



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, March 06, 2013

Major Developments

Strong Winter Storm Cuts Power to Nearly 273,000 Utility Customers in the Mid-Atlantic; Nearly 240,000 Customers Remain without Power Afternoon of March 6

A strong winter storm that has been affecting the Midwest and Ohio Valley began impacting the Mid-Atlantic on Wednesday, dropping heavy, wet snow that knocked out power to 272,819 customers across the region. As of 3:30 p.m. EST, 239,869 customers remained without power. The Shenandoah Valley in western Virginia and West Virginia has been hardest hit by the storm, with utilities serving the region reporting more than 202,000 customers without power Wednesday afternoon. Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell declared a state of emergency this morning. Virginia utilities all advised their customers to prepare for multi-day outages. Dominion Virginia Power reported it had 4,200 line and support personnel engaged in the restoration effort, including 520 bucket trucks. The Rappahannock Electric Cooperative reported transmission lines serving its members were damaged Wednesday afternoon, and operators were working with Dominion and FirstEnergy to restore power. The Central Virginia Electric Cooperative (CVEC) reported this afternoon that Appalachian Power had dropped transmission feed to Piney River, Colleen, Gladstone, and Schuyler Substations, which was affecting CVEC members. Appalachian expected partial feed to some substations to resume soon. The storm system is expected to move up the coast Wednesday evening into early Friday, generally bringing as much as 2–8 inches of snow from the New York City metro area into New England.

<http://www.weather.gov/>

<http://www.governor.virginia.gov/News/viewRelease.cfm?id=1710>

http://www.newsadvance.com/news/local/article_f8cc4a76-860a-11e2-bc29-001a4bcf6878.html

<http://www.myrec.coop/news/index.cfm>

http://www.forcvec.com/outage/index_2.html

<https://www.dom.com/storm-center/index.jsp>

Ohio Valley, Mid-Atlantic Customer Power Outages			
March 5–6, 2013			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
AEP Ohio	OH/WV	3,063	~0
Dayton Power & Light	OH	1,200	814
FirstEnergy Ohio	OH	1,150	92
Duke Energy Ohio & Kentucky	OH/KY	2,287	174
Duke Energy Carolinas	NC/SC	2,303	1,641
Dominion Virginia Power	VA/NC	115,411	115,394
Central Virginia Electric Coop. (CVEC)	VA	18,854	18,854
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative	VA	59,334	51,006
AEP Appalachian Power	VA/WV	9,315	3,893
FirstEnergy (MD, VA)	MD/WV	19,490	13,315
Baltimore Gas & Electric	MD	965	500
Delmarva	DE/MD	12,572	12,572
Atlantic City Electric	NJ	9,856	7,633
FirstEnergy New Jersey	NJ	8,858	8,858
Public Service Electric & Gas	NJ	4,750	4,750
FirstEnergy Pennsylvania	PA	3,411	373
TOTAL*		272,819	239,869

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

Sources:

<https://www.aepohio.com/outages/>

<http://www.dpandl.com/customer-service/outage-center/outage-map/>
http://www.bizjournals.com/dayton/blog/morning_call/2013/03/snow-blankets-miami-valley-forces.html
<http://outages.firstenergycorp.com/oh.html>
<http://www.duke-energy.com/kentucky/outages/current.asp>
<http://www.duke-energy.com/north-carolina/outages/current.asp>
<https://www.dom.com/storm-center/dominion-electric-outage-summary.jsp>
<https://www.facebook.com/myCVEC>
http://www.forcvec.com/outage/index_2.html
<http://www.myrec.coop/outage-center/outage-map.cfm;jsessionid=5230dbef8edcdf7f7d9f1e3e787474218411>
<https://www.appalachianpower.com/outages/>
<http://outages.firstenergycorp.com/mdwv.html>
<http://outagemap.bge.com/>
<http://www.delmarva.com/home/emergency/maps/stormcenter/>
<http://www.atlanticcityelectric.com/home/emergency/maps/stormcenter/>
<http://outages.firstenergycorp.com/nj.html>
http://www.pseg.com/home/customer_service/outage_info/outagemap.jsp
<http://outages.firstenergycorp.com/pa.html>

Electricity

Southern's 1,149 MW Vogtle Nuclear Unit 2 in Georgia Ramped Up to 84 Percent by March 6

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 5 the unit was operating at 75 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

Exelon's 1,111 MW La Salle Nuclear Unit 2 in Illinois Ramped Up to 81 Percent by March 6

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 5 the unit was operating at 60 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

Petroleum

EIA Says Low Water Levels Tying Up Barge Traffic, Oil Movement on the Mississippi River

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported low water levels in the Mississippi River due to drought conditions are tying up barge traffic and are affecting the navigation of oil tankers and barges. The river has become a major avenue for transporting Bakken crude oil and Midwestern refined products to the Gulf Coast. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in the process of dredging sediment from the channel and blasting rocks from the river bottom in an effort to ease the flow of barge and tanker traffic.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=38763

