



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, March 08, 2013

Electricity

Update: Nearly 39,000 Utility Customers Remain Without Power in the Mid-Atlantic Due to Winter Storm March 8

An ongoing winter storm continued in the Northeast Friday, part of a system that knocked out power to more than 414,000 Mid-Atlantic utility customers by Thursday morning before slowly tapering off in severity. As of 3:00 p.m. EST Friday, 38,833 customers remained without power, mostly in western Virginia, where the storm brought up to 18 inches of heavy, wet snow as well as high winds and rain from Tuesday evening until early Thursday morning. Dominion Virginia Power said it expects to restore service by Friday night for more than 95 percent of its affected customers. Dominion crews are working around the clock, along with approximately 500 utility workers from other states, to fully restore power. The Rappahannock Electric Cooperative (REC) reported it anticipated the vast majority of its affected members would have their power restored by the end of the day Sunday. The cooperative deployed the largest number of pre-staged crews it has ever used in response to the storm, and more than doubled its work force with mutual assistance workers. REC said pre-planning helped its workforce restore service to nearly 50 percent of its members within 24 hours of the peak of the storm.

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

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

Mid-Atlantic Customer Power Outages			
March 5-8, 2013			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Dominion Virginia Power	VA	230,000	13,244
Central Virginia Electric Coop. (CVEC)	VA	18,854	6,790
Rappahannock Electric Cooperative	VA	70,000	17,248
AEP Appalachian Power	VA/WV	9,315	641
FirstEnergy (MD, VA)	MD/WV	19,490	625
Baltimore Gas & Electric	MD	965	105
Atlantic City Electric	NJ	35,000	5
FirstEnergy New Jersey	NJ	10,000	47
Public Service Electric & Gas	NJ	4,750	48
Delmarva Power	DE	12,572	~5
FirstEnergy Pennsylvania	PA	3,411	75
TOTAL*		414,357	38,833

*Total outages represent only electric utilities listed in this table. Peak outages are not coincidental.

Sources:

<https://www.dom.com/storm-center/dominion-electric-outage-summary.jsp>

<http://www.outageentry.com/dvosm/dvOSM2.php?Client=cvec>

<http://www.myrec.coop/outage-center/outage-map.cfm;jsessionid=5230dbef8edcdf7f7d9f1e3e787474218411>

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

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

<http://outages.firstenergycorp.com/mdwv.html>

<http://outagemap.bge.com/>

<http://www.atlanticcityelectric.com/home/emergency/maps/stormcenter/>

<http://outages.firstenergycorp.com/nj.html>

<https://twitter.com/PSEGdelivers>

<http://www.delmarva.com/home/emergency/maps/stormcenter/>

<http://outages.firstenergycorp.com/pa.html>

Update: Entergy's 813 MW FitzPatrick Nuclear Unit in New York Restarts by March 7, Ramps Up to 20 Percent by March 8

The FitzPatrick nuclear unit is returning from an outage that began by March 4, when operators took the reactor offline to repair a feedwater heater tube leak. On the morning of March 7 the unit was operating at 1 percent power.
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

Exelon's 1,022 MW Clinton Nuclear Unit in Illinois Shut Due to Main Generator Trip March 7

Exelon reported a main generator trip and subsequent turbine trip on the Clinton nuclear unit resulted in a reactor scram from 97 percent power on Thursday, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The cause of the generator trip is under investigation. All systems operated as expected with no complications, and the plant was in stable Mode 3 at the time of the filing.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130308en.html>

U.S. Nuclear Watchdog's Annual Review Finds NRC Inconsistent in Maintaining Nuclear Power Plant Safety

The Union of Concerned Scientists on Thursday released a report that concludes many significant safety lapses at U.S. nuclear power plants in 2012 happened because plant owners—and often the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)—either tolerated known problems or failed to address them adequately.

http://www.ucsusa.org/news/press_release/ucs-third-annual-nuclear-0364.html

http://www.ucsusa.org/nuclear_power/nuclear_power_risk/safety/nrc-and-nuclear-power-safety-annual.html

Update: NRG Announces Commercial Operations at 26 MW Borrego I Solar Power Plant in California

NRG Energy, Inc., through its wholly owned subsidiary NRG Solar, on Monday announced the start of commercial operations for the Borrego I Solar Generating Station, a 26 MW (AC) photovoltaic facility located northeast of Borrego Springs, California. The station's electricity will be sold to San Diego Gas & Electric under a 25-year power purchase agreement.

http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=121544&p=irol-newsArticle_Print&ID=1792441

Petroleum

Shell Shuts Segment on 300,000 b/d Houston-to-Houma Crude Oil Pipeline Due to a Leak in Louisiana March 7

Shell Oil reported it temporarily shut a segment of its Houma-to-Houston (Ho-Ho) crude oil pipeline Thursday morning after detecting a leak near Iowa, Louisiana.

