



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, March 07, 2011

Electricity

Backhoe Knocks Down Power Line, Cuts Electricity to More than 41,000 OG&E Customers in Oklahoma March 6

Only scattered outages remained, as of latest reports.

<http://public.oge.com/systemwatch/SystemWatch.swf?startMapID=1>

<http://newsok.com/in-brief-power-outage-in-oklahoma-city-metro-affects-nearly-33700-oge-customers/article/3546535>

Storm Knocks Out Power to More than 30,000 Customers in New York March 7

Storms cut power to at least 20,938 National Grid customers and 11,159 Central Hudson Gas & Electric customers in New York on March 7, news and company sources reported.

<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/article/20110307/NEWS01/110307001/Flood-warning-in-effect--many-without-power--schools-delayed>

<http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Storm-causes-schools-delayed-power-outages-and-1045694.php>

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

<http://stormcentral.cenhud.com/default.aspx>

Fire Shuts PPL's 768 MW Montour Coal-Fired Unit 2 in Pennsylvania March 4

The fire was extinguished in about an hour, according to company and official sources. The site's other unit - the 768 MW Unit 1 - was offline for scheduled work at the time of the incident. It was not clear when the company expected to restart the fire-downed unit.

http://dailyitem.com/0100_news/x1609123767/Boiler-fire-knocks-out-PPL-power-generating-unit

<http://www.pplweb.com/ppl+generation/coal+plants/ppl+montour+fact+sheet.htm>

Update: Exelon's 1,134 MW Limerick Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania at Full Power by March 5

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 4 the unit was operating at 90 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Southern's 1,152 MW Vogtle Nuclear Unit 1 in Georgia Shut by March 7

The unit ramped down from 95 percent power on the morning of March 5 to 20 percent by March 6, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reported. The unit shut fully by March 7, according to the NRC.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

FPL's 693 MW Turkey Point Nuclear Unit 3 in Florida Shut by March 7

FPL shut the unit after "secondary sodium concentrations" exceeded "chemistry limits," the company said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that on the morning of March 6 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20110307en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Progress Energy's 811 MW Brunswick Nuclear Unit 2 in North Carolina Shut by March 5

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 4 the unit was operating at 98 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

APS's 1,247 MW Palo Verde Nuclear Unit 3 in Arizona Reduced, Ramped Up by March 6-7

The unit ramped down from full power on the morning of March 4 to 80 percent power by March 5 and 40 percent power by March 6, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reported. The unit ramped up to 69 percent power by March 7, according to the NRC.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

TVA's 1,155 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 1 in Alabama Reduced to 74 Percent by March 5

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 4 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/2011/>

Luminant to Reduce 793 MW Monticello Coal-Fired Unit 3 in Texas March 5

Luminant expected to reduce the unit to “repair an electro hydraulic fluid leak,” the company said in a filing with state regulators. It was not clear when the company expected to resume normal service.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=151566>

Update: Calpine's 593 MW Metcalf Energy Center Gas-Fired Unit in California Ramps up by March 6

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned curtailment of 333 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201103061515.html>

Ace Cogeneration's 118 MW Ace Cogeneration Coal-Fired Unit in California Shut by March 5

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage by March 5.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201103051515.html>

TransAlta to Shut Coal-Fired Boilers at 1,340 MW Centralia Power Plant in Washington by 2025

TransAlta plans to shut one coal-fired boiler at its 1,340 MW Centralia power plant in Washington by the end of December 2020, and the facility's second coal-fired boiler by the end of 2025, according to a deal struck over the weekend between the company and the state's governor. The deal would also enable TransAlta to sell long-term contracts for coal-based electricity; those funds, in turn, would help the company shift to gas-fired power.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/05/power-transalta-washington-idUSN0520914920110305>

<http://www.transalta.com/facilities/plants-operation/centralia>

TVA to Idle as Much as 4,700 MW of Coal-Fired Electricity by 2017

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) plans to idle – but not retire – as much as 4,700 MW of coal-based electricity by 2017 and purchase or construct up to 9,300 MW of gas-fired capacity, the company said in its recently-filed 20-year Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). TVA also aims to open its proposed 880 MW John Sevier combined-cycle power facility in 2012 and finish building an 1,150 MW nuclear power unit at its Watts Bar facility in Tennessee by 2013. The company is working on two new reactors in Alabama and other units elsewhere. It might also construct a coal-fired power unit (with carbon capture) with a capacity of as much as 900 MW.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/04/us-utilities-tva-generation-idUSTRE7236RQ20110304>

