



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, March 15, 2010

Major Developments

Storms Knock Out Power to More than 1.1 Million Customers across U.S. Northeast March 12-15

Heavy rain and wind battered the U.S. northeast from March 12, causing at least nine deaths, disrupting travel and cutting electricity to more than 1.1 million customers, multiple sources said. More than 325,000 customers remained without power, as of latest reports. Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) in New Jersey, the hardest-hit utility, estimated it would restore service to all affected customers by March 18. Con Edison, which still had more than 80,000 New York customers in the dark, as of this afternoon, expected "restoration to last throughout the week." The following table lists peak and current outage figures, based on latest available data.

U.S. Northeast Customer Power Outages March 12 – March 15, 2010			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Public Service Electric & Gas	NJ	300,000	81,000
Jersey Central Power & Light	NJ	178,000	26,000
Atlantic City Electric	NJ	42,000	317
Consolidated Edison	NY	173,000	81,253
Long Island Power Authority	NY	144,000	59,866
Orange & Rockland	NY	51,000	7,241
New York State Electric & Gas	NY	24,500	5,670
Central Hudson Gas & Electric	NY	6,200	671
PECO	PA	120,000	5,600
Metropolitan Edison	PA	6,000	2,000
PPL Electric Utilities	PA	1,500	76
Connecticut Light & Power	CT	85,000	51,791
United Illuminating	CT	13,000	3,559
National Grid/NStar	MA	20,000	1,816
TOTAL *		1,164,200	326,860

*Total outages only represent electric utilities listed in this table.

Sources:

Public Service Electric & Gas: http://www.pseg.com/media_center/pressreleases/articles/2010/2010-03-15.jsp ,
<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/87636287.html>

Jersey Central Power & Light: http://www.firstenergycorp.com/outages/outages.do?state_code=NJ ,
<http://www.app.com/article/20100315/NEWS/100315020/22-000-in-Central-Jersey-remain-without-power-this-morning> , <http://webstv.com/topstories/wayne.new.jersey.2.1562754.html>

Atlantic City Electric: <http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/87636287.html> ,
<http://www.atlanticcityelectric.com/home/emergency/maps/stormcenter/>

Consolidated Edison: <http://apps.coned.com/weboutageinfo/stormcenter/default.aspx> ,
<http://www.coned.com/newsroom/news/pr20100315.asp>

Long Island Power Authority: <http://www.lipower.org/stormcenter/outages/township.html> ,
<http://www.buzztab.com/latest-news/lipa-is-still-working-to-restore-power-in-long-island/>

Orange & Rockland: <http://www.oru.com/advisories/?id=410> , http://wp1.coned.com/or_stormcenter/default.aspx

New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG): <http://www.nyseg.com/OurCompany/News/2010/031510eaststorm11am.html>

Central Hudson Gas & Electric: <http://stormcentral.cenhud.com/default.aspx> ,
<http://www.poughkeepsiejournal.com/article/20100314/NEWS01/100314002/Wind--rain-cause-outages>

PECO: <http://www.peco.com/outagemap> , <http://www.philly.com/philly/news/local/87636287.html>

Met-Ed: http://www.firstenergycorp.com/outages/outages.do?state_code=PA ,
<http://readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=205278>
PPL Electric Utilities: <http://readingeagle.com/article.aspx?id=205278> ,
<https://selfserv.pplelectric.com/EUSelfServ/Outage/OutageMap.aspx>
Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P): <http://www.cl-p.com/outage/default.aspx> ,
<http://nuwnotes1.nu.com/apps/mediarelease/clp-pr.nsf/0/66460F4F1A4AB601852576E7000715FF?OpenDocument>
, <http://www.acorn-online.com/joomla15/wiltonbulletin/news/localnews/52402-clap-works-to-restore-power.html>
United Illuminating: <http://www.middletownpress.com/articles/2010/03/15/news/doc4b9d9be105b88982571896.txt>
, http://www.uinet.com/wps/PA_TownOutages/faces/jsp/TownOutagePrint.jsp
National Grid, NStar: http://www.enterpriseneews.com/news/state_news/x313365162/High-wind-and-heavy-rains-pummel-region , <http://www1.nationalgridus.com/masselectric/stormcenter/>
<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5h6tfNzApstofgsxNKaABnHUoKKVQD9EF5C1G1>

Electricity

TVA's 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuke Unit 2 in Alabama Reduced to 85 Percent by March 15

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 14 the unit was operating at full power. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Reliant's 775 MW Ormond Beach Gas-fired Unit 2 in California Shut by March 14

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage by March 14.
<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201003141515.html>

Cabrillo Power's 104 MW Encina Gas-fired Unit 2 in California Shut by March 12

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage by March 12.
<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201003121515.html>

