



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, February 26, 2015

Major Developments

Snowstorm Knocks Out Power to Over 357,000 Customers in Southeast February 25–26

A winter storm moved across the Southeast Wednesday afternoon into Thursday, knocking out power to 357,395 customers from Texas to Virginia. The storm produced high winds that brought down trees and power lines. As of 3:30 p.m. EST 129,289 customers remained without power. Duke Energy Corp, the hardest hit utility, reported more than 220,000 customers lost power in the Carolinas. The company said damage to the power delivery system was due to falling trees and tree limbs. In many cases, the weight of the wet snow on the branches caused them to bend onto or under power lines. As this snow melts and falls from those branches, trees and limbs may fall onto power lines or snap back, contacting the lines and causing additional outages. The company said it was conducting damage assessments and working to shorten the length of every outage by moving resources to the hardest hit areas and anticipated restoration times for customers in the hardest hit areas will be available this evening.

Southeast Customer Power Outages			
February 25–26, 2014			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Alabama Power	AL	71,000	6,999
SWEPCO	AR/LA/TX	28,000	447
Entergy Arkansas	AR	1,300	113
Georgia Power	GA	5,000	761
Georgia EMC	GA	3,109	452
Amicalola EMC	GA	1,686	123
Entergy Louisiana	LA	2,037	2,001
Entergy Mississippi	MS	8,363	5,598
Duke Energy Carolinas	NC/SC	220,000	107,873
Piedmont Electric Membership Corporation	NC	6,900	4,125
Dominion	VA	10,000	797
TOTAL*		357,395	129,289

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

Sources:

<https://twitter.com/alabamapower>

<https://www.swepco.com/outages/outageMap.aspx>

<https://twitter.com/EntergyArk>

<http://www.etrviewoutage.com/external/ar.aspx>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Amicalola-EMC/254033993290>

http://outagemap.georgiapower.com/external/default.html?hp=tm_po_view_outage_map

<http://georgiaemc.com/storm-center/current-outages>

<https://twitter.com/DukeEnergy>

<http://www.duke-energy.com/news/releases/2015022601.asp>

<http://outagemap.duke-energy.com/ncsc/default.html>

<http://www.ksla.com/story/28200586/swepco-works-to-restore-power-during-winter-storm>

<https://twitter.com/PiedmontEMC>

<http://outageviewer.pemc.org:88/>

<https://www.dom.com/residential/dominion-virginia-power/outage-center/outages-by-region-and-maps>

http://www.al.com/news/index.ssf/2015/02/alabama_snow_2015.html

<http://www.wset.com/story/28207029/storm-leaves-more-than-10000-without-power-in-virginia>

<http://news.blog.ajc.com/2015/02/26/snow-in-metro-atlanta-about-5000-customers-without-power-in-the-state/>

Update: Exelon's 1,134 MW Limerick Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Restarts, Ramps Up to 17 Percent by February 26

On February 23, one of two reactors experienced an abrupt "hot shut-down" when a leak in a nitrogen supply line caused an unexpected closure of one of the main steam isolation valves, sending steam to the unit's electrical generator.

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

<http://www.thereporteronline.com/general-news/20150224/valve-leak-shutdown-limerick-nuke-plant>

Exelon's 1,116 MW Peach Bottom Nuclear Unit 2 in Pennsylvania Reduced to 80 Percent by February 26

On the morning of February 25 the unit was operating at 89 percent.

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

Petroleum

Update: U.S. Refinery Strike Continues With No Steps Towards Settlement February 26

The United Steelworkers union (USW) refinery strike continued through its 25th day on Wednesday with no movement toward renewed talks to end a walkout by 6,550 union workers at 15 plants, including 12 refineries accounting for one-fifth of domestic refining capacity. A spokesman for lead refinery owner representative Shell Oil Co, said no face-to-face meetings have been scheduled with the USW as of Wednesday. Sources familiar with the talks have said that face-to-face negotiations may not resume this week. Talks on local issues are set to begin again on Friday between LyondellBasell and the USW local union representing workers at the company's 263,776 b/d Houston refinery, said sources close to the negotiations.

Reuters, 17:50 February 25, 2015

Update: PES Restarts Major Units at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery After Planned Maintenance – Sources

Philadelphia Energy Solutions Inc has begun the restart of an 85,000 b/d fluid catalytic cracker and a 200,000 b/d crude unit in the Girard Point section of its Philadelphia refinery, according to a person familiar with the facility's operations on Wednesday. A 38,000 b/d reformer at the refinery was also restarting, the source said. All three units were shut for about three weeks for planned maintenance. All units were expected to be operating at normal levels by the weekend, the source said.

