



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, March 18, 2010

Electricity

Update: Tres Amigas, LLC Receives Initial FERC Approval to Connect the Three Independent North American Electric Grids or Interconnects via Power Market Hub in New Mexico March 18

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) authorized Tres Amigas, LLC to sell transmission at negotiated rates, but declined the company's request to exclude from FERC oversight any transmission lines that connect to the independently-run Texas electric grid, news sources said. FERC cited a lack of information for its rejection. Tres Amigas, LLC plans to construct a "renewable energy market hub" in New Mexico to connect, for the first time, the nation's Eastern, Western, and Texas electric grids, according to a previous press release. The system would employ special power electronic conversion stations, and enable companies to buy and sell electricity from one interconnection to another. Such transactions are not possible under current configurations.

<http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/common/downloadOpen.asp?downloadfile=20100318%2D3072%2823571914%29%2Edoc&folder=2225283&fileid=12294232&trial=1DJN>, 11:34 March 18, 2010

http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=86422&p=irol-newsArticle_Print&ID=1341168&highlight=

Update: Fewer Than 20,000 Customers Still Without Electricity in U.S. Northeast March 18—Connecticut to Investigate Utility Response

Fewer than 20,000 customers remained without power among the four hardest-hit utilities in New Jersey, New York and Connecticut on March 18, days after storms cut power to more than 1.1 million customers across the U.S. Northeast, multiple sources reported. The outages included 8,234 Connecticut Light & Power (CL&P) customers in Connecticut, 5,210 Consolidated Edison (ConEd) customers in New York, 3,600 Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) customers in New Jersey, and 1,344 Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) customers in New York, the companies reported. Connecticut Governor M. Jodi Rell, meanwhile, said her state would investigate the response to the storm of its largest utilities, CL&P and United Illumination. The Governor cited concerns over "the response in the first hours of the storm." She said it was "flatly unacceptable for a fire or police official to be unable to reach a real person at a utility company in the middle of an emergency." To see a full list of affected utilities, see yesterday's Energy Assurance Daily (first link below).

<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/docs/eads/ead031710.pdf>

PSE&G: http://www.pseg.com/media_center/pressreleases/articles/2010/2010-03-18.jsp

ConEd: <http://apps.coned.com/weboutageinfo/stormcenter/default.aspx>

LIPA: <http://www.lipower.org/stormcenter/outages/township.html>

CL&P: <http://www.cl-p.com/outage/default.aspx>

<http://www.ctmirror.org/story/5180/3-day-power-outages-spurs-rell-launch-investigation-utility-companies>

Update: Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuke Unit 1 in Mississippi Ramped Up to 98 Percent by March 18

Operators fixed a steam leak, and were returning the unit to full rates, a facility spokeswoman said on March 17. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 17 the unit was operating at 58 percent. Bloomberg News, 07:02 March 18, 2010

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 226 MW Huntington Beach Gas-fired Unit 2 in California Reduced by March 17

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned curtailment of 136 MW by March 17.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201003171515.html>

Update: Reliant's 215 MW Mandalay Gas-fired Unit 2 in California Returns to Service by March 17

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage.
<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201003171515.html>

Citing Two "White" Inspection Findings, NRC Increases Oversight at Constellation's 480 MW Ginna Nuclear Power Plant in New York

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) increased oversight at Ginna after the facility received two "white"—low to moderate safety significance—inspection findings during 2009, the NRC said in a release. The first finding involved the "inadequate implementation of a preventive maintenance program for, and subsequent failure of, a speed control, or governor, for a turbine-driven auxiliary feedwater pump." The second related "to inadequate corrective actions that led to the binding of the same speed control valve and the failure of the same pump to operate during testing." The NRC plans to carry out an extra inspection at the site in 2010 "to determine if Constellation has corrected the deficiencies associated with the pump."

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2010/10-007.i.html>

Dominion Virginia Power to Upgrade Existing Facilities, Boost Electric Generating Capacity More than 400 MW by 2013

The company has added 300 MW of new power over the past two years in Virginia, solely through upgrades to existing facilities, it says. The revamps, or "uprates," allow the company to produce more electricity without consuming extra fuel.