Update: Fighting Continues as Ports and Most Oil Production Remain Offline throughout Libya March 7

Up to 1.2 million b/d of oil production and multiple ports were offline as fighting continued throughout Libya on March 7, Reuters reported. Libya typically produces 1.6 million b/d of crude. Sources varied as to how much production was down; estimates ranged from 100,000 b/d to 1.2 million b/d. Despite assurances from Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi and rebels that they would not attempt to destroy oil infrastructure, battles continued in or near oil installations, as of latest reports. The U.S. government, meanwhile – amid rising oil and gasoline prices – said yesterday that it was considering releasing supplies from the nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR).

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN0627338320110307>

Reuters, 11:55 March 7, 2011

Two Rescued after Fire at Arena Energy's Non-Producing Oil Platform Offshore Louisiana March 6

The U.S. Coast Guard rescued two men from a fire at Arena Energy's GI 102A oil production platform about 50 miles offshore Grand Isle, Louisiana in the Gulf of Mexico on March 6, the Coast Guard said in a release. Arena said it had shut in the platform about two weeks ago. The fire was reportedly extinguished.

<http://www.d8externalaffairs.com/go/doc/425/1030659/>

Sunoco to Shut FCC for Unplanned Work at 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery

Sunoco expected to shut the gasoline-producing fluid catalytic cracking (FCC) unit for unplanned work, the company said on March 7. The work could last weeks, according to the company.

Reuters, 12:16 March 7, 2011

Hydrogen Loss Forces Shut Multiple Units at Flint Hills Resources' 305,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery March 3-4

The shutdown of a continuous catalytic regeneration (CRR) unit led to "a loss of hydrogen to the Hydrocracker Unit (HDC)" that triggered flaring and forced shut multiple other units at the facility on March 3-4, Flint Hills Resources said in a filing with state regulators. The company took "prompt actions... to restore operation of the HDC and CCR process units," according to the filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=151562>

Reuters, 15:45 March 4, 2011

Worker Dead after CCU Incident at Valero's 185,000 b/d St. Charles Refinery in Norco, Louisiana March 6

An incident killed one worker and injured another yesterday at the facility's millisecond catalytic cracking unit (CCU), a company spokesman said. The unit was offline at the time of the event, according to the spokesman. The nature of the incident remained unclear, as of latest reports.

<http://www.wdsu.com/r/27106331/detail.html>

Reuters, 12:15 March 7, 2011

Power Loss Forces Shut Units at ExxonMobil's 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery by March 7

A power loss forced shut a hydrotreater and a hydrogen unit, a spokesman said on March 7.

Reuters, 12:02 March 7, 2011

Tesoro Sees No Production Impact after Compressor Shutdown, Flaring at 93,500 b/d Kapolei, Hawaii Refinery March 4-5

A compressor shutdown at an unidentified unit led to flaring on March 4, but Tesoro fixed the affected unit and resumed normal compressor operations on March 5, a company spokesman said. The incident did not impact throughput, according to the spokesman.

Reuters, 10:18 March 7, 2011

Delek Resumes Normal Operations after FCC Snag at 60,000 b/d Tyler, Texas Refinery March 3-4

Delek resumed normal operations after the snag, the company said in a filing with state regulators.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=151574>

Reuters, 18:16 March 4, 2011

U.S. Commandoes Foil Suspected Pirate Attack On Board Japanese Oil Tanker Offshore Oman March 6

U.S. commandoes detained the alleged pirates onboard the Japanese-owned MV Guanabara on March 6; the tanker's crew reported the attack on March 5. There were no reported injuries.

