



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, March 07, 2012

Electricity

Power Failures Due to Unknown Cause Affect 34,000 Entergy Customers in New Orleans March 6

Entergy New Orleans reported about 34,000 of its customers lost power around 3:15 PM local time yesterday, according to a spokesman. The utility was unsure what caused the power failures, which appeared related but were in different parts of the city. Crews were working to fix the problem and reroute power to as many customers as they could yesterday, restoring power to all but 2,000 customers by 5:00 PM. Entergy hoped to restore power to all its customers by 7:00 PM, according to reports. As of this afternoon, the utility was reporting 50 customer outages in its service territory.

<http://www.wwl.com/Thousands-without-power-in-New-Orleans/12471116>

<http://www.katc.com/news/power-outage-affects-thousands-cause-unknown-239693/>

<http://viewoutage.entergy.com/nola.aspx>

Xcel Energy Declares Unusual Event after RCS Level Drops at 522 MW Prairie Island Nuclear Unit 2 in Minnesota March 6

Xcel Energy reported an unusual event at its Prairie Island nuclear power plant after detecting a changing reactor coolant system (RCS) level at Unit 2 on Tuesday, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Unit 2 is currently shut down for a refueling outage. An investigation of the event indicated the RCS level began decreasing after a reactor vessel head vent spool piece was removed, causing air to enter and creating a vacuum in the RCS, according to the filing. Operators placed a charging system into service to regain the RCS level back to its original level, and an inspection did not reveal any leaks. The RCS level was considered stable at the time of the filing.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2012/20120307en.html>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2012/12-008.iii.pdf>

Update: Entergy's 510 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Unit in Vermont Ramped Up to 98 Percent by March 7

On the morning of March 6 the unit was operating at 53 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Update: FirstEnergy's 1,235 MW Perry Nuclear Unit 1 in Ohio Ramped Up to 95 Percent by March 7

On the morning of March 6 the unit was operating at 72 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

PCWA's 176 MW Colgate Hydro Unit 2 in California Shut by March 6

The unit entered an outage due to planned and unplanned causes.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201203061515.html>

Ameren Illinois Presents Modernization Action Plan to Improve Infrastructure, Service Reliability

Ameren Illinois, a subsidiary of Ameren Corporation, has presented a 10-year infrastructure improvement and modernization plan to the Illinois Commerce Commission, according to a release. The Modernization Action Plan includes plans for investments in infrastructure to improve service reliability, distribution automation, advanced metering infrastructure, training facilities, distribution system optimization, and technology enhancements.

<http://www.ameren.com/sites/aiu/Media/Pages/MAPBlueprint.aspx>

Update: Enbridge Restarts Western Portion of 318,000 b/d Line 14/64 March 6 after Oil Leak, Fire Last Weekend; Remaining Portion of Line Due to Restart March 8

Enbridge Inc. shut its 24-inch, 318,000 b/d Line 14/64 early last Saturday after a deadly vehicle accident near a pumping station in New Lenox, Illinois caused an oil leak and fire. The company reported the western section of the pipeline, Line 14, returned to service Tuesday, a day earlier than expected. Line 64 is expected to return to service by Thursday. An Enbridge spokeswoman said the company is making significant progress on the remaining repairs and in cleaning up the estimated 475 barrels of oil spilled after the accident.

http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Energy-Resources/2012/03/07/Enbridge-oil-pipeline-back-online/UPI-78821331126231/

Canadian Pacific Plans 35,000 b/d Expansion of Bakken Crude-by-Rail Capacity on North Dakota Network

Canadian Pacific yesterday announced that it will be moving additional Bakken crude oil by unit train rail from a planned industry logistics hub served by its North Dakota network to markets across North America, according to a release. The Van Hook, North Dakota facility, planned for development by U.S. Development Group (USD), will handle crude oil and related products from the Bakken formation and will have initial capacity to handle up to 35,000 b/d at eight automated truck-unloading positions. This facility will initially allow for the assembly of 15–17 crude unit trains per month, numbering up to 104 rail cars, for haulage on CP's network and to all parts of North America. Capacity will expand to accommodate up to 30 unit trains per month once the terminal is fully developed.