Update: Cabrillo Power's 110 MW Encina Gas-fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by March 12

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage.
<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201003121515.html>

Update: Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuke Unit 1 in Mississippi Ramped Up to 51 Percent by March 15

The unit shut automatically due to "low reactor water level" by March 9, the company said in a previous filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that on the morning of March 14 the unit was operating at 30 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20100309en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

AES's 179 MW Redondo Gas-fired Unit 5 in California Returns to Service by March 12

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage.
<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201003121515.html>

San Miguel Electric Coop Plans Restart of 410 MW San Miguel Coal-fired Power Plant in Texas March 13

The unit shut due to a tube leak by March 12, the company said in a filing with state regulators.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=137005>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=137006>

NV Energy to Receive Federal Grant for Smart Grid Program in Nevada

NV Energy, Inc. signed a definitive grant agreement with the Department of Energy (DOE) to receive \$138 million in funding for its Advanced Service Delivery (ASD) project, the company said in a release. The ASD work will provide the company “with the Smart Grid infrastructure necessary to reduce operating costs and provide new options for customers to help manage their energy use,” according to the release. NV Energy aims to complete project in late 2012.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/NV-Energy-Signs-Agreement-bw-158990524.html?x=0&.v=1>

Exelon Plans 80 MW Expansion at 1,824 MW Quad Cities Nuclear Power Plant in Illinois

Exelon expects to expand each of the site’s 912 MW units by 40 MW, according to a plant official. It plans to up-rate Unit 2 in March 2010 and Unit 1 in 2011. The company aims to upgrade its other two nuclear power plants—its 1,824 MW Dresden, Illinois and 2,304 MW Peach Bottom, Pennsylvania facilities—by 2016.

http://www.qctimes.com/news/local/article_af959618-2894-11df-b560-001cc4c002e0.html

Petroleum

HCU Snag Triggers Flaring at Valero’s 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery March 12

An “incorrect level in hydrocracker separator put sour hydrocarbon to the rich amine flash drum,” causing flaring, the company said in a filing with state regulators. The incident lasted just 20 minutes. It was not clear if there was any impact to production.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKWEN170720100314>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=136996>

Valero to Shut 180,000 b/d Memphis, Tennessee Refinery during Planned FCC Work—Company Says it Made “Economic Sense” to Shut Entire Facility

Valero began planned maintenance on the fluid catalytic cracker (FCC), a 105,000 b/d crude unit and an alkylation unit by March 15, but decided to shut the entire refinery—rather than just the affected units—because it made “economic sense,” a spokesman said. It expected the FCC to remain offline for 45 days, but planned to restart the other units sooner.

Bloomberg News, 10:46 March 15, 2010

Flint Hills Stops Flange Leak at 288,126 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery March 14

The incident lasted just over two hours, the company said in a filing with state regulators.

Bloomberg News, 21:21 March 14, 2010

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=137008>

Motiva Likely to Shut Leaking Hydrocracker at 236,400 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery March 15

Workers discovered a quarter-inch hole on March 13, a news source said. The company said it would probably shut the unit on March 15, according to a state police source.

Bloomberg News, 13:08 March 15, 2010

Reformer Causes Flaring at ExxonMobil’s 348,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery by March 15

A problem with a gasoline reformer unit led to flaring, a county official said. It was not clear if the incident had any impact to production.

Bloomberg News, 12:52 March 15, 2010

Valero Sees No Impact to Production after Exchanger Leak at 245,000 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery March 14-15

The exchanger leak occurred at the alkylation unit, a company spokesman said.

DJN, 13:01 March 15, 2010

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=137030>

ConocoPhillips Restarts Unit at 120,000 b/d Rodeo, California Refinery March 11-12

The restart led to flaring, ConocoPhillips said in a filing with state regulators. The company did not say which unit was resuming service.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKWNA593720100312>

Update: Amid Demand Concerns, Murphy Oil Appears Unlikely to Pursue 200,000 b/d Expansion at 35,000 b/d Superior, Wisconsin Refinery

The company postponed the plans previously, citing a decrease in domestic gasoline demand, among other factors, a refinery official said. That delay appears to be permanent, according to a news source.

