after Exxon obtained court orders that froze \$12 billion in Venezuelan assets. The legal move came as a response to Venezuela's nationalization of ExxonMobil's assets last year. Exxon imported around 90,000 b/d in November of 2007. Many analysts think the cut-off will have only a limited impact on production. ExxonMobil's 193,000 b/d Chalmette, Louisiana Refinery, a joint venture with Venezuela's national oil company PDVSA appeared to not be subject to the cut-off. The U.S. State Department said that they were not involved in the dispute, although they did state support for ExxonMobil.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSN1344896620080213>

Reuters, 12:45 February 13, 2008

Reuters, 11:42 February 13, 2008

Reuters, 10:50 February 13, 2008

Electricity

Ice Storms Leave Over 100,000 Customers Without Power in Maryland and Virginia February 13

Ice storms led widespread power outages across the Washington D.C. metro area on February 13. Over 100,000 customers had lost power in the District of Columbia and portions of Virginia and Maryland due to toppled trees and downed power lines. According to the latest available information, power has been restored to most customers.

[http://www.examiner.com/a-1218127~Thousands in Maryland without power following storm.html](http://www.examiner.com/a-1218127~Thousands+in+Maryland+without+power+following+storm.html)

<http://www.wbalTV.com/news/15288891/detail.html>

Mid-Atlantic Customer Power Outages			
February 13, 2008			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Baltimore Gas & Electric	MD	37,769	3,236
Pepco	MD	23,098	1,171
Allegheny	MD	6,674	2,338
Dominion	VA	34,012	3,949
Allegheny	VA	4,497	311
Novec	VA	2,610	599
Total*		108,660	11,604

*Total outages only represent electric utilities listed in this table.

Sources:

<http://www.pepco.com/home/emergency/maps/zip/default.aspx>

<http://www.bge.com/portal/site/bge/menuitem.42d31413f80c584606370f10d66166a0>

http://www.dom.com/news/outage_sos.jsp

http://app.alleghenyenergy.com/outagestatus/customeroutagestatus/oms_summary_for_puc.asp

<http://www.novec.com/map/summary.cfm>

Storms Knock Out Power to 75,000 Customers in Mississippi February 12

Severe weather moved through the southern portion of the state knocked down trees and power lines. By the middle of the day on February 12, some 25,000 Entergy customers and another 50,000 customers of the Electric Power Associations of Mississippi were reported without power. The Electric Power Associations reported 12,500 customers without power by Tuesday night, and Entergy reported 4,000 customers without power this morning.

<http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080213/NEWS/80213015>

<http://www.clarionledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080213/NEWS/80213015>

NMC's 522 MW Prairie Island Nuke Unit 1 in Minnesota Shut by February 13

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of February 12 the unit was operating at 83 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Duke's 222 MW Southbay Gas-fired Unit 4 in California Returns to Service February 12

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200802121515.html>

Luminant Shuts 750 MW Martin Lake Coal-fired Unit 1 in Texas February 13

The unit was taken down in order to repair a boiler tube leak. Traders believe the unit will return to service in a few days.

Reuters, 11:35 February 13, 2008

Update: OPG's 494 MW Lambton Coal-fired Unit 1 in Ontario Returns to Service February 13

Reuters, 8:34 February 13, 2008

Exelon's 1,022 MW Clinton Nuke Unit in Illinois Ramped Up to 74 Percent by February 13

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of February 12 the unit was operating at 3 percent. The unit shut on February 10 when an electronic card malfunctioned causing the reactor recirculation pump to trip.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2008/>

Reuters, 7:07 February 13, 2008

UniStar Nuclear Energy Plans to Submit Application to NRC for Advanced 1,600 MW Nuclear Reactor at Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station in New York

The joint venture between Constellation and EDF notified the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) of its intentions to file the application in late 2008.

<http://ir.constellation.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=112182&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1107335&highlight=>

FPL Plans to Construct 840 MW Wind Power Generation in Ontario

FPL is planning to develop eight wind farm projects in Ontario. A company spokesperson highlighted four projects that are furthest along totaling 111 MW and another four in the early planning stages which would total 749 MW.

All projects are anticipated to be completed by 2013.

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6765882.xml?p=Electric%20Power/News&sub=Electric%20Power>

TransAlta's 406 MW Sundance 4 Coal-fired Unit in Alberta Shut February 12

Reuters, 8:45 February 13, 2008

New York PSC Receives Staff Recommendations for National Grid Improvement

The Public Service Commission received a report from the Department of Public Safety Staff regarding National Grid's handling of massive outages following the storms of July 9-10, 2007. The utility underwent a load shed event which caused outages to over 100,000 customers. The report provides numerous recommendations including better communication with the media and more established internal processes for critical events.