<http://www.cpr.ca/en/news-and-media/news/Pages/cp-expands-bakken-crude.aspx>

United Steelworkers Authorize Strike at Tesoro's 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery March 5; Workers Have Not Yet Gone on Strike

Workers at Tesoro Corp.'s Martinez refinery voted Monday to authorize a strike at the plant, but they haven't gone on strike yet, according to a United Steelworkers (USW) spokeswoman on Tuesday. USW members at five Tesoro plants rejected the company's offers on a contract that expired on January 31, and the workers at Martinez are hoping the strike authorization will pressure the company into renegotiating health care, benefits, and safety provisions in the contract, union officials said. The contract is now being extended on a 24-hour basis, and talks were continuing Tuesday evening, according to the USW spokeswoman.

<http://www.bradenton.com/2012/03/06/3921101/usw-members-fight-to-retain-bargaining.html>

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/?controllerName=search&action=search&channel=business&search=1&inlineLink=1&query=%22Lynne+Hancock%22>

Valero Reports Flash Fire at Its 180,000 b/d Memphis, Tennessee Refinery March 6; Expects No Delays to Scheduled Turnaround Maintenance

Valero Energy Corp. reported a flash fire ignited at a flare platform at about 3:00 PM CST yesterday at its Memphis refinery, injuring three workers performing crude unit turnaround maintenance, according to reports. Valero said the fire isn't expected to extend the planned duration of turnaround maintenance underway at the plant's crude unit, which began March 2 and is expected to conclude on or around April 6.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2012/03/06/valero-memphis-refinery-fire-not-expected-to-extend-turnaround/>

CO Boiler Trips during FCCU Restart at ExxonMobil's 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery March 5

ExxonMobil reported a CO boiler tripped during the restart of a fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Beaumont refinery on Monday, according to a filing with state regulators. Operators were restarting the CO boiler as soon as possible and expected the refinery to resume normal operations without interrupting contractual obligations.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=165704>

FCCU Trip Leads to Emissions at Valero's 171,000 b/d McKee, Texas Refinery March 6

Valero reported emissions from a fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its McKee refinery on Tuesday after a charge pump malfunction caused the unit to trip unexpectedly. The refinery reported a second opacity event occurred due to low temperatures on the electrostatic precipitator (ESP) during subsequent FCCU restart. The ESP remained operational throughout the duration of the event, the filing said. Operators worked to minimize emissions while restarting the unit.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=165731>

ConocoPhillips Reports Unit Shutdown at 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery

March 6

ConocoPhillips on Wednesday reported the shutdown of a benzene extractor unit (BEU) at its joint-venture refinery in Wood River, Illinois, according to a filing with state regulators. An exchanger at the BEU opened for an unknown reason Tuesday morning and the unit was shut, the filing said.

Reuters, 04:00 March 7, 2012

Natural Gas

GE, Chesapeake Energy Collaborating to Speed Adoption of Natural Gas as Transportation Fuel

GE and Chesapeake Energy Corporation today announced a formal collaboration to develop infrastructure solutions that will help accelerate the adoption of natural gas as a transportation fuel, according to a press release. Beginning in the fall of 2012, GE will provide more than 250 modular and standardized compressed natural gas (CNG) compression stations, where natural gas from a pipeline can be compressed onsite to turn it into CNG. A CNG vehicle, such as a taxi, bus, or small truck, can then refill its tank using a traditional fuel dispenser, much like those used for diesel or gasoline refueling.

<http://www.chk.com/News/Articles/Pages/1670077.aspx>

Ram Truck to Offer First Compressed Natural Gas Pickup Truck for Fleet and Commercial Vehicles by July 2012

Chrysler Group LLC yesterday announced Ram Truck will offer a factory-built compressed natural gas (CNG) pickup truck designed for fleet and commercial customers, according to a news release. The company expects to deliver the first vehicles by July 2012. According to the release, there are about 150,000 natural gas vehicles (NGVs) on U.S. roads and more than 13 million worldwide. NGVs can be refueled from existing natural gas lines at CNG fueling stations. There are approximately 1,500 CNG fueling locations in the United States, according to the release, half of which are accessible to the public.

<http://www.chryslergroupllc.com/sustainability/Pages/News.aspx>

Other News

Nothing to report

International News

Nothing to report

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 7, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	106.19	105.32	105.27
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.30	2.44	3.70

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 EDT every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://www.eia.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM EDT every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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

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