Reuters, 15:06 February 25, 2015

Leak Shuts 110,000 b/d CDU at BP's 413,500 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery February 25

A leak caused the shutdown of a 110,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU), Pipestill 11C, at BP Plc's Whiting, Indiana, refinery, on Wednesday, according to a local media report. The refinery continues to produce gasoline and other fuels, the report said, citing a BP spokesman.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/26/refinery-operations-bp-whiting-idUSWNAB0640I20150226>

ExxonMobil Reports No Impact from Emissions at Its 560,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery February 25

ExxonMobil said an emissions event from a hole in a duct has ended and there was no impact to production at its Baytown, Texas refinery.

Reuters, 17:26 February 25, 2015

Reuters, 17:49 February 25, 2015

Total Reports Small Flange Leak at Its 225,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery February 25

Total SA reported a small flange leak developed on an unspecified R-1 unit at its Port Arthur, Texas, refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Reuters, 18:56 February 25, 2015

HollyFrontier Reports Emissions at Its 155,300 b/d Tulsa, Oklahoma Refinery February 23
Reuters, 15:41 February 25, 2015

Update: Sunoco's 300,000 b/d West Texas Crude Oil Pipeline Returns to Normal Operations February 26

Sunoco Logistics Partners LP West Texas Gulf crude oil pipeline returned to normal operations Thursday morning after it shut a day earlier, according to a shipper notice. On Wednesday, the company said it verified a leak of some 50 barrels and shut down the line flowing from Colorado City, Texas to Wortham, Texas.
Reuters, 10:49 February 26, 2015

Western Refining Filling Its 8,000–10,000 b /d TexNew Mex Pipeline from Texas to New Mexico

Western Refining Inc is filling its new TexNew Mex pipeline in far West Texas and New Mexico with crude oil, but startup has been pushed to the early second quarter from the current quarter because of bad winter weather, the chief executive said on Thursday. He said it would be fully operational early in the second quarter, with initial volumes ranging from 8,000 b/d to 10,000 b/d. The project involved reactivating a 299-mile section of TexNew Mex pipeline to move crude oil in New Mexico, and a 70-mile extension to connect to a crude gathering facility in Reeves County, Texas.
Reuters, 12:40 February 26, 2015

North Dakota's Rig Count Drops to 119 February 26 from 193 a Year Ago
Reuters, 9:51 February 26, 2015

Natural Gas

Update: Algonquin Gas Transmission Reports Outage Resolved at Its Southeast Compressor Station in New York February 25

Spectra Energy's Algonquin Gas Transmission (AGT) on Thursday reported the unplanned outage at its Southeast, New York compressor station had been resolved and the station had returned to full capacity.
<https://infopost.spectraenergy.com/infopost/AGHome.asp?pipe=AG&mode=1>

Canyon Midstream's AGI Compressor Well Experiences Mechanical Failure at Its 105 MMcf/d James Lake Midstream System in Texas February 24

Canyon Midstream reports the acid gas injection (AGI) well compressor experienced a mechanical failure. The broken compressor parts were replaced and the compressor was back online. Inlet volume was reduced during the emission event.
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=210655>

Southern Union Reports Flaring due to Frozen Scrubbers at Its 140 MMcf/d Keystone Gas Plant in Texas February 25

Southern Union flared low pressure gas when third stage discharge scrubbers on units 23 and 24 would not drain because they were frozen. The drains were thawed so the scrubbers would drain and the units were brought back on line.
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=210635>

ExxonMobil Reports Unit Shut at Its 65 MMcf/d Dollarhide Gas Plant in Texas February 23

ExxonMobil reported unit P-17 shut due to third stage discharge pressure safety valve (PSV) leak. The leaking PSV was identified and shut. Ten flowing wells were shut in to reduce and mitigate emissions.
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=210652>

Other News

Nothing to report.

Russian President Threatens Ukraine with Gas Cutoff

President Vladimir Putin warned Wednesday that Russia will cut gas supplies to Ukraine if it fails to pay in advance for future deliveries. Putin said that Ukraine's latest payment would be good only for another three to four days, warning that Russia will have to turn off the tap if Ukraine doesn't remit payment quickly. He did not announce a deadline, but warned that a cutoff may disrupt supplies to Europe. Russia and Ukraine signed a deal in October requiring Kiev to pay in advance for gas shipments. Last week, Russia accused Ukraine of cutting gas supplies to areas in the east controlled by Russia-backed rebels. Russia then started pumping gas directly to the east, saying they should be counted as part of the overall volume of its gas exports. Ukraine protested that it can't control gas distribution in areas outside its control.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=46612

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
February 26, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	47.60	51.07	102.20
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.19	2.93	5.62

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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