[http://www3.dps.state.ny.us/pscweb/WebFileRoom.nsf/ArticlesByCategory/3885C7D157288DDD852573EE005ADC90/\\$File/pr08018.pdf?OpenElement](http://www3.dps.state.ny.us/pscweb/WebFileRoom.nsf/ArticlesByCategory/3885C7D157288DDD852573EE005ADC90/$File/pr08018.pdf?OpenElement)

Petroleum

24-inch Oil Pipeline Running to Marathon's Catlettsburg Refinery Ruptures, Spills 200 Barrels in Kentucky February 11

Investigators do not know what caused the spill, which was discovered in a farm pond. Clean up was expected to take a few days.

<http://www.kentucky.com/211/story/315631.html>

Total Plans to Expand 242,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery

Total unveiled plans to construct a 50,000 b/d coker, as well as desulfurization and vacuum distillation units. The upgrades allow for greater processing of heavy and sour crude.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D8UP5NRG0.htm>

Shell Reports Crude Unit Problem at 333,000 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery

According to a report filed with state regulators, the event led the company to immediately reduce steam flow and depressurize the column to the flare. The company was reportedly still investigating the cause of the event.

<http://www2.tceq.state.tx.us/eeer/main/index.cfm?fuseaction=getDetails&target=103674>

Update: Citgo Continues Restart Work on 430,000 b/d Lake Charles, Louisiana

Work to restart the refinery was reportedly continuing after a loss of electric power one week ago. The restart work is expected to last through February 17.

Reuters, 12:15 February 13, 2008

Update: Valero Expects 182,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery Back "Within Several Days"

According to a company spokesperson, the unit was estimated to be at normal operating levels within several days, following a power outage on February 10.

Reuters, 9:10 February 13, 2008

Sunoco Restarts 333,000 b/d Point Breeze, Philadelphia Refinery after Power Outage February 13

A power outage caused the refinery to shut at 9:00 am on February 13. The unit was reportedly being restarted.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1337484420080213>

Natural Gas

EIA Cuts Forecast for U.S. LNG Imports for 2008 by 149 Bcf

In the EIA's Short Term Energy Outlook, released on February 12, projections for LNG imports during 2008 to the U.S. reduced the volume of imports by approximately 16 percent, from 937 Bcf to 788 Bcf. The change was attributed to the expectation of continued demand strength in Asia and Western Europe, as well as uncertainty about supply projects set to come online in late 2008 and early 2009.

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/steo/pub/contents.html>

Update: Great Plains Synfuel's 150 MMcf/d Beulah, North Dakota Coal Gasification Plant Restarts February 7

Having repaired a leak in a processing unit, the company restarted the coal gasification plant after being shut for 41 days.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/News/Articles/200802/N_D_Synfuels_Plant_Restarts_8651.aspx

Other News

Nothing to report

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
February 13, 2008			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	93.30	87.01	59.11
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	8.37	7.80	8.09

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Another Tritium Leak Reported at Exelon's Braidwood Plant in Illinois

http://www.suburbanchicagonews.com/heraldnews/news/788487.4_1_JO12_TRITIUM_S1.article

Kinder Morgan Shuts Petroleum Supply Pipeline to Oakland Airport after Vapor Detector Alarm Sounded

Bloomberg News, 3:44 February 12, 2008

High Vibrations on Raw Gas Compressor Shuts 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas February 12

<http://www2.tceq.state.tx.us/eer/main/index.cfm?fuseaction=getDetails&target=103645>

Update: Disabled LNG Tanker Being Towed toward Gloucester, Massachusetts-Coast Guard

<http://news.bostonherald.com/news/regional/general/view.bg?articleid=1073126&srvc=home&position=emailed>

GAO Questions NRC's Security Assessment of Terrorist Attack on Research Reactors on Campuses

http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/11/washington/11cnd-nuke.html?_r=3&hp&oref=slogin&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

U.S. Refineries Set Gasoline Output Record in January – API

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/6766564.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>

Fire Quickly Extinguished at Valero's 135,000 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery – No Reports of Damage

Reuters, 7:36 February 13, 2008

TransAlta Plans 66 MW Blue Trail Wind Power Project in Alberta

<http://biz.yahoo.com/iw/080213/0361318.html>

Rollcast Energy to Build 50 MW Greenway Renewable Power Biomass Plant in Georgia

http://www.bizjournals.com/charlotte/stories/2008/02/11/daily18.html?ana=from_rss

LNG Imports Could Circumvent Plans for Natural Gas Pipeline from Alaska

<http://www.cbc.ca/money/story/2008/02/12/north-gas.html>

Pemex Shuts 26 Processing Units at Salina Cruz Refinery Following Earthquake

Bloomberg News, 11:52 February 13, 2008

IEA Cuts 2008 World Oil Demand by 310,000 b/d Citing U.S. Economic Slowdown

Reuters, 4:00 February 13, 2008

Update: IEA Forecasts Nigerian Export Reductions Up to 1 Million b/d Citing Maintenance, Increased Domestic Demand, and Internal Militant Activities

Bloomberg News, 12:55 February 13, 2008

IEA Anticipates OPEC's Tight Spare Capacity to Ease as New Facilities Come Online

Reuters, 4:12 February 13, 2008

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 10:30 AM & 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.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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

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