



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, March 07, 2016

Electricity

Strong Storm, High Winds Knock Out Power to Over 159,000 Customers in Northern California March 5–6

Heavy rain and high winds, with gusts up to 88 mph, downed trees and power lines on Saturday, knocking out power to 130,000 Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) customers and 29,000 Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) customers across northern California. By Sunday morning, all but 1,800 SMUD customers had power restored. As of 10:00 p.m. EST on Sunday, PG&E reported 97 percent of impacted customers had power restored. The utility also reported that a second storm hit on Sunday night knocking out power to 16,000 customers. As of 3:30 p.m. EST Monday, 9,246 PG&E customers remained without power.

<https://m.pge.com/index.html?sf22061611=1&sf22072998=1&sf22076196=1#outages>

<https://twitter.com/pge4me>

<http://www.smud.org/en/outages/>

<https://twitter.com/SMUDUpdates>

<http://abc7news.com/weather/heavy-rain-powerful-wind-gusts-do-damage-across-bay-area-/1232380/>

<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Strong-blustery-storm-headed-for-Bay-Area-6872124.php>

High Winds, Pole Fire Knock Out Power to Nearly 20,000 Customers in Nevada March 6

High winds moved through Southern Nevada on Sunday knocking out power to 15,000 Overton Power customers and 4,893 NV Power customers. Overton Power reported that a power pole fire from a structure supporting circuits that link its Tortoise substation resulted in a system-wide power outage. NV Power reported that nearly all customers had power restored by 2:00 a.m. EST on Sunday, while Overton Power reported complete service restoration by 10:00 a.m. EST on Monday.

<https://www.facebook.com/Overton-Power-District-5-189733007338/?fref=nf>

<https://www.nvenergy.com/outage/>

http://www.mohavedailynews.com/news/much-of-laughlin-without-power-for-three-hours-sunday/article_250d03ac-e439-11e5-a6e5-3b9371b04dcb.html

<http://news3lv.com/news/local/many-without-power-in-mesquite-and-moapa>

Cable Trip Knocks Out Power to Over 11,000 National Grid Customers in New York March 6

National Grid reported 11,600 customers had power knocked out Sunday morning due to a cable trip that caused a problem at a nearby substation. By Monday morning, all customers had power restored.

<https://www.nationalgridus.com/Upstate-NY-Home/Storms-Outages/Outage-Map>

<http://cbs6albany.com/news/local/about-11600-without-power-in-albany>

Update: FPL's 1,155 MW Seabrook Nuclear Unit 1 in New Hampshire Restarts, Ramps Up to 35 Percent by March 7

The unit shut from full power on March 2 due to a turbine trip.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2016/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2016/20160302en.html>

Duke Energy's 846 MW Oconee Nuclear Unit 1 in South Carolina Shut Due to Transformer Fire March 6

A transformer at Duke Energy's Oconee nuclear power plant in South Carolina caught fire on Sunday afternoon, burning for about 30 minutes, but no nuclear material was in danger of being released, local media reported. Unit 1 at the plant was shut down as a precaution and the cause of the fire was under investigation. Units 2 and 3 continued to operate safely, according to Duke. The fire did not lead to any evacuations, the director of the Oconee County Emergency Management agency said, and there was no threat to the public. Officials with Duke Energy said that the fire was upgraded from an unusual event to an alert because the blaze damaged a power line in the station's switchyard.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2016/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2016/20160307en.html>

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/transformer-fire-shuts-unit-south-230114141.html>

Reuters, 9:57 March 7, 2016

Entergy's 966 MW River Bend Nuclear Unit 1 in Louisiana Restarts March 4, Ramps Up to 93 Percent by March 6

The unit shut from 30 percent power on February 18. A cause for the closure was not immediately available.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2016/>

Exelon's 855 MW Quad Cities Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois Reduced to 87 Percent by March 5

On the morning of March 4 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2016/>

SCE's 820 MW Big Creek Hydro Unit in California Reduced by March 6

The unit entered an unplanned curtailment of 413 MW.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201603061515.html>

Petroleum

Coast Guard Reopens Houston Ship Channel after Fire at Petrobras' 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery March 5

A fire on Saturday at Petrobras' Pasadena, Texas refinery temporarily closed the Houston Ship Channel and left one person injured. The fire, which was contained, started at the hydrogen desulphurization unit of the plant, according to a Petrobras spokeswoman. The Houston Ship Channel reopened on Saturday afternoon after a temporary closure while emergency crews responded, according to the Coast Guard. Petrobras on Monday said units at facility were operating in a safe condition, except the affected distillate hydrotreater and a gasoline hydrotreater. The company added that there was no projected start-up dates for the affected units.

<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2795266/>

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=51328

Reuters, 9:45 March 7, 2016

ExxonMobil Reports Spill Contained at Its 560,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery March 6

ExxonMobil Corp reported that a leak from a tubing fitting resulted in a spill onto concrete and emissions at its Baytown, Texas refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environment Quality. The company said the leak was isolated and the spill was cleaned up.

