



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

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday, March 09, 2006

## *Electricity*

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### **Update: APS's 1,247 MW Palo Verde Unit 3 Nuke in Arizona Ramps Up to 98 Percent March 8**

The unit shut over the weekend due to a failure in the equipment that looks at the position of the control rods.  
Bloomberg, 08:00 March 9, 2006

### **Update: Indian Point Nuclear Plant Emergency Sirens Fail Again During Test**

During a test of the emergency siren system for the Indian Point facility on March 8, a computer problem resulted in the failure of the system.

[http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news\\_article.cfm?id=6422571](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6422571)

### **PSEG's 1,174 MW Unit 1 at its Salem Nuclear Plant in New Jersey Shut March 8**

A problem with a turbine caused the 1,174 MW unit 1 at the Salem nuclear generating station in New Jersey to trip off line. In the shut down, one control rod did not fully insert and a steam leak occurred in the turbine building. The cause of the problem is under investigation; however, operators believe that there was a faulty reading.

Reuters, 08:09 March 9, 2006

Bloomberg, 11:52 March 9, 2006

### **Update: Exelon's 1,043 MW Clinton Nuclear Power Station in Illinois Ramps Up to 96 Percent March 9**

Reuters, 16:52 March 9, 2006

### **AES' 175 MW Unit 1 at its Gas-fired Alamos Plant in California Shut March 6**

Reuters, 19:26 March 8, 2006

### **AES' 498 MW Unit 5 at its Gas-fired Alamos Plant in California Shut March 7**

Reuters, 19:26 March 8, 2006

### **AES' 495 MW Unit 6 at its Gas-fired Alamos Plant in California Shut March 7**

Reuters, 19:26 March 8, 2006

### **SCE's 373 MW Big Creek Hydro Unit in California Shut March 5**

Reuters, 19:26 March 8, 2006

### **Reliant's 215 MW Unit 1 at its Gas-fired Mandalay Plant in California Shut March 5**

Reuters, 19:26 March 8, 2006

### **TXU's 560 MW Unit 2 at its Big Brown Coal-fired Plant in Texas Shut March 7**

Reuters, 19:26 March 8, 2006

## Petroleum

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### **Energy Secretary Tells Congress that Much of the Gulf of Mexico Production Still Shut-in Likely to Remain Out of Service**

On March 9, Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman informed Congress that much of the 255,000 b/d of oil production and 400 million cf/d of natural gas production in the offshore Gulf of Mexico that remains shut-in from damage suffered in 2005 from hurricanes Katrina and Rita is unlikely to be brought back into production because the facilities are most often in older fields where production has peaked and production rates will not sustain investment necessary to rebuild.

Reuters, 14:18 March 9, 2006

### **Update: Petroecuador Official Says it Will Take Two Months to Restore Full Production**

As it recovers from the impact of a strike, Petroecuador has brought production up from 93,000 b/d to 110,000 b/d, however, an official of the state owned company said that it will take at least two months to fully restore output to the pre-strike level of 200,000 b/d.

Reuters, 13:27 March 9, 2006

Reuters, 08:40 March 9, 2006

### **Analyst Sees OPEC Shipments Dropping by 500,000 b/d**

An analyst at Oil Movements said that oil to be shipped by OPEC during the four weeks ending on March 25 will drop 500,000 b/d from the previous four weeks. Although a seasonal fall off is to be expected, the analyst indicated the size of the drop came about from losses from Nigerian output coupled with lower demand resulting from unusually high stock levels in the U.S.

Reuters, 13:18 March 9, 2006

### **Siege Lifted at ExxonMobil Terminal in Nigeria**

ExxonMobil and protesters from the Movement for the Survival of Ethnic Nationalities in the Niger Delta came to an agreement to discuss damages from an oil spill in 1998. As a result, the protesters ended their siege of the company's principal oil export terminal in Nigeria.

Reuters, 03:49 March 9, 2006

### **Bolivia Plans to Take Majority Interest in the Country's Three Largest Private Oil and Gas Entities**

Oil Daily, March 9, 2006

[http://www.energyintel.com/PublicationHomePage.asp?publication\\_id=5](http://www.energyintel.com/PublicationHomePage.asp?publication_id=5)

## Natural Gas

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Reuters, 14:18 March 9, 2006

### **Spot Natural Gas Prices Fall to Their Lowest in Nine Months**

Record high storage levels and mild weather combined to push the spot price of natural gas to its lowest level in nine months. The spot price for natural gas Henry Hub closed at \$6.31 the lowest since late May 2005.

Reuters, 14:12 March 9, 2006

**Gas to Flow in Discovery Gas Transmission's Interconnect to Gulf South in May 2006**<http://intelligencepress.com/>**Sempra's Costa Azul LNG Plant on Schedule for Completion in January 2008**[http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news\\_article.cfm?id=6422936](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news_article.cfm?id=6422936)

## Other News

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**GM to Partner on Project to Boost Ethanol Stations in Minnesota**

On March 8, General Motors announced that it would partner with VeraSun Energy Corp. to develop 10 ethanol fueling stations in Minnesota as part of its campaign to boost awareness of the fuel.

Reuters, 19:36 March 8, 2006

**Kinder Morgan Partners to Expand Terminal in Virginia to Accommodate Increased Coal Shipments**<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/060309/dath026.html?v=47>

## Energy Prices

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| <b>U.S. Oil and Gas Prices</b>      |              |                 |                 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| March 9, 2006                       |              |                 |                 |
|                                     | <b>Today</b> | <b>Week Ago</b> | <b>Year Ago</b> |
| <b>CRUDE OIL</b>                    |              |                 |                 |
| <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> | 60.51        | 63.36           | 53.52           |
| \$/Barrel                           |              |                 |                 |
| <b>NATURAL GAS</b>                  |              |                 |                 |
| <b>Henry Hub</b>                    | 6.31         | 6.69            | 6.91            |
| \$/Million Btu                      |              |                 |                 |

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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**Update: Sempra Puts Proposed 1,200 MW Gerlach Plant in Nevada on Hold**[http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news\\_article.cfm?id=6422570](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6422570)**Eight Wind Projects Planned for Manitoba: Initial Capacity 700 MW, Potential for 1,400 MW**[http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news\\_article.cfm?id=6419879](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6419879)

## Links

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***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](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html)

Updated after 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.

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