



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, March 08, 2016

Electricity

Strong Thunderstorms Knock Out Power to Over 44,000 Oncor Customers in Texas March 8

Powerful thunderstorms producing high winds, heavy rain, and hail knocked out power to 44,254 Oncor customers in northern Texas on Tuesday. The utility said its crews were working to repair downed power lines caused by wind gusts of up to 70 mph. As of 4:00 p.m. EST Tuesday, 13,130 Oncor customers remained without power.

<http://stormcenter.oncor.com/external/default.html>

<https://twitter.com/oncor>

<http://www.star-telegram.com/news/weather/article64698072.html>

Update: 2,300 PG&E Customers Remain without Power in Northern California March 8 after Strong Storm, High Winds Hit March 5–6

Heavy rain and high winds, with gusts up to 88 mph, knocked out power to 130,000 Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) customers on Saturday. On Sunday night, PG&E reported 97 percent of impacted customers had power restored when a second storm knocked out power to 16,000 PG&E customers. As of 4:00 p.m. EST Tuesday, 2,370 PG&E customers remained without power.

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

<https://twitter.com/pge4me>

<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>

Update: FPL's 1,155 MW Seabrook Nuclear Unit 1 in New Hampshire at Full Power by March 8

On the morning of March 7 the unit was operating at 35 percent after restarting on 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>

Update: Entergy's 966 MW River Bend Nuclear Unit 1 in Louisiana at Full Power by March 8

On the morning of March 7 the unit was operating at 84 percent after restarting on March 4. 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/>

Update: Exelon's 855 MW Quad Cities Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois at Full Power by March 8

On the morning of March 7 the unit was operating at 87 percent, reduced from full power on March 4.

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

PG&E's 154 MW Kerkhoff Hydro Unit 1 in California Shut by March 7

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201603071515.html>

PG&E's 407 MW Helms Hydro Unit 1 in California Shut by March 7

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201603071515.html>

Oregon Becomes First State to Pass Law Eliminating Coal-fired Power by 2035

Oregon on March 3 became the first state to pass laws to rid itself of coal, committing to eliminate the use of coal-fired power by 2035 and to double the amount of renewable energy in the state by 2040. Legislation passed by the state's assembly, which will need to be signed into law by Governor Kate Brown, will transition Oregon away from coal-fired power, which currently provides around a third of the state's electricity supply. At the same time, the state will also require its two largest utilities to increase their share of clean energy, such as solar and wind, to 50 percent by 2040.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/mar/03/oregon-coal-climate-law-kate-brown>

GVEA Reports Its 50 MW Healy, Alaska Coal-fired Power Plant Shut Due to Fire March 3

Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA) reported a fire on March 3 shut unit 2 of its recently recommissioned Healy power plant in Alaska. Officials reported that the fire began when an unknown heat source ignited a buildup of coal dust in the air. The utility said unit 2 was closed indefinitely and unit 1 was closed temporarily while the cause of the fire remains under investigation.

http://www.newsminer.com/news/local_news/fire-shuts-down-healy-coalplant/article_7859352a-e2af-11e5-bbf8-778edba8b8cc.html

<http://www.gvea.com/energy/healy2>

APS Reports Its 4,000 MW Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant in Arizona Sets Power Output Record in 2015

Arizona Public Service Co. (APS) on March 7 reported its Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station broke its own output record in 2015 and for the 24th time was the highest-producing power plant in the U.S. The triple-reactor plant produced 32.5 million megawatt-hours of electricity in 2015. APS said Palo Verde remains the only power plant in the country to ever produce more than 30 million megawatt-hours in a year.

<https://www.aps.com/en/ourcompany/news/latestnews/Pages/palo-verde-nuclear-generating-station-sets-us-power-production-record.aspx>

Reuters, 5:01 March 8, 2016

Georgia Power Completes CA20 Module Concrete Wall Pour at Its 1,117 MW Vogtle Unit 3 Nuclear Power Plant Expansion March 6

Georgia Power on Sunday completed the placement of more than 1,800 cubic yards of concrete to fill the walls of the CA20 module of its Vogtle plant expansion. The 45-hour continuous pour is a key achievement for the vertical construction of the shield building and will provide structural support for the installation of select mechanical modules. Towering more than five stories tall with a footprint of approximately 67 feet long by 47 feet wide, the CA20 module will house various plant components, including the used fuel storage area. The expected completion date for unit 3 is June 2019.