Motiva's 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery is Fully Operational, Reaches Planned Rates by March 6

Motiva Enterprises LLC on Wednesday said the refinery is now fully operational and is running at planned rates after steadily ramping up the refinery's 325,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) for several weeks.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2013/03/06/motiva-port-arthur-texas-refinery-reaches-planned-rate/#ixzz2MnKLAeSK>

Update: FCCU Restart Fails at BP's 265,000 b/d Carson, California Refinery March 4 – Traders

An attempt to restart a 102,500 b/d fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at BP's Carson refinery failed Wednesday, according to traders. The unit had begun restarting on Monday. The FCCU and a related alkylation unit recently underwent a 6-week overhaul, originally scheduled to finish by February 22, but the restart attempt failed due to unexpected repairs.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2013/03/06/bp-carson-calif-refinery-gasoline-making-equipment-shuts-down-during-startup/>

Pembina Pipeline to Proceed with \$1 Billion Expansion of NGL Infrastructure in Alberta

Pembina Pipeline Corp. said Wednesday that it will expend approximately \$1 billion on expansion of its existing NGL infrastructure. Expansion plans include twinning its 200 MMcf/d Saturn deep cut facility to extract NGL from raw gas streams near Alberta, twinning its 73,000 b/d Redwater ethane-plus fractionator near Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, and increasing the capacity on its Peace Pipeline/Northern NGL system to 220,000 b/d. All three phases are expected to be completed in 2015.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/pembina-pipeline-corporation-proceed-1-220900212.html>

Atlas Pipeline Reports Mechanical Failure at Its 195 MMcf/d Midkiff Gas Plant in Texas March 5

Atlas Pipeline reported Engine B13 broke a power piston at its Midkiff plant Tuesday, causing a cylinder to damage, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators replaced the piston and changed the ignition unit.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/occeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=180068>

Regency Reports Flaring, AGC Shut Down at Its 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas March 5

Regency Energy Partners reported that extremely high winds blew out the Assist Gas Pilot at its Waha plant Tuesday, and subsequent acid gas compressor malfunction events sent acid gas to the flare which was not combusted, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators restored the pilot so that subsequent shut-downs would be properly combusted.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/occeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=180036>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Update: Shell Declares Force Majeure on Nigeria Bonny Light Crude Oil Exports March 6

Royal Dutch Shell on Wednesday declared a force majeure on its Bonny Light crude oil exports in Nigeria due to a leak on a pipeline and oil theft. According to Shell, a leak was found on the 150,000 b/d Nembe Creek pipeline on Sunday and said on Monday that it may be forced to shut down the pipeline because of theft.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/05/shell-force-majeure-idUSL6N0BXJNT20130305>

Update: TAQA Keeps 100,000 b/d Brent Crude Oil Pipeline Network in U.K. Closed March 6

The Abu Dhabi National Energy Co., known also as TAQA, reported its Comorant Alpha platform and the 100,000 b/d Brent pipeline infrastructure in the northern U.K. North Sea remained shut Wednesday, after a hydrocarbon release was detected in one of the platform legs during maintenance work on Saturday. According to a TAQA spokesperson, the company must conduct safety checks before it can restart the pipeline system.

http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Energy-Resources/2013/03/06/North-Sea-oil-pipeline-remains-closed/UPI-22561362567467/

Update: Total Cleared to Restart Elgin Oil & Gas Field in U.K. North Sea March 6

Total SA said Wednesday it received clearance from Britain's Health and Safety Executive (HSE) to restart the North Sea Elgin field, which produces 9 million cubic meters of gas and 60,000 barrels of oil daily. The field has been shut down since a major gas leak in March 2012. Total later said the leak likely began after pressure rose in a capped well. HSE determined that the company demonstrated that it had reevaluated the risks associated with operating the installation by resubmitting the safety case required to permit production. Full output is not expected for several months.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/06/uk-elgin-gas-idUSL6N0BYB9S20130306>

U.K. Buzzard Field Producing More Than 200,000 b/d Again March 6

Nexen said Wednesday that its North Sea Buzzard oil field, the U.K.'s most productive oil field, which had been pumping below capacity since last week, is now producing over 200,000 b/d.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/124827/UK_Buzzard_Field_Back_Over_200000_Barrels_Per_Day

Venezuela Oil Industry Not Affected by President Chavez's Death, PDVSA Says

[http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/06/venezuela-chavez-oil-](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/06/venezuela-chavez-oil-idUSL1N0BY00W20130306?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43)

[idUSL1N0BY00W20130306?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43](http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/06/venezuela-chavez-oil-idUSL1N0BY00W20130306?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43)

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices March 6, 2013			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	89.89	93.14	106.19
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.48	3.46	2.30

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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