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2011/03/07/commandos-free-ship-crew-pirates/?test=latestnews>

Update: BOEMRE Rejects Former BP Contractor's Claims of Safety Lapses at Atlantis Oil-and-Gas Platform in Gulf of Mexico

A former BP contractor's claims that the company's failures had led to unsafe conditions on board the Atlantis oil-and-gas platform in the Gulf of Mexico were largely unfounded, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) said on March 4. The former contractor alleged that BP did not properly maintain the engineer-approved "as built" drawings of systems and structures aboard the Atlantis facility. That lapse, according to the contractor, increased safety risks for the facility and to its personnel. BOEMRE did identify several problems with how BP organized, stored, and labeled engineering drawings and documents, but found no evidence that the documentation deficiencies created specific unsafe conditions on the platform.

<http://www.boemre.gov/ooc/press/2011/press0304.htm>

Natural Gas

Nothing to report.

Other News

Highlands EnviroFuels LLC to Begin Construction in Fourth Quarter 2011 on Proposed 20-40 MMGal/Yr. Sugar-Based Ethanol Plant in Highlands County, Florida

The facility would produce 20 MMGal/Yr. or ethanol. It could be expanded to produce 40 MMGal/Yr., according to the company's website.

<http://www2.highlandstoday.com/content/2011/mar/05/LANEWSO1-biofuels-opens-opportunities-for-highland/>

<http://www.usenvirofuels.com/Plans/default.asp>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 7, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	105.27	97.13	81.42
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.70	3.81	4.78

Source: Reuters

Storm Knocks Out Power to More than 10,000 CVPS Customers in Vermont March 6-7

http://www.manchesterjournal.com/ci_17555557

<http://www.vtoutages.com/>

Update: HECO Workers Go on Strike after Storm Knocks Out Power to 14,000 Customers in Hawaii March 4 – Company Restores Power to Customers by March 6

<http://www.civilbeat.com/articles/2011/03/06/9436-lights-back-on-across-oahu/>

http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/breaking/Power_outages_road_closures_reported_across_Oahu.html

Power Restored after Approximately 45-Minute Outage at Bradley International Airport in Connecticut March 6

<http://www.nbcconnecticut.com/news/local/117499588.html>

FPL Unveils 75 MW Martin Next Generation Solar Energy Center in Florida March 5 – Facility Includes Solar-Powered and Gas-Fired Capacity

<http://www.fpl.com/news/2011/030511.shtml>

Update: Finavera's Proposed 77 MW Wildmare and 47 MW Tumbler Ridge Wind Energy Projects in British Columbia, Canada Pass Screening Stage of Provincial Environmental Assessment Process by March 7

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/finavera-wind-energys-wildmare-and-tumbler-ridge-wind-projects-advance-in-environmental-assessment-process-117513643.html>

Seal “Overpressuring” Causes Emissions at Citgo's 429,500 b/d Lake Charles, Louisiana Refinery by March 7

Reuters, 00:32 March 7, 2011

Update: Chesapeake Energy, Clarita Operating to Temporarily Halt Wastewater Injections Related to Natural Gas Drilling in Central Arkansas March 4 – Researchers Investigating Possible Connection between Injections and Recent Spate of Earthquakes

http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2011/03/two_natural_gas_companies_to_s.html

Power Outage Briefly Shuts Tilden Gas Plant in Texas March 5 – AGI Units Shut Temporarily at Facility March 6

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=151579>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=151584>

Upset Leads to Emissions, Reduced Gas Flows at Aker Gas Plant in Texas March 6

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=151586>

Power Failure Forces Shut Fractionation Unit at Mont Belvieu Fractionator in Texas March 5

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=151577>

Lightning Strike Causes Power Surge, SRU Shutdown at Pittsburg Gas Plant in Texas March 5-7 – Operators Restarting SRU, as of Latest Reports

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=151582>

Operators to Re-Route Inlet Lines, Ask Producers to Shut in Natural Gas Output due to Scrubber Safety Issue at Lehman Compressor Station in Texas March 7-9

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=151357>

Failure Leads to Venting during Enterprise Products' Attempts to Restart Line 22 Natural Gas Pipeline in Texas March 5

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=151580>

Fog Leads Pilots to Temporarily Halt Boarding along Houston Ship Channel in Texas March 4

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-04/houston-pilots-plan-to-start-early-afternoon-ship-boarding-1-.html>

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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