Reuters, 09:50 March 8, 2013

Holly Energy Partners Proceeding with 100,000 b/d Expansion of Crude Oil System in Southeastern New Mexico

Holly Energy Partners, L.P. (HEP) on Thursday announced that it is proceeding with the expansion of its crude oil transportation system in southeastern New Mexico, in response to increased crude oil production in the area. The expansion will provide shippers with an additional 100,000 b/d of pipeline takeaway capacity to either common carrier pipeline stations for transportation to major crude oil markets or to HollyFrontier's New Mexico refining facilities. To complete the project, HEP will convert an existing refined products pipeline to crude oil service, construct several new pipeline segments, expand an existing pipeline, and build new truck unloading stations and crude storage capacity. HEP anticipates it will be in service no later than early 2014.

http://www.hollyenergy.com/press_files/HEP%20Crude%20System%20Expansion.pdf

Marathon Reports Vapor Release at Its 76,000 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery March 6

Marathon Petroleum Corp. reported it was performing a procedure to move caustic solution from a caustic tank to the merox unit at its Texas City refinery Wednesday afternoon when the flow reversed due to a pressure difference, causing the merox unit to send liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) material back into the caustic tank, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This caused vapor to release to the atmosphere from both the merox unit and the caustic tank. Operators isolated the system and halted the flow of LPG to the caustic tank within 5 minutes.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/occeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=180123>

Oiltanking Partners to Expand LPG Import-Export Capacity at Its Houston Ship Channel Terminal

Oiltanking Partners, L.P. on Wednesday announced an expansion of its relationship with Enterprise Products Partners, L.P. and plans to increase its ability to import and export liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) at its terminal on the Houston Ship Channel. Under the agreement with Enterprise, the partnership will construct a new vessel dock and add infrastructure to existing docks to allow the handling of more LPG vessels at multiple docks. The loading capacity for low-ethane propane will increase from the current rate of almost 4 million barrels per month to approximately 7.5 million barrels per month. The expansion is expected to be completed by the end of the fourth quarter of 2014.

<http://investors.oiltankingpartners.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=245478&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1792737>

PBF Reports Unspecified SRU Shutdown at Its 180,000 b/d Paulsboro, New Jersey Refinery by March 8

PBF Energy Inc. reported emissions due to a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) shutdown at its Paulsboro refinery, according to a filing with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. SRU No. 3 was shut for about 30 minutes.

Reuters, 10:21 March 8, 2013

Cumene Unit Valve Failure Releases Unknown Material at Marathon's 226,000 b/d Catlettsburg, Kentucky Refinery by March 4

Marathon Petroleum Corp. reported a failed valve in a cumene unit at its Catlettsburg refinery released an unknown material, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The release was discovered Sunday afternoon. Operators isolated the valve but were unsure at the time of the filing whether this had secured the release.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1040033

Shell Restarts Unspecified Unit at Its 100,000 b/d Scotford, Alberta Refinery March 7

Royal Dutch Shell Plc on Thursday reported it was restarting an unspecified unit at its Scotford refinery near Edmonton, Alberta and expected intermittent flaring over the next 48 hours, according to a notice on a community information line. The activity had no material impact on production.

Reuters, 15:18 March 7, 2013

Train Pulling 13 Full Crude Oil Tankers Derails in Eastern Maine March 7; Minimal Spillage Reported

A 14-car freight train pulling 13 full crude oil tankers derailed Thursday morning in Mattawamkeag, Maine, with most of its cars but not its engine landing on their sides. Local officials said three of the tankers spilled about a gallon each of oil, and that the tankers each hold 20,000–60,000 gallons.

<http://bangordailynews.com/2013/03/07/news/penobscot/freight-train-pulling-oil-tankers-derails-in-mattawamkeag/>
<http://www.pressherald.com/news/Train-carrying-crude-oil-derails-in-Maine-.html>

ConocoPhillips on Track to Drill Exploration Wells in Chukchi Sea Offshore Alaska Next Year – Program Manager

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/08/conocophillips-alaska-idUSL1N0C01I220130308?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43>

Natural Gas

Kinder Morgan Applies to Ship an Additional 275 MMcf/d of Natural Gas from Texas to Mexico on Its 425 MMcf/d Mier-Monterrey Natural Gas Pipeline

Kinder Morgan Texas Pipeline LLC on March 1 filed an application with the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requesting authorization to ship an additional 275 MMcf/d of natural gas from Texas to Mexico on the existing 425 MMcf/d Mier-Monterrey pipeline. The 95-mile pipeline connects in Monterrey, Mexico to a 1,000 MW power plant complex and into Pemex-Gas Y Petroquimica Basica's natural gas transportation system. Kinder Morgan has asked FERC to approve authorization by June 1.

