



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, February 20, 2015

Electricity

Update: Entergy's 653 MW Pilgrim Nuclear Unit 1 in Massachusetts Ramps Up to 92 Percent by February 20

On the morning of February 19 the unit was operating at 22 percent after restarting and ramping up to 18 percent by February 18. Entergy said the plant was taken off line from full power on February 14 in preparation for a potential loss of offsite power or the grid's inability to accept the power Pilgrim generates due to a snowstorm.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

<http://www.capecodtoday.com/article/2015/02/15/28947-pilgrim-nuclear-taken-offline-saturday>

Exelon's 1,093 MW Peach Bottom Nuclear Unit 3 in Pennsylvania Reduced to 45 Percent by February 20

On the morning of February 19 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

Update: FPL's 839 MW Saint Lucie Nuclear Unit 2 in Florida Restarts by February 19, Ramps Up to 49 Percent by February 20

The unit was shut from 50 percent power by February 16.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuclear Unit 1 in Mississippi Reduced to 64 Percent by February 20

On the morning of February 19 the unit was operating at 86 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

Update: Duke Energy Asks Carolinas Customers to Continue to Reduce Electricity Use through Friday Due to Historic Low Temperatures

Duke Energy Carolinas officials asked customers to continue to reduce their electricity use on Friday to help avoid potential high-energy demand and stress on the electrical grid caused by frigid temperatures. The most critical time to reduce electricity usage was between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m. EST. Warmer temperatures, area schools delaying openings, customer conservation efforts, and activation of the company's voluntary energy demand programs lessened energy demand on Thursday and helped Duke Energy to meet its customers' needs.

<http://www.duke-energy.com/news/releases/2015021901.asp>

Petroleum

Update: U.S. DOT to Examine Whether Pressurized Vapor Gas a Factor in CSX Oil Train Derailment in West Virginia

Federal investigators will examine whether pressurized gas played a role in the large blast that followed the derailment of a train carrying crude oil through West Virginia this week, the U.S. Transportation Department (DOT) said on Thursday. At least two dozen oil tankers derailed about 30 miles south of Charleston on Monday. DOT said it has an investigator at the site to take samples of crude oil once the wreckage stops burning. Some experts say the nature of the explosion, which saw a dense cloud of smoke and flames soaring upwards, could be explained by the presence of highly pressurized gas trapped in crude oil moving in the rail cars.

Reuters, 15:26 February 19, 2015

Update: FCCU Was Reportedly Shut for Unplanned Maintenance Prior to Explosion at ExxonMobil's 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery

The fluid catalytic cracker unit (FCCU), where an explosion and fire in the electrostatic precipitator (ESP) took place February 18, had been offline for two days prior to the blast due to problems from a recently repaired, downstream alkylation unit, according to the Oil Price Information Service (OPIS). The cause of the explosion is still uncertain and it was unclear whether repairs to the alkylation unit were a factor. The California Department of Industrial Relations has opened an investigation into the incident and issued an order forbidding ExxonMobil from operating the FCCU, along with the alkylation unit and a pretreater until the investigation has been completed. The department said the shutdown of the units could last up to six months. California's Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) issued 8 serious and 12 general violations in November of 2014 following state inspections of the refinery. The FCCU was not cited in the aforementioned violations; an ExxonMobil spokesman assured that the refinery had abated all serious citations Thursday.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=46537

<http://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/explosion-rocks-southern-california-oil-refinery-29070509>

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3429032/Latest-News/Explosion-fire-rocks-Exxon-refinery-in-California-four-contractors-injured.html>

Update: USW Rejects Contract Offer from Oil Companies in U.S. Refinery Strike

Union negotiators on Thursday rejected the latest contract offer from oil companies and said the strike may spread to more plants beyond the 11 where walkouts are underway. The United Steelworkers union (USW) said in a message to members and news media that the latest proposal from lead oil company negotiator Royal Dutch Shell Plc failed to improve safety at refineries and chemical plants in an "enforceable way." The union also told workers not on strike to be prepared to walk out in the coming days. A Shell spokesperson said it continues to be focused on reaching a mutually satisfactory agreement and remain committed to maintaining safe operations as part of the normal course of business. Earlier this week, the union's lead negotiator said that safe staffing levels at refineries and chemical plants were a sticking point in the talks. More than 5,000 workers at 11 plants, including nine refineries accounting for 13 percent of U.S. production capacity, remained on strike on Thursday. They are seeking a new three-year contract governing safety and pay. The strike widened on February 6 when workers at two refineries operated by BP Plc were told to walk off their jobs the following day. Only one refinery has shut down due to the strike. Tesoro Corp's 166,000 b/d refinery in Martinez, California, was scheduled for a partial shutdown for a planned multi-unit overhaul prior to the strike. Company officials decided to idle the entire plant after the walkout began.