<https://georgiapower.com/about-us/media-resources/newsroom.cshhtml>

<http://www.southerncompany.com/what-doing/energy-innovation/nuclear-energy/pdfs/Vogtle-Units-3-and-4-FactSheet.pdf>

Petroleum

Phillips 66 Reports Flaring, Compressor Issue at Its 336,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery March 8

Phillips 66 reported flaring due to a compressor issue at its Wood River, Illinois refinery, according to a filing with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

Reuters, 4:09 March 8, 2016

Update: LyondellBasell Working to Restart VDU at Its 263,776 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery March 8 – Sources

LyondellBasell Industries was working to repair a shut 91,000 b/d vacuum distillation unit (VDU) which forced its Houston, Texas refinery to cut production since early last week, Gulf Coast market sources said on Tuesday. The VDU may restart late this week, which would allow LyondellBasell to increase production on the refinery's 147,000 b/d atmospheric heavy crude distillation unit, the larger of two distillation units, which restarted last week at reduced production levels without supplies from the VDU.

Reuters, 11:48 March 8, 2016

Update: Oklahoma Corporation Commission Expands Well Plan to Curtail Earthquakes Caused by Oil, Natural Gas Wastewater Disposal Operations

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) on Monday released an expanded plan Monday that will curtail wastewater injection volumes and well depth to deal with the state's increasingly frequent earthquakes. The OCC's new plan nearly doubles the amount of land covered under a previous plan released in February to help deal with the increase of seismic activity in the state that officials say is caused by oil and natural gas disposal wells. In 2015, Oklahoma geologists documented strong links between increased seismic activity in the state and the injection into the ground of wastewater from oil and gas production, stating that it is very likely that the majority of the earthquakes are triggered by wastewater injection activities tied to the oil and gas industry, according to the Oklahoma Geological Survey. Earthquakes above magnitude 3.0 now strike the state at a rate of two per day or more, compared with about two per year prior to 2009. The new plan affects more than 5,000 square miles and more than 400 disposal wells, bringing the combined effect of the two plans to more than 10,000 square miles and more than 600 disposal wells. The volume reduction plans will be phased in over two months, with full compliance expected by May 28, the commission said.

<http://www.occeweb.com/News/2016/03-07-16ADVISORY-AOI,%20VOLUME%20REDUCTION.pdf>

http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/143402/Oklahoma_Expands_Plan_To_Curtail_Earthquakes_In_State

FERC to Host March 9 Technical Conference over Colonial's Proposed Tariff Changes

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will hold a technical conference on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. EST after several of its pipeline shippers protested a November 3, 2015 tariff filing, which proposed modifications to Colonial's minimum volume procedures as well as capacity allocation. Worsening congestion on the 2.53 million b/d pipeline system has spawned an unregulated, secondary market for pipeline space, driving up costs for wholesale diesel and gasoline buyers, such as Costco Wholesale Corporation. Executives from Colonial Pipeline will be questioned by customers and regulators on Wednesday in order to explore the issues raised by the filing, gain an understanding of the facts, and obtain additional information of affected shippers.

Reuters, 11:20 March 8, 2016

<http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventDetails.aspx?ID=8238&CalType=%20&CalendarID=116&Date=&View=Listview>

<http://www.ferc.gov/CalendarFiles/20151203160342-IS16-61-000.pdf>

Natural Gas

Update: Enable Gas Reports Section of Line OM-1 in Arkansas to Be Out of Service 6–8 Weeks March 8 after Declaring Force Majeure March 4

Enable Gas Transmission (EGT) on Monday reported it would be taking a section of its Line OM-1 in Northwest Arkansas out of service for six to eight weeks beginning on March 8. EGT declared force majeure on March 4 after it detected significant soil movement around Line OM-1 and invoked a lower self-mandated maximum allowable operating pressure on the line.

<http://pipelines.enablemidstream.com/viewReport.aspx?Pipeline=EGT&ReportType=NOTICES:CriticalNotices&URL=http://pipelines.centerpointenergy.com/stellent/groups/public/documents/ebb/cnp293716.htm>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Update: Northern Iraq's February Oil Exports Nearly Halved Due to Idled Pipeline

Oil exports from northern Iraq nearly halved in February due to the ongoing outage of a pipeline that carries crude from Northern Iraq to the Mediterranean port of Ceyhan, Turkey. The oil pipeline has been idle since February 17 reducing flows to an average of 350,067 b/d last month. Turkey's energy ministry said on February 27 it was repairing the pipeline, and an industry source based in the Iraqi Kurdistan region told Reuters on Sunday the work would be completed "in a day or two."

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=51336

Kuwait Will Commit to Oil Freeze If Major Producers Take Part – Oil Minister

Kuwait will commit to a potential global oil production freeze if major oil producers, including Iran, also agree to join the pact, the country's acting oil minister said on Tuesday. OPEC leader Saudi Arabia and non-OPEC producer Russia, the world's two largest oil exporters, said last month they would freeze output at January levels to prop up prices if other nations agreed to join the first global oil pact in 15 years. Kuwait is currently producing 3 million b/d of oil.

Reuters, 12:57 March 8, 2016

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 8, 2016			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	36.62	34.34	50.04
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	1.52	1.62	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>

Please direct comments and questions to: ead@oe.netl.doe.gov