Reuters, 21:28 March 6, 2016

Update: Problem Found in FCCU after Restart at Marathon's 451,000 b/d Galveston Bay, Texas Refinery March 4 – Sources

Gulf Coast market sources on Friday said an unspecified problem had developed in the operation of the 120,000 b/d fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at Marathon Petroleum Corp's Galveston Bay Refinery in Texas City, Texas, which successfully restarted on March 3. Marathon has yet to make a decision on how to repair the unspecified malfunction in the regenerator of the FCCU, which was previously shut for a two-month overhaul. The first attempt to restart the FCCU began last Tuesday and was halted early Thursday morning after instrumentation problems and leaks developed, the sources said. The second restart attempt, which began later on Thursday, was successful.

Reuters, 18:21 March 4, 2016

LyondellBasell Restarts Compressor after Trip at Its 263,766 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery March 5

LyondellBasell Industries restarted a compressor following a trip at its refinery in Houston, Texas on Saturday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environment Quality.
Reuters, 22:24 March 6, 2016

Phillips 66 Reports Flaring at Its 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery March 5

Phillips 66 reported flaring at its Borger, Texas refinery on Saturday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environment Quality. The incident also led to release of sulfur dioxide, with the 73,000 b/d hydrotreater unit as one of the sources of emissions, according to the filing.
Reuters, 21:44 March 6, 2016

Cal/OSHA Issues Safety Citations to ExxonMobil's 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery March 4

The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) issued citations to ExxonMobil Refining & Supply Company on March 4 after it discovered the company knowingly avoided faulty equipment repair at its Torrance refinery for four years. Following a hydrofluoric acid leak at the refinery's alkylation unit on September 6, 2015, Cal/OSHA conducted an investigation, finding that the leak was related to a temporary clamp installed on a three-inch nozzle flange after another leak earlier in 2011. The nozzle was not replaced until January 2016. The three citations issued on Friday include one willful-serious citation, indicating the employer was aware of the hazardous condition and did not take reasonable steps to address it, and two general citations for ExxonMobil's failure to conduct a hazard analysis to identify and address the leak following the 2011 incident.

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/DIRNews/2016/2016-26.pdf>

Apache Corporation Shutting Oil Operations in Alaska after 2016 Leases Expire

Apache Corporation, which has been exploring oil and gas resources in the Cook Inlet area, said it plans to leave Alaska because of low oil prices. The company said it would retain its Alaska assets, but wouldn't seek renewal of the leases when they expire at the end of this year. Due to the current downturn, Apache has had to significantly scale back operations and spending, a spokesman said.

Reuters, 12:01 March 7, 2016

U.S. Oil Drillers Cut Rigs for Eleventh Straight Week – Baker Hughes

U.S. energy firms last week cut oil rigs for an eleventh week in a row to the lowest level since December 2009, data from Baker Hughes Inc showed on Friday. Drillers removed eight oil rigs during the week ending March 4, bringing the total rig count down to 392, Baker Hughes said. That compares with 922 oil rigs operating in the same week a year ago.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/143373/Baker_Hughes_US_Oil_Drillers_Cut_Rigs_For_11th_Week_In_A_Row#sthash.Y0Q8WznM.dpuf

Natural Gas

DCP Midstream Reports Turbine Shut at Its 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas March 6

DCP Midstream reported its Goldsmith plant experienced a flare event due to the unexpected shutdown of turbine A due to raw gas vibrations. Technicians were troubleshooting the cause of incident and all attempts were made to purge gas flow as quickly as possible.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=228755>

Other News

NOAA Reports Geomagnetic Storm Activity Observed March 6

NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center (SWPC) reported a strong (G3) geomagnetic storm on March 6 in response to above-average coronal hole high-speed stream effects. SWPC said the solar wind environment has tapered since the elevated activity, and as a result the G1 Watch for March 7 has been canceled. Earth's geomagnetic field is expected to be at quiet to unsettled levels with isolated periods of active conditions possible for the remainder of March 7.

<http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/news/g3-strong-geomagnetic-storming-observed>

International News

Update: Repairs on Iraq-Turkey's Kirkuk-Ceyhan Oil Pipeline Nearing Completion – Source

Work on a pipeline carrying oil from northern Iraq to Turkey should be complete “in a day or two,” an industry source based in the Kurdistan region said on Sunday. Flows through the pipeline, which carries around 600,000 b/d of oil from fields in Iraq's Kurdistan region and Kirkuk to the Mediterranean port of Ceyhan, have been suspended since February 17. The Turkish energy ministry said on February 27 it had begun work to repair the pipeline.

Turkey's energy ministry said flows were initially suspended due to temporary security measures, and that militants from the Kurdistan Workers' Party had subsequently blown up the pipeline.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-iraq-kurds-oil-pipeline-idUSKCN0W80B5>

Iran Oil Sales to Reach 2 Million b/d 'Soon' – Economy Minister

Iran's sales of crude oil will reach 2 million b/d “soon,” the economy minister said on Monday. The country has ramped up efforts to boost output after economic sanctions were lifted in January.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/143387/Iran_Economy_Minister_Oil_Sales_to_Reach_2_Mbpd_Soon

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 7, 2016			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	37.85	31.65	50.04
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	1.49	1.66	3.27

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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