



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday, March 07, 2006

Electricity

Public Health Officials Say Leak at Indian Point Nuclear Plant Poses No Threat

According to public health officials, small quantities of tritium and strontium-90 found to have leaked at the Indian Point nuclear generating station in New York pose no threat to the public. The strontium-90 was detected when a test well was dug at the plant. The well was one of nine that have been dug since the leaking tritium was discovered in August 2005. The company plans to dig another 14 wells in order to determine the source and extent of the leak.
http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6413631

NRC Sends Observer to Monitor Tritium Leak at Palo Verde Unit 3

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has sent a physicist to the Palo Verde nuclear generating station in Arizona to monitor the investigation into a tritium leak discovered in water near the plant. Thus far, the NRC has no indication that the leak has migrated offsite.
<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/headlines.jsp>

Update: Tests by ConEd Find Stray Voltage Problems at More than 1,200 Locations

Consolidated Edison, in a report on the results of testing requirements imposed on the company following a death that occurred as the result of stray, found 1,214 sites where stray voltage occurred among the 728,789 pieces of equipment that were tested. Tests were performed on manholes, transformer vaults, streetlights, utility poles, and other types of equipment.
http://www.nytimes.com/2006/03/04/nyregion/04voltage.html?_r=2&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

Update: Exelon's 1,043 MW Clinton Nuclear Power Station Ramps Up to 61 Percent in Illinois

By early March 7, the 1,043 MW Clinton nuclear generating station in Illinois had ramped up to 61 percent of capacity. Exelon had reduced power at the facility over the past weekend to work on a condenser.
Reuters 07:08 March 7, 2006.

Petroleum

No Impact on Production from Explosion at Sunoco Marcus Hook Refinery in Pennsylvania

According to Sunoco, a small contained explosion at its 175,000 b/d refinery in Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania, has not necessitated any reduction in production nor had any environmental impact.
Reuters, 15:30 March 7, 2006.
<http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/060307/1237201.html?.v=2>

No Impact on Production from Explosion at Shell Dear Park Refinery in Texas

According to Shell Oil, an explosion and fire at its 340,000 b/d refinery in Dear Park, Texas, has had no impact on production, and the refinery is operating at normal levels.
Reuters, 15:30 March 7, 2006.

To Calm Markets, OPEC Will Fill in Any Supply Gaps that Develop

In an effort to mitigate price pressure in oil markets, OPEC ministers meeting in Vienna indicated that they would work to overcome any supply problems that might emerge from developments in Nigeria, Iraq, or Iran.
Reuters, 13:56 March 7, 2006.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060307/bs_nm/energy_opec_dc_4;_ylt=AllJlqykPt.V9uWJmkKywKOAsnsA:_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCUI

Strike Cuts Petroecuador's Output by 34 Percent

Petroecuador's crude oil production was cut by 34 percent to 134,000 b/d when striking workers shut down electricity in the oil fields. Some 4,000 contract workers are striking for full-time jobs and over the issue of late payments for work performed.

Reuters, 13:02 March 7, 2006.

Venezuela Urges OPEC to Cut Production by 500,000 b/d

Venezuelan oil minister Rafael Ramirez believes that the world oil market is oversupplied by about 1 million b/d and thinks that OPEC should cut production by 500,000 b/d.

<http://www.platts.com/Request%20More%20Information/>
<http://www.platts.com/Oil/headlines.jsp>

EIA Says 255,000 of Gulf of Mexico Production Will Still be Shut at the Onset of the Hurricane Season

According to the latest monthly outlook from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), some 255,000 b/d of oil production in the Federal offshore Gulf of Mexico are expected to remain offline at the outset start of the hurricane season, which will begin on June 1, 2006.

Reuters, 12:08 March 7, 2006.

EIA Sees Only Modest Increase in World Spare Capacity Through 2007

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) foresees only a modest growth in the amount of spare production capacity in the world between now and the end of 2007 because declining production from mature fields will offset much of the increases from new fields.

Reuters 12:06 March 7, 2006.

Nigerian Oil Minister Sees Restoration of Most Shut Production Within Two Weeks

Speaking to reporters on March 7, Nigerian oil minister Edmund Daukoru said that about 75 percent of the 450,000 b/d of production that has been shut by attacks by militant groups in the country should be back in production within two weeks. Daukoru stated that Nigeria is committed to providing security to oil industry operations.

Reuters, 11:36 March 7, 2006.

Reuters, 10:46 March 7, 2006.

Natural Gas

Dominion Sees Startup of New Deepwater Fields Reaching 160 MMCF/d in March

Dominion Exploration and Production announced that initial production from its Rigel and Seventeen Hands deepwater fields in the Gulf of Mexico should achieve a rate of 160 MM cf/d by the end of this month.

NGI's Daily Gas Price Index March 7, 2006

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Natural Gas Futures Drop to Seven Month Low

The futures price for natural gas dropped to the lowest point in seven months on March 6, closing down 24.3¢ at \$6.527.

NGI's Daily Gas Price Index March 07, 2006

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

Other News

Dust Storm Forces Closing of Egyptian Including Port Said

Reuters, 12:45 March 7, 2006.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 7, 2006			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL			
West Texas Intermediate U.S.	61.51	61.37	54.55
\$/Barrel			
NATURAL GAS			
Henry Hub	6.53	6.69	6.81
\$/Million Btu			

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Ethanol Industry Sees More than \$5 Billion in Investment Needed to Meet 2012 Energy Act Goals

Reuters, 13:15 March 6, 2006.

Update: OSHA Investigating Fatal Smokestack Fire at West Virginia Power Plant

http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6412780

Workers Concerned About Pending Merger Threaten to Strike at Cinergy

<http://biz.yahoo.com/bizj/060307/1237184.html?v=1>

Coalbed Methane Potential Seen from Initial Drilling in Nova Scotia

NGI's Daily Gas Price Index March 07, 2006

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

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 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.

Visit *Energy Assurance Daily* Online!

Energy Assurance Daily provides a summary of public information concerning current energy issues. Published Monday through Friday to inform stakeholders of developments affecting energy systems, flows, and markets, it provides highlights of energy issues rather than a comprehensive coverage. *Energy Assurance Daily* is updated online Monday through Friday after 5:00 PM EST. For more information, visit us online at:

<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>