



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, February 18, 2010

Electricity

Duke Energy's 1,129 MW Catawba Nuke Unit 1 in South Carolina Shut by February 18

The unit was manually shut late February 17 in order to allow operators to investigate a leak from reactor cooling piping insulation. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of February 17 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN1819581420100218?type=marketsNews>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Dynegy's 335 MW El Segundo Gas-fired Unit 3 in California Shut by February 17

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

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201002171515.html>

FPL's 693 MW Turkey Point Nuke Unit 3 in Florida Reduced to 43 Percent by February 18

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of February 17 the unit was operating at full power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

STP's 1,251 MW South Texas Nuke Unit 1 in Texas Ramped Up to 98 Percent by February 18

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of February 17 the unit was operating at 88 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: Southern's 870 MW Hatch Nuke Unit 2 in Georgia Ramps up to 68 Percent by February 18

The unit was reduced due to indications of elevated temperatures in the main generator, according to a company spokeswoman. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of February 17 the unit was operating at 57 percent power.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/20100218ps.html>

Bloomberg News, 08:26 February 18, 2010

Vermont Department of Health Officials Find High Levels of Tritium in Well Water Located Near Entergy's Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant

The state Department of Health announced recently that water tested in a well near the Vermont Yankee nuclear reactor contained 2.45 million picocuries a liter of tritium, nearly as much as found in reactor water which is usually about 2.9 million picocuries a liter. The highly concentrated water was found in a new well near the advanced off gas system of the Vernon nuclear power plant. There has not been an elevated level of tritium found in other wells around the plant or in water tested from the Connecticut River.

http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_14355542

Valero's 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery Reports SRU Malfunction February 18

In a filing with state regulators, Valero reported a malfunction of a level controller that caused flaring at a sulfur recovery unit (SRU). A company spokesperson said the incident caused no impact to production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=135957>

Bloomberg News, 11:17 February 18, 2010

Flint Hills Resources Reports Leak in Flow Line by Motiva's Port Neches Tank Farm in Texas February 17

In a filing with state regulators, Flint Hill Resources reported a leak on its 6-inch in diameter flow line located at Motiva's Port Neches, Texas tank farm. Personnel from Motiva shut down the pump, stopping the leak. It was not indicated how much product was spilled.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=135955>

Bloomberg News, 11:09 February 17, 2009

Update: BP Restarting Ultracracker at its 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery February 18

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=135999>

Reuters, 12:31 February 18, 2010

Tanker Explosion Reported in Oklahoma, One Worker Killed February 17

Emergency management officials are investigating the cause of a tanker explosion in Okmulgee County, Oklahoma that happened late February 17 which killed one worker and tossed two others several feet. The worker who was fatally injured was reported to have been working on the tanker when the explosion occurred.

<http://www.fox23.com/mostpopular/story/One-Dead-After-Tanker-Explosion-In-Okmulgee-County/ bQwTL5m3EKKRIqqg13nyA.csp>

Natural Gas

MDU Resources Launches Open Season for Storage, Pipeline Enhancements in Montana and North Dakota February 16

Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Co., the natural gas transmission pipeline subsidiary of MDU Resources, announced plans to increase firm deliverability by approximately 125 MMcf/d at its existing Baker storage facility in southeastern Montana. The company also announced plans to expand its existing natural gas pipeline system from the Baker storage facility to western North Dakota, where it connects with the Northern Border Pipeline.

The project has a targeted in-service date of April 2012.

<http://www.wbip.com/NewProjects/Pages/Overview.aspx>

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=21140

Update: Alliance Pipeline Completes Construction of New Interconnect Facility Transporting Gas from the Bakken Region to Chicago Hub

Alliance Pipeline recently completed construction of a new interconnect facility near Bantry, North Dakota which connects to Pecan Pipeline's 12-inch in diameter, 76-mile Prairie Rose Pipeline. The new interconnect provides a much needed route to bring natural gas and natural gas liquids (NGLs) from the Bakken to market at the Chicago hub.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/alliance-pipeline-transporting-gas-from-the-bakken-84701752.html>

Other News

Poet Energy to Expand Emmetsburg, Iowa Operations with 25 Million Gal/Yr Liberty Cellulosic Ethanol Plant

Poet Energy company officials recently announced plans for Project Liberty, a 25 million gal/yr cellulosic ethanol plant to produce ethanol from a feedstock of corn cobs to be located adjacent to Poet Energy's existing Emmetsburg ethanol plant. With design reviews of the proposed facility scheduled, construction is anticipated to start on the commercial-scale cellulosic ethanol plant in late 2010.

<http://www.spencerdailyreporter.com/story/1611729.html>

<http://www.poetenergy.com/news/showRelease.asp?id=192>

Update: NARUC Report on Moratoria of Drilling on U.S. Outer Continental Shelf Lists Adverse Impacts for Continuing Ban

The recent report commissioned by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) finds that the drilling ban along the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) and some restricted onshore lands carries an estimated adverse effect on U.S. oil and gas production. Specifically, the report says that if the moratoria is continued through the years 2009 through 2030, this will lead to a decrease of 9.9 billion barrels in oil and a decrease of 46 Tcf of natural gas production

http://www.oiljournal.com/index/article-display/articles/oil-gas-journal/general-interest-2/2010/02/naruc-study_lists/QP129867/cmpid=EnlDailyFebruary162010.html

<http://www.naruc.org/News/default.cfm?pr=183>

Damages of Mountaintop Removal Mining Highlighted in Recent GAO Report – Regulators ‘Could Do More’ to Limit Damage

In a recent report published by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) concerning the practice of surface coal mining, also known as “mountaintop removal,” the GAO investigators found that this mining process damages water quality and causes other environmental harms while mine operators often do not comply with the contour reclamation requirements and are often not held financially responsible for cleanup of mountaintop removal mining process. The GAO said regulators at both the state and federal level could do more to limit the damage and ensure mine operators take necessary responsibility.

<http://www.wvgazette.com/News/201002160513>

Link to GAO Report on Surface Coal Mining: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10206.pdf>

Burlington Northern Santa Fe Freight Cars Derail in Texas February 18, No Injuries Reported

Twenty-two freight cars derailed in southeast Texas and a brief evacuation of the area was ordered by authorities after an oil-based substance leaked. A spokesperson for the company, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, said it was not immediately clear what caused the train to derail but did report that two tankers aboard the train did rupture. The derailment caused a portion of Highway 6 to close.

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,586560,00.html>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
February 18, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	78.09	72.84	34.71
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	5.47	5.47	4.35

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

TVA Officials Assure State Lawmakers Coal Ash Spill into Emory River in Tennessee ‘Not a Health Risk’

<http://www.volunteertv.com/home/headlines/84555587.html>

Dominion Virginia Power Removes System-Wide Smart Meter Initiative from its Conservation Plan, Now Plans to Install Meters for only 30,000 Customers in Northern Virginia

<http://hamptonroads.com/2010/02/dominion-drops-systemwide-smart-meters-conservation>

No Disruption to Supplies from Refineries due to Strike – Between 70-80 Percent of Total Petroleum Company Employees on Strike in France a Corporate Spokesperson Says

Bloomberg News, 11:23 February 18, 2010

Ethanol Shortage Forces Brazil’s Petrobras to Import Gasoline for First Time in 40 Years, 2 Million Bbls from Venezuela due to Arrive End of February

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=21143

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/ead.aspx>

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