



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, March 17, 2016

## Electricity

### Strong Storms Knock Out Power to Over 187,000 Customers in Midwest March 16–17

Strong storms and high winds knocked out power to at least 187,294 customers in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin on Wednesday with impacts lingering into Thursday. Wind gusts of up to 60 mph downed trees and power lines. As of 3:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, 10,832 customers remained without power. Commonwealth Edison, the hardest hit utility with 73,500 customer outages, said as of Thursday morning 97 percent of its customers had been restored. We Energies said on Wednesday that its crews restored service to 47,000 customers by 7:35 p.m. EDT and that it was bringing in additional crews to work through the night. The table below shows total affected customers and the latest reported outages by utility. The “Affected” column shows the total count of customers that lost power at one point or another over the course of the storm for each utility. These outages may not have occurred concurrently and are not the same as peak outages.

Midwest Customer Power Outages			
March 16–17, 2016			
Electric Utility	State	Affected	Latest Reported
Commonwealth Edison	IL	73,500	1,206
Consumers Energy	MI	22,000	2,391
DTE	MI	21,000	5,000
Cloverland Electric Company	MI	6,800	500
Upper Peninsula Power Company	MI	3,294	1,563
Minnesota Power	MN	1,100	0
Lake Country Power	MN	2,100	44
We Energies	WI	55,000	109
Wisconsin Public Service	WI	2,500	19
<b>TOTAL*</b>		<b>187,294</b>	<b>10,832</b>

\*Represent peak outages reported by utilities

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

Sources:

<https://twitter.com/ComEd>

[https://www.comed.com/\\_layouts/comedsp/OutageMap.aspx](https://www.comed.com/_layouts/comedsp/OutageMap.aspx)

<https://www.consumersenergy.com/outagemap>

[https://twitter.com/dte\\_energy](https://twitter.com/dte_energy)

<https://www.facebook.com/Cloverland-Electric-Cooperative-109503449082781/>

<http://www.uppco.com/your-home/outages-service-problems/current-outages/>

<http://outagemap.mnpower.com/external/default.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/lakecountrypower>

[https://twitter.com/we\\_energies](https://twitter.com/we_energies)

<http://www.we-energies.com/outagemapext/>

[https://twitter.com/we\\_energies/status/710293379968581632](https://twitter.com/we_energies/status/710293379968581632)

<https://accel.wisconsinpublicservice.com/outagesummary/view/outagegrid.aspx>

<http://woodtv.com/blog/2016/03/16/wind-advisory-9/>

<http://www.rstar.com/article/20160316/NEWS/160319483>

### **Thunderstorms Knock Out Power to Over 24,000 Oncor Customers in Texas March 17**

Strong thunderstorms knocked out power to 24,152 Oncor customers in North Texas on Thursday morning. The storms produced high winds, lightning, and golf ball-sized hail. As of 3:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, 4,842 customers remained without power.

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

<http://thescoopblog.dallasnews.com/2016/03/storm-with-possible-hail-moves-east-toward-fort-worth-dallas-thursday-morning.html/>

### **SCE's 200 MW Eastwood Hydro Unit in California Shut by March 16**

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201603161515.html>

### **DOI Dedicates 125 Square Miles for Offshore Wind Power Development near Long Island, New York March 16**

The Department of the Interior (DOI) on Wednesday dedicated more than 125 square miles for commercial wind power development off the coast of Long Island for the development, pushing forward a renewable energy initiative proposed by several New York utilities in 2011. The Long Island Power Authority, New York Power Authority, and Con Edison initially proposed the project to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management in 2011, which would include up to 200 turbines generating about 700 MW of energy. The price tag was estimated between \$2 billion and \$4 billion.

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-jewell-announces-milestone-commercial-wind-energy-development-offshore-new>

### **Alevo to Deploy Largest Energy Storage System at Retired Oil-fired Generation Site in Delaware**

Alevo Group today announced it is deploying an 8MW/4 MWh energy storage system in Lewes, Delaware. The project will involve the repurposing of a retired oil-fired generator building. The Lewes project is the first announced deployment for Alevo's GridBanks energy storage system. The GridBank deployment is the first in a series of major commercial deployments the company has scheduled for 2016, and follows an operational agreement Alevo struck with Customized Energy Solutions to provide 200MW of grid storage to the North American wholesale energy market. Using its GridBank technology, Alevo will be able to sell ancillary services into the PJM regulation market, while providing the city improved power quality, a more reliable electric grid system, and the ability to shave peak demand for its customers.

<http://alevo.com/alevo-to-deploy-largest-energy-storage-system-in-delaware/>

## ***Petroleum***

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### **Saudi Aramco, Shell Sign LOI to Separate Motiva Refinery and Terminal Assets March 16**

Saudi Aramco and Shell on Wednesday announced both parties signed a non-binding Letter of Intent (LOI) to divide the assets of Motiva Enterprises LLC. Under the terms, Saudi Aramco assumes sole ownership of the 603,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas, refinery, and retains 26 distribution terminals as well as the Motiva name. The dissolution also gives Saudi Aramco full control over crude sourcing for the Port Arthur refinery and an exclusive license to use the Shell brand for gasoline and diesel sales in Texas, the majority of the Mississippi Valley, and the Southeast and Middle Atlantic markets. Shell will assume sole ownership of the 238,000 b/d Norco, Louisiana, refinery, the 235,000 b/d Convent, Louisiana refinery, nine distribution terminals, as well as Shell branded markets in Florida, Louisiana, and the Northeastern U.S. Shell said it will combine the assets with its other downstream operations in North America. The Motiva joint venture was formed in 1998 and has operated as a 50/50 refining and marketing joint venture between the parties since 2002.

