



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, March 16, 2017

Electricity

Entergy New Orleans Reports Power Restored after Equipment Interference in Louisiana March 15

Entergy New Orleans reported 13,857 customers lost power on Wednesday afternoon when balloons got tangled up in powerline equipment. The utility said it was field-switching customers before fully restoring power within about three hours.

https://twitter.com/EntergyNOLA?ref_src=twsr%5Etfw
<http://midcitymessenger.com/2017/03/15/energy-power-outage-affects-thousands-mylar-balloons-thought-to-be-culprit/>
<http://wgno.com/2017/03/15/almost-14000-without-power-across-new-orleans/>

NV Energy Permanently Shuts Its 257 MW Reid Gardner Coal-Fired Unit 4 in Nevada March 16

NV Energy on Thursday permanently disconnected its Reid Gardner coal-fired generating station near Moapa, Nevada from the electric grid after shutting the plant's fourth and final unit over the weekend. The plant's other 3-100 MW units were shut at the end of 2014. NV Energy's one remaining coal-fueled plant in Nevada, the jointly-owned 522 MW North Valmy Generating Station, is currently set for retirement in 2025.

<http://www.reviewjournal.com/business/energy/reid-gardner-plant-closes-after-half-century-producing-coal-fired-power>
https://www.nvenergy.com/company/energytopics/images/Reid_Gardner_Fact_Sheet.pdf
https://www.nvenergy.com/company/energytopics/images/Valmy_Fact_Sheet.pdf

Xcel Energy Launches 1,550 MW Upper Midwest Wind Investment March 16

Xcel Energy on Thursday announced it will add 1,550 MW of new wind generation in the Upper Midwest with a total of seven wind farms to be built in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Iowa. The company estimates that the proposed wind projects will save more than \$4 billion in fuel and other costs over the life of the projects. All projects are subject to state and local regulatory approval and, if accepted, will be in service by 2020.

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20170316005916/en/Xcel-Energy-Launches-Largest-Ever-Upper-Midwest-Wind>

Petroleum

Update: Motiva Begins HCU Restart Process at Its 235,000 b/d Convent, Louisiana Refinery March 16 – Sources

Motiva Enterprises began the process of restarting the heavy oil hydrocracking unit (HCU) on Thursday at its Convent, Louisiana refinery, said sources familiar with plant operations. The 45,000 b/d HCU, called the H-Oil Unit, is expected to begin receiving residual crude over the weekend and return next week to production at full capacity for the first time since a fire heavily damaged the unit on August 11, 2016.

Reuters, 10:00 March 16, 2017

Valero Reports Emissions at Its 86,000 b/d Ardmore, Oklahoma Refinery March 8

Valero Energy Corp reported excess sulfur dioxide from the no. 2 sulfur recovery unit incinerator at its Ardmore, Oklahoma refinery, according to an Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality filing made public on Wednesday.

Reuters, 15:42 March 15, 2017

Shell Reports Normal Operations after Hydrogen Sulfide Release at Its 285,500 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery March 16

Shell reported operations at its Deer Park, Texas refinery returned to normal after a release of hydrogen sulfide from a hydrotreater triggered a site-wide alarm on Thursday morning, a company spokeswoman said. The release was contained within the Shell Deer Park complex and most workers were allowed to return to their jobs around 1:00 p.m. EDT.

Reuters, 15:49 March 16, 2017

Reuters, 12:12 March 16, 2017

LyondellBasell Reports Cooling Tower Fire Contained at Its 263,776 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery March 15

LyondellBasell on Wednesday evening reported a fire was contained at its Houston, Texas refinery from a tower that cools water for a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU), which is currently shut for a planned overhaul until the end of March. Sources said the FCCU cooling tower was heavily damaged by the blaze. Lyondell said the tower was isolated and operations were continuing at the refinery. The cause of the fire is currently unknown.

<http://www.khou.com/news/fire-reported-at-lyondellbasell-refinery-in-houston/422934326>

Reuters, 11:41 March 16, 2017

Reuters, 10:52 March 15, 2017

Update: Syncrude Reports Fire Extinguished, Caused by Line Failure at Its 350,000 b/d Mildred Lake Upgrading Facility in Alberta March 16

Syncrude on Wednesday reported a line failure and naphtha leak in the hydrotreating area caused Tuesday's fire at its Mildred Lake oil sands upgrading facility near Fort McMurray in northern Alberta. The company said the fire was extinguished on Thursday morning. Several crude bitumen processing upgrader units were shut down or running at reduced rates, while mining and extraction at Syncrude's Mildred Lake and Aurora sites were being paced to balance lower bitumen demand, the company said. Crews were still working to fully isolate the affected area of the Mildred Lake upgrader on Thursday to allow safe entry to assess damage and develop a repair strategy. Syncrude has not provided any estimates of the expected impact on crude output. The upgrader processes mined bitumen into refinery-ready synthetic crude

<http://www.syncrude.ca/our-news/featured-stories/2017/update-on-mildred-lake-upgrader-incident/>

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=55707

Reuters, 13:18 March 16, 2017

Reuters, 20:58 March 15, 2017

Wyoming Refining Starts up New 4,000 b/d Reformate Unit at Its 18,000 b/d Newcastle, Wyoming Refinery March 16

Wyoming Refining Co., a Par Pacific subsidiary, started operation of its BenzOUT processing unit at its Newcastle, Wyoming refinery using proprietary technology developed by ExxonMobil. The unit upgrades reformate to higher octane gasoline blend stock while converting reformate benzene for compliance with Mobile Source Air Toxic (MSAT) II benzene regulations. The new unit at Wyoming Refining's Newcastle facility is the second to start commercial operation.

Reuters, 12:31 March 16, 2017

Update: NARL's 130,000 b/d Come By Chance, Newfoundland Refinery Restores Full Rates March 16 after Power Issue March 14

North Atlantic Refining Ltd. (NARL) resumed normal operations at its Come By Chance refinery in Newfoundland, Canada after a power issue on Tuesday that cut rates to about 80,000 b/d, according to a source familiar with the plant's operations.

Reuters, 15:17 March 16, 2017

Natural Gas

Nothing to report.

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Iraq Plans to Boost Crude Oil Production, Exports This Year; Saudi Arabia Raises Output

Iraq pumped 4.57 million b/d of oil in February and plans to increase output to 5 million b/d by the end of 2017, according to the Oil Minister. The country is committed, however, to the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries' (OPEC's) agreement to cut output to control global oversupply and support prices, the Oil Ministry said. On Tuesday, OPEC said oil inventories have risen despite the deal and raised its forecast of production in 2017 from outside the group. OPEC also said Saudi Arabia increased output in February by 263,000 b/d to 10 million b/d, after making a larger cut than required in January to ensure strong initial compliance. OPEC is curbing its output by about 1.2 million b/d from January 1, the first reduction in eight years. Russia and 10 other non-OPEC producers agreed to cut output by half as much.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/148858/Iraq_Plans_to_Boost_Crude_Oil_Production_and_Exports_This_Year

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-opec-oil-idUSKBN16L1DL>

Libya's Oil Output Increases to 620,000 b/d after Export Pipeline Reopened – Oil Official

Libya's oil production has increased by about 20,000 b/d to 620,000 b/d, a senior Libyan oil official said, after a pipeline briefly blocked by militants was reopened. On Tuesday, output at the Wafa gas and condensate field was shut after militants blocked an export pipeline. Production at the Sharara oilfield had also decreased after a separate connecting pipe was also briefly blocked.

Reuters 12:21 March 16, 2017

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices March 16, 2017			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	48.25	48.70	38.38
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.00	2.69	1.78

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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