



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, February 24, 2010

Electricity

Snowstorm Knocks Out Power to Over 190,000 Customers in New York and New England States Beginning February 24

A severe snowstorm began early February 24, bringing with it heavy snow that downed power lines and tree limbs across New York and many states within New England. The storm is continuing onto New Jersey and Pennsylvania and into the Mid-Atlantic region later this evening and into February 25. At its peak, the storm caused approximately 190,278 customers in New York, Vermont, Massachusetts and New Hampshire to lose power. The following table lists peak and current outage figures, based on latest available data.

New York and New England Customer Power Outages February 24, 2010			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Central Hudson Gas and Electric	NY	93,232	71,607
National Grid	NY	30,292	21,304
New York State Electric and Gas	NY	5,500	5,500
Orange & Rockland Utilities	NY	1,821	1,821
Central Vermont Public Service	VT	17,289	17,289
Vermont Electric Cooperative	VT	8,518	488
Western Massachusetts Electric	MA	14,242	6,719
National Grid	MA	7,384	1,267
Public Service of New Hampshire	NH	12,000	12,000
TOTAL *		190,278	137,995

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

Sources:

Central Hudson Gas and Electric: <http://stormcentral.cenhud.com/default.aspx>,
<http://www.cenhud.com/StormCentral.html>

National Grid: <http://www1.nationalgridus.com/niagaramohawk/stormcenter/>

New York State Electric and Gas: <http://www.timesunion.com/AspStories/story.asp?storyID=904148>

Orange & Rockland Utilities: http://wp1.coned.com/or_stormcenter/default.aspx

Central Vermont Public Service: <http://www.cvps.com/Customerservice/outages/default.aspx>

Vermont Electric Cooperative: <http://www.vermontelectric.coop/outage>

Western Massachusetts Electric: <http://www.wmeco.com/community/stormcenter/restorationstatus.aspx>

National Grid Massachusetts: <http://www1.nationalgridus.com/masselectric/stormcenter/>

Public Service of New Hampshire: <http://www.psnh.com/aboutpsnh/mediacenter/stormupdates.asp>

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/02/24/us/AP-US-Northeast-Storm.html>

http://www.poststar.com/news/local/article_3544c80c-2132-11df-8c63-001cc4c002e0.html

http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2010/February/24/Storm_power-25Feb10.htm

High Levels of Reliability for Ontario's Electricity System, Ontario IESO Reports

Ontario's Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO) reported in its latest 18-Month Outlook that nearly 2,600 MW of new or refurbished supply is due to come into service over the next 18 months, comprised of wind, water, nuclear, gas and biomass powered facilities. The report said the electricity supply options for Ontario continue to grow, giving Ontario's electricity system a positive outlook for reliability. Overall demand is expected to grow less than one percent in the area, while peak demand is expected to fall due to conservation and smart meter technologies.

http://www.ieso.ca/imoweb/media/md_newsitem.asp?newsID=5091

Update: Constellation's 835 MW Calvert Cliffs Nuke Unit 2 in Maryland in 'Cold Shutdown' February 23

The unit was originally shut on February 18 due to a partial loss of power caused by an electrical transient to one of the transformers. The unit has since been placed into 'cold shutdown' status, a plant spokesperson has confirmed. The spokesperson did not comment on the duration of the 'cold shutdown.'

Bloomberg News, 13:18 February 24, 2010

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Calpine's 525 MW Sutter Gas-fired Unit in California Shut by February 23

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201002231515.html>

Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuke Unit 1 in Mississippi Reduced to 82 Percent by February 24

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of February 23 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/>

Update: Duke Energy's 1,129 MW Catawba Nuke Unit 1 in South Carolina Ramped Up to 60 Percent by February 24

The unit was shut February 18 to allow workers to investigate a drip from insulation on the reactor cooling piping.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of February 23 the unit was not operating.

Reuters, 07:26 February 23, 2010

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Duke Energy's 846 MW Oconee Nuke Unit 3 in South Carolina Ramped Up to 89 Percent by February 24

The unit was shut on February 19 to repair a small leak in the cooling system. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of February 23 the unit was operating at 76 percent.

<http://www.lakewyliepilot.com/2010/02/19/635998/duke-energy-shuts-down-sc-reactor.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Duke Energy's 510 MW Moss Landing Gas-fired Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by February 23

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned curtailment of 260 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201002231515.html>

Stricter EPA Emissions Regulations Will Likely Force Shutdown of Older Coal-Fired Units, AEP Lobbyist Says

A senior American Electric Power (AEP) lobbyist, whose company provides electricity to 11 states, said in a meeting of Washington-based lawyers that the impacts of EPA's new and proposed federal regulations to tighten emissions rules for air pollutants will likely force the premature closure of a 'substantial' number of older coal-fired power plants across the country. This AEP official said the new EPA regulations will force utilities to close plants rather than make the suggested pollutant controlling modifications.

Dow Jones Newswires, 11:36 February 24, 2010

Petroleum

Update: Total Petroleum's Fuel Shipments Resume as French Refinery Strike Ends

A weeklong worker strike at Total Petroleum's refineries in France that cut oil processing and shortened fuel supplies at filling stations has ended February 24 allowing for the company to resume fuel shipments from its refineries in France after signing an agreement with unions. Workers at all refineries except two voted to suspend the walkout, with processing units entering a gradual restart following the agreement.
Bloomberg News, 12:51 February 24, 2010

Natural Gas

TransCanada Gas Pipeline Valve Shut in Iowa Following Leak February 23

Local law enforcement reported earlier this morning a section of Highway 63 in Davis County, Iowa was closed as a portion of the area was evacuated due to a gas leak. A police official said there were no health or safety concerns due to the leak on the TransCanada gas pipeline.

<http://www.bharatpetroleum.com/YourCorner/PetroDailyDetails.aspx?Pnewsid=P000026168>

Other News

Update: BlueFire Ethanol Applies for DOE Loan Guarantee for Planned 19 MMGal/yr Ethanol Plant in Fulton, Mississippi

BlueFire Ethanol Fuels has submitted an application for a \$250 million dollar loan guarantee for the company's planned cellulosic ethanol biorefinery in Fulton, Mississippi. The application, filed under the Department of Energy Program, which provides federal loan guarantees for projects that employ innovative energy efficiency, renewable energy, and advanced transmission and distribution technologies, was submitted on February 15 and is the first phase of a two phase process. If approved, the loan guarantee will secure the financing for the remainder of the costs to construct the facility, which will produce 19 MM gal/yr of ethanol from woody biomass, mill residue, and other cellulosic waste.

<http://ethanol-news.newslib.com/story/6938-34866/>

<http://bluefireethanol.com/pr/76/>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices February 24, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	79.40	77.21	37.23
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.91	5.47	4.23

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

EPA Fines Military for Underground Petroleum Storage Tank Violations at West Point Garrison in New York

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/65d002d44698b7772852576d30064fa0c?OpenDocument>

California State Appeals Court to Decide within 90 Days Whether Chevron Filed Correctly for Start of Upgrade Work at its 242,901 b/d Richmond, California Refinery

<http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-Oil/idUSTRE61N01D20100224>

Gas Leak Forces Evacuation in Missoula, Montana after Construction Worker's Backhoe Ruptures Gas Line February 24

http://www.montanakaimin.com/index.php/articles/article/breaking_news_downtown_businesses_evacuated_for_gas_line_breach/780

Pemex Closes Dos Bocas, Coatzacoalcos and Cayo Arcas Oil Export Terminals in Gulf of Mexico on Bad Weather February 24

Bloomberg News, 12:47 February 24, 2010

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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