<http://www.motivaenterprises.com/media-center/2016/saudi-refining--inc--and-shell-sign-letter-of-intent-to-separate.html>

<http://www.motivaenterprises.com/terminals.html>

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3538340/Latest-News/Saudi-Aramco-Shell-plan-to-break-up-Motiva-refining-venture-in-US.html>

### **Update: Coast Guard Reports Storage Tank Fire Extinguished at Oil Platform in Louisiana March 16**

The Coast Guard on Wednesday said the fire from storage tanks at Berry Lake Platform near Bayou Sorrel, Louisiana was extinguished. On Tuesday, an explosion and storage tank fire was reported on the platform, which was in the process of being dismantled. The Coast Guard said there has been a minimum amount of pollution released, which was expected to dissipate naturally.

<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2798498/>

Reuters, 18:44 March 16, 2016

### **Shell Reports Process Unit Incident at Its 316,600 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery March 16 – Community Line**

Royal Dutch Shell experienced an unspecified process unit incident on Wednesday at its Deer Park, Texas refinery, according to a community information line.

Reuters, 22:13 March 16, 2016

### **Total Restarts VDU at Its 225,500 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery March 16 – Sources**

Total SA restarted a 51,000 b/d vacuum distillation unit (VDU) on Wednesday night at its Port Arthur, Texas refinery, Gulf Coast market sources said on Thursday. The shutdown of the VDU forced the refinery to reduce crude oil intake for about two and a half weeks while the vacuum unit was being cleaned and inspected, the sources said.

Reuters, 13:10 March 17, 2016

### **Shell Reports Unit Shutdown at Its 156,400 b/d Martinez, California Refinery March 16**

Royal Dutch Shell reported an unspecified unit shutdown at its Martinez, California refinery, according to a filing with Contra Costa County Health Services.

Reuters, 18:09 March 16, 2016

### **ExxonMobil Reports Breakdown, Flaring March 17 after Unplanned Power Loss, Material Release at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery March 16**

ExxonMobil Corp on Thursday morning reported unplanned flaring due to an unspecified breakdown at its Torrance, California refinery, according to a filing with the South Coast Air Quality Management District. On Wednesday night the company also reported that an unplanned power loss resulted in a material release, according to a filing with the California Emergency Management Agency.

Reuters, 22:22 March 16, 2016

Reuters, 3:04 March 17, 2016

### **NuStar Cancels Tariff for Crude Shipments on Unspecified Pipeline in Texas March 16**

NuStar Logistics will no longer provide crude transportation services between the Wichita Falls and Borger Stations in the Texas panhandle region, the company said in a regulatory filing on Wednesday. NuStar ensured that the cancellation would have no impact on shippers.

Reuters, 15:24 March 16, 2016

## ***Natural Gas***

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### **DCP Midstream Reports Turbine Shut at Its 80 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas March 15**

DCP Midstream reported turbine A shut due to a high vibration alarm on the raw compressor, which resulted in flaring. Turbine A was put back online by adjusting the gas flow and the flaring event ended.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eeq/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=229192>

## Study Estimates Northwest Canada's Liard Basin Holds 219 Tcf of Marketable Shale Gas

Canada's National Energy Board (NEB), the British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission, the Yukon Geological Survey, the Northwest Territories Geological Survey, and the British Columbia Ministry of Natural Gas Development on Thursday released the first detailed study estimating the marketable unconventional natural gas resources in Northwest Canada's Liard Basin. According to the study, Liard Basin is the world's ninth largest shale gas resource although it may take years to develop given depressed global energy prices. The basin, which is mostly situated in British Columbia with portions straddling the Yukon and Northwest Territories, is estimated to contain 219 trillion cubic feet of marketable, unconventional natural gas. At present Chevron Corp and Woodside Petroleum are among the major developers of the Liard Basin, with plans to use the gas to supply the proposed Kitimat LNG export facility on Canada's Pacific coast.

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=51452](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=51452)

<http://news.gc.ca/web/article-en.do?mthd=tp&crtr.page=1&nid=1040329&crtr.tp1D=1>

## DTE Gas to Invest \$1.4 Billion in Natural Gas Pipeline Infrastructure in Michigan

In order to maintain the safety and reliability of its natural gas system, DTE Gas will invest \$1.4 billion in its Michigan natural gas pipeline infrastructure over the next five years. The company plans to modernize its cast iron and steel mainlines with newer, more durable material, and install new service lines to homes and businesses. This year, DTE is on track to replace more than 100 miles of gas main lines, up from 80 miles in 2015. In addition, residential and commercial natural gas meters will be removed and replaced with advanced, external meters.

Upgrades also will be made at compressor stations to ensure the reliable and uninterrupted delivery to all customers.

<https://dteenergy.mediaroom.com/2016-03-16-DTE-Gas-to-invest-1-4-billion-in-natural-gas-pipeline-infrastructure>

## Other News

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Nothing to report.

## International News

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Nothing to report.

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 17, 2016			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	40.12	37.72	43.34
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	1.74	1.57	2.66

Source: Reuters

## Links

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***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](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](mailto:ead@oe.netl.doe.gov)