Reuters, 19:42 February 19, 2015

Suncor Says No Production Impact from Small Leak, Minor Maintenance at Its 85,000 b/d Sarnia, Ontario Refinery February 19

Reuters, 17:32 February 19, 2015

PES Reports Operations Stable after Flaring at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery February 20

Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES) reported operations at its Philadelphia, Pennsylvania refining complex were stable following flaring early Friday.

Reuters, 11:07 February 20, 2015

Monroe Energy Says Some Units Running, Others 'Presenting Challenges' Due to Cold Weather at Its 185,000 b/d Trainer, Pennsylvania Refinery February 20

A spokesperson for Monroe Energy, a subsidiary of Delta Airlines, said some units at its Trainer, Pennsylvania refinery were still running while others were "presenting challenges" due to the cold weather.

Reuters, 9:42 February 20, 2015

Flaring at Valero's 180,000 b/d Memphis, Tennessee Refinery Set off by Cold Weather – Sources

Safety flares were set off on Friday at Valero Energy Corp.'s Memphis, Tennessee, refinery due to problems caused by cold weather overnight, said sources familiar with plant operations. Energy industry intelligence service Genscape reported the flaring at the Memphis refinery. Production was continuing at planned levels, Genscape and the sources said. A wet gas compressor on the environmental control system for the refinery's fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) was affected by the cold, said the sources. The FCCU remained in production.

Reuters, 12:05 February 20, 2015

Valero Reports Emissions Due to Loss of Primary Containment from Tank 4 While Filling at Its 156,000 b/d McKee, Texas Refinery February 19

Reuters, 11:29 February 20, 2015

Enbridge Hopes to Receive U.S. Presidential Permit for 300,000 b/d Expansion on Its Alberta Clipper Pipeline from Alberta to Wisconsin

Enbridge Inc hopes to get a U.S. presidential permit for its proposed Alberta Clipper pipeline expansion by the end of 2015, the president of liquids pipelines said on Friday. The Alberta Clipper pipeline ships Canadian crude from Hardisty, Alberta, to Superior, Wisconsin, and Enbridge plans to increase capacity to 800,000 b/d from 500,000 b/d. Cross-border pipeline projects need presidential approval to go ahead. Enbridge already has state and provincial permits in place and is still working with the Department of State to secure the presidential permit. Last year Enbridge said it hoped to secure the presidential permit by July 2015.

Reuters, 10:23 February 20, 2015

TransCanada to Seek U.S. State Department Approval for Its 300,000 b/d Upland Pipeline from North Dakota to Saskatchewan

TransCanada will seek U.S. government approval for its proposed Upland Pipeline beginning near the northwestern North Dakota oil hub of Williston and go north into Canada about 200 miles. Industry officials in North Dakota say the proposed Upland Pipeline could reduce reliance on railroads to ship crude following recent concerns about safety. At peak operation it would transport up to 300,000 b/d, connecting with other pipelines, including the Energy East pipeline across Canada. TransCanada hopes to have the Upland Pipeline operating in 2018, pending approval from the U.S. State Department, North Dakota's Public Service Commission, and Canada's National Energy Board. The company plans to submit an application to the State Department in the second quarter of this year.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=46528

Natural Gas

Regency Reports AGI Compressor Shut at Its 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas February 19

Regency reported the acid gas injector (AGI) compressor shutdown due to hot valves (poppet valves) on third stage suction. The valves were replaced on third stage suction. The compressor was reset and restarted.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=210433>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Libya Hopes to Restart Sarir Oilfield within Four Days

Libya hopes to restart within four days the southeastern Sarir oilfield blocked by a pipeline blast, a spokesman for field operator AGOCO said on Thursday. The maintenance team is still fixing damages caused by sabotage last week at a crude pipeline between Sarir oilfield and Hariga port, the company spokesman said. Sarir, Libya's biggest oilfield, feeds the Hariga oil port, the only onshore export port still operational, though two small offshore platforms can also export around 70,000 to 80,000 b/d of crude oil. Libya's oil output, on which the North African country's revenues depend, has shrunk as fighting among factions has split the country. Exports have slipped to less than 200,000 b/d, well below the one million reported until mid-2013.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/137307/Libya_Hopes_To_Restart_Sarir_Oilfield_Within_Four_Days

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
February 20, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	50.48	52.97	103.30
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.97	2.87	5.96

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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