<http://www.duluthnewtribune.com/event/article/id/162859/>

<http://www.smartbrief.com/news/api/storyDetails.jsp?issueid=E7D87B1F-E7A0-4F3A-A8E318D16A9E7B17©id=D5605EB7-B37C-4356-8679-F0D74956EEF9>

Eni to Bring Online 41 Fields, Combined 560,000 boe/d of Production, Over Next Four Years

The company produced 1.769 million boe/d in 2009; it aims to boost output by an average 2.5 percent/year through 2013, and 2 percent through 2016, according to a news source. It expects to focus largely on fields in Iraq and Venezuela.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=89357

Natural Gas

Blow Out Forces Offline Duke Energy's 24-inch Pampa Gathering – Quinduno Discharge Natural Gas Pipeline in Texas March 14

The line blew out due to internal corrosion, Duke Energy said in a filing with state regulators. Operators isolated the line, and expected to perform repairs prior to any restart.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eei/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=137007>

Other News

Coast Guard Shuts Section of Ohio River as Rescuers Search for Missing Boater by March 15

The Coast Guard shut the Ohio River from mile marker 482 to 478 by March 15, a news source said, as rescuers searched for a man whose vessel capsized on March 14.

<http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7018108738?Section%20Of%20Ohio%20River%20Closed;%20Rescuers%20Searching%20For%20Missing%20Man>

Otter Tail Sees no Impact to Production after Fire at 55 MMGal/Yr. Fergus Falls, Minnesota Ethanol Plant March 9

The fire occurred in a dryer, but did not cause any injuries, a news source said. Firefighters were on-site for less than four hours.

<http://ethanol-news.newslib.com/story/6938-34979/>

<http://www.ottertail ethanol.com/history.htm>

Update: Valero Restarts Production at Newly-Purchased 110 MMGal/Yr. Linden, Indiana Ethanol Plant March 8

The plant had been offline since December 2008, according to a news source.

<http://www.valero.com/OurBusiness/OurLocations/Plants/Pages/Linden.aspx>

<http://ethanol-news.newslib.com/story/6938-34949/>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 15, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	79.67	81.46	46.75
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.35	4.56	3.87

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Suspected Al Qaeda Member Worked at Five Nuclear Power Plants in Maryland, New Jersey and Pennsylvania

<http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,589022,00.html>

Update: Inspection Shows Two Pipe Failures at Entergy's 563 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Vermont by March 11—Engineers May Inspect Storage Tank, for Third Time, to Search for Possible Tritium-Contaminated Water Leak

<http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/3944875>

http://www.reformer.com/localnews/ci_14654157

Exelon to Pay More than \$1 Million to Resolve Complaints over Radioactive Tritium Leaks from Illinois Nuclear Power Plants

<http://daily-journal.com/archives/dj/display.php?id=453413>

http://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2010_03/20100311.html

PPL Plans 11-to-12-Mile Electric Transmission Line and Substation in East-Central Pennsylvania, Citing Frequent Power Failures

http://www.dailyitem.com/0100_news/local_story_071211619.html

Assailants Shoot NorVal Electric Co-operative Substation, Cause Damage to Three Transformers in Montana by March 1

<http://www.greatfallstribune.com/article/20100312/NEWS01/3120309/Vandals-damage-transformers-at-Frazer-substation>

Chile Says Transformer Problem to Blame for Widespread Power Outage March 14, Rather than February 27 Earthquake

Reuters, 21:25 March 14, 2010

Update: Pemex Reopens 113,000 b/d Dos Bocas Oil Terminal in Gulf of Mexico by March 13—Harsh Weather Forced Site Offline on March 12

Reuters, 11:09 March 12, 2010

Tanker Truck Overturms, Spilling an Estimated 2,100 Gallons of Crude Oil in Texas March 13

http://www.mywesttexas.com/articles/2010/03/15/news/top_stories/crude_oil_spill_big_spring_street.txt

System-wide Power Failure Would Not Halt Venezuelan Oil Production—Oil Minister

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=89356

Compressor Shutdowns Cause Flaring at Waddell Compressor Station in Texas March 13-14—Operators Restart Compressors by March 14

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=137003>

Man Falls to Death at Nomac-Owned Natural Gas Drilling Rig in Pennsylvania March 11

<http://thedailyreview.com/news/fatality-occurs-at-gas-drilling-rig-1.673499>

After Late-February Blow-out, Subsequent Three-Week Fire, Crews Control Blaze at Canadian Natural Resources Limited-Owned Natural Gas Well in Alberta, Canada by March 13

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/business/Hythe+blowout+under+control/2678524/story.html>

Former Patriot Coal Employee Pleads Guilty to Falsifying Safety Records at West Virginia Coal Mine March 10

<http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/southeast/2010/03/12/108099.htm>

Conestoga Energy Partners, PetroSantander Inc. to Capture CO₂ from Garden City, Kansas Ethanol Plant—Companies to Pipe CO₂ to Stewart Oilfield in Kansas, Use in Enhanced Recovery

<http://ethanol-news.newslib.com/story/6938-34947/>

Links

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

Updated after 10:30 AM & 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.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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

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