<http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/3957905>

Petroleum

Boiler Shutdowns Force Offline Multiple Units at Tesoro's 120,000 b/d Anacortes, Washington Refinery March 17

A news source did not specify which units were down, or when the company expected to resume normal service.
Bloomberg News, 11:46 March 18, 2010

Kinder Morgan Repairs and Restarts 12-inch Diesel Pipeline in California by March 18

The company finished repairing the line yesterday, and resumed service today, a spokeswoman said. The shutdown did not affect production, she said.

Bloomberg News, 10:50 March 18, 2010

Natural Gas

Nothing to report.

Other News

Iowa Biodiesel Industry Operates at 30 Percent Capacity, Awaiting Tax Credit Extension

A federal subsidy that paid refiners \$1 per gallon to mix biodiesel into products expired at the end of 2009, and many customers halted purchases to await its renewal, according to news sources.

<http://americanagriculturist.com/story.aspx?s=34225&c=8>

<http://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/stories/2009/12/28/daily13.html>

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100318/BUSINESS/3180365/-1/contact/Biodiesel-industry-idles-eager-to-go-full-speed>

Update: GRE Plans 20 MMGal/Yr. Cellulosic Ethanol Plant near Proposed 99 MW Spiritwood Coal-fired Power Plant in North Dakota

The facility would process wheat straw and/or corn stover, according to the company and a news source. It would enter service by 2015.

<http://www.jamestownsun.com/event/article/id/107158/>

Update: BlueFire Ethanol Seeks to Construct 100 MMGal/Yr. Cellulosic Ethanol Plant

BlueFire Ethanol plans to construct a 19 MMGal/Yr. cellulosic ethanol plant in Fulton, Mississippi, but eventually aims to build a 100 MMGal/Yr. facility, according to a news source. It is not clear where the company intends to erect that plant.

<http://bluefireethanol.com/pr/77/>

http://www.northsidesun.com/view/full_story/6749812/article-Don%E2%80%99t-underestimate-our-great-ability-?instance=homeopinion

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 18, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	82.07	81.91	47.94
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.27	4.44	3.78

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

PG&E Worker Electrocuted, Killed in Underground California Vault March 17

<http://www.fox40.com/news/headlines/ktxl-news-pgdeath0317,0,4227818.story>

Fuel Oil Storage Tank Catches Fire, Explodes in New York March 18—5,000-Gallon Tank Was About 25 Percent Full

http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2010/03/investigators_seek_cause_of_fu.html

Tanker Truck Overturns, Spills Fuel Oil on Florida Interstate March 17

<http://www.news4jax.com/news/22871605/detail.html>

Diesel Truck Crashes, Spills about 5,000 Gallons of Fuel in Utah March 17

<http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=10043073&autostart=y>

Thieves Steal 186 Propane Tanks from Ferrelgas Storage Facility in Nevada, November 2008 to Late February 2010

<http://www.lasvegassun.com/news/2010/mar/15/reno-police-seek-info-about-propane-tank-thefts/>

Jury Orders Shell to Pay \$50 Million to Former Gas Station Owner in California, Citing Company's Failure to Warn Man of Potentially Expensive Water-Contamination Restrictions

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=21711

Suncor Receives Approval from Provincial Board for Planned Three-Phase, Combined 187,500 b/d Expansion at Firebag Oilsands Project in Alberta, Canada March 18

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5jOZOHtVMBzBmrtnoxFYQ7JK6hcCQ>

Internal Corrosion Causes Leak along Southern Union's 6-inch Larco Brooklaw Lateral Natural Gas Pipeline in Texas by March 17

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=137173>

Update: Venezuela Does Not Plan to Abandon 320,000 b/d Isla Refinery in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles—Energy Minister

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9EGMM1O0.htm>

Venezuelan Proven Crude Reserves Jump 22.5 Percent, from 172.32 Billion Barrels at End of 2008 to 211.17 Billion Barrels at End of 2009—Oil Ministry

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSN1824884120100318>

China Completes 1.2-mile Underwater Tunnel for Planned ESPO, Russia-to-China Oil Pipeline by March 18

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20100318/158234037.html>

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>

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