<http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/common/OpenNat.asp?fileID=13194854>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/06/kinder-gaspipeline-mexico-idUSL1N0BYHGY20130306?feedType=RSS&feedName=governmentFilingsNews&rpc=43>

Regency Reports Unit Shutdowns at Its 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas March 5 and March 7

Regency Energy Partners reported an in-line pressure gauge failure at its Waha plant Monday morning caused an acid gas compressor to shut down, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators also reported that a main circuit breaker tripped on Wednesday due to a motor short on the natural gas liquids pump, causing an acid gas injector to shut down.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=180043>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=180162>

Unit Shutdown Causes Emissions at ExxonMobil's 135 MMcf/d Salt Creek Gas Plant in Texas March 5

ExxonMobil reported that Unit K3501D at its Salt Creek plant shut down on high fourth-stage discharge temperature Monday night, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=180088>

Exterran Reports Emissions at Its 50 MMcf/d Reinecke Gas Plant in Texas March 4

Exterran reported Unit 77082 at its Reinecke plant went down on high scrubber levels Sunday morning, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=180103>

Enbridge Reports AGI Unit Shutdowns at Its Tilden Gas Plant in Texas March 4 and March 7

Enbridge reported the acid gas injector (AGI) unit No. 2 at its Tilden plant went down on high discharge temperature Sunday night, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. As operators were restarting AGI No. 2, the No. 1 AGI unit shut on compressor motor fault. Operators also reported that an electric malfunction on the inlet emergency shutdown valve caused AGI Units 1 and 2 to shut down on high discharge pressure.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=180064>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=180138>

Other News

Towing Vessel Carrying More Than 5,400 Gallons of Diesel Fuel and Lube Oil Sinks in the Mississippi River near New Orleans March 7

The U.S. Coast Guard on Thursday reported it was supervising the salvage and pollution response operations of a sunken towing vessel in the Mississippi River at Mile Marker 161.5 near New Orleans. The 56-foot towing vessel *Justice*, owned by River Ventures LLC, had begun taking on water Thursday afternoon and sank around midnight. The vessel was carrying 5,336 gallons of diesel fuel and 100 gallons of lube oil when it sank. The Coast Guard is investigating the cause of the incident.

<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/1718711/Coast-Guard-responds-to-sunken-towing-vessel-in-Mississippi-River>

International News

Russia on Course to Send 25 Percent of Its Crude Exports to Eastern Markets by 2015

Russia is on course to send 25 percent of its crude exports to eastern markets by 2015, in an effort to meet rising demand from China and other Asian consumers and at the expense of European markets. Industry data show that Russia sent 1.1 MMb/d—or22 percent of its exports—east in February, up from 18 percent in October. Volumes to the Pacific port of Kozmino reached a record 445,000 b/d in February. The increase was due in part to the commissioning in December of an expansion on OAO Transneft's 600,000 b/d East Siberia-Pacific Ocean pipeline. West-bound Russian crude supplies are expected to fall an average 90,000 b/d this year, according to traders.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-03-07/putin-pipeline-to-send-25-of-russia-s-oil-exports-east.html>

Bedouin Gunmen in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula Seize and Briefly Hold ExxonMobil Executive and Wife March 7

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/07/egypt-kidnapping-idUSL6N0BZB4720130307?feedType=RSS&feedName=BasicMaterialsSector&rpc=43>
<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-03-07/exxon-mobil-s-egypt-country-head-released-safe-after-kidnapping.html?cmpid=yhoo>

Pirates Attack Malaysia-flagged Oil Supply Vessel Offshore Nigeria, Kidnap Three Crewmembers March 5 – Sources

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/03/07/nigeria-piracy-idUSL6N0BZ2WV20130307?feedType=RSS&feedName=rbssEnergyNews&rpc=43>

Saboteurs Blow Up 110,000 b/d Maarib Crude Oil Pipeline in Yemen by March 6

The Yemeni Defense Ministry on Wednesday announced that saboteurs had blown up a segment of the Maarib crude oil pipeline, which transports crude to the Ras Isa export terminal on the Red Sea Coast. The explosion caused “a large fire” in the pipeline, according to officials, who did not say whether the incident had interrupted crude exports. The pipeline has been attacked at least 10 times in the last three months.

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2013/March/middleeast_March77.xml§ion=middleeast

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 8, 2013			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	91.24	90.86	106.74
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.54	3.48	2.24

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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