



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, March 19, 2014

Electricity

Update: Entergy's 813 MW FitzPatrick Nuclear Unit in New York at Full Power by March 19

On the morning of March 18 the unit was operating at 50 percent, down from full power by March 17.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/>

TVA's 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 3 in Alabama Shut by March 19

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) reported its Browns Ferry nuclear unit shut due to failure to control the main turbine moisture separator level. On the morning of March 18 the unit was operating at 17 percent after restarting from a refueling outage on March 17.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2014/20140319en.html>

Entergy's 1,190 MW Grand Gulf Unit 1 in Mississippi Shut for Repairs March 17

Entergy Corp. shut its Grand Gulf nuclear power plant in Mississippi on Monday morning to repair a steam leak on nonsafety-related equipment, the company said. The plant was operating at 43 percent power early Monday after exiting a refueling outage.

Reuters, 8:06 March 18, 2014

Dynegy's 510 MW Moss Landing Gas-fired Unit 2 in California Shut by March 18

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201403181515.html>

Petroleum

Update: Clean-up Efforts Underway after Sunoco's 280,000 b/d Mid-Valley Oil Pipeline Leaks 240 Barrels of Crude Oil in Ohio Nature Preserve March 17

Clean-up operations began on Tuesday after Sunoco Logistics Partners' Mid-Valley oil pipeline leaked 240 barrels of crude oil into the Oak Glen Nature Preserve in southwest Ohio. The spill was contained and crews vacuumed oil that had leaked, according to officials. The leak was discovered at 8:20 p.m. EDT on Monday and the line was shut around 1:00 a.m. EDT on Tuesday, Sunoco said. It was unclear if any oil was still spewing from the pipe. The spill did not appear to have reached the Great Miami River, about a quarter of a mile away, though tests were still being completed, a spokeswoman for the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency said. The Mid-Valley pipeline is part of the company's Midwest system that runs about 1,000 miles from Longview, Texas to Samaria, Michigan, providing crude oil to a number of refineries, primarily in the U.S. Midwest.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/132152/UPDATE_4Sunoco_oil_pipeline_leaks_in_Ohio_nature_preserve#sthash.ioVsfJfo.dpuf

Diesel Fuel Leak Reported in Kalamazoo River from Above Ground Tank in Michigan March 17

Diesel fuel spilled for more than three hours Monday from an above ground tank at Klooster's Greenhouse in Comstock Township, Michigan, and into the Kalamazoo River. Authorities were investigating the apparent criminal act and measuring the exact amount of fuel that spilled after securing the leak.

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2014/03/firefighters_respond_to_diesel.html

Phillips 66 Reports Crude Oil Spill on Its Idled Pipeline in Wilmington, California March 19

Phillips 66 said on Wednesday a leak on its idle pipeline caused a crude oil spill in a residential neighborhood in Wilmington, California. The company was working to stop the leak and had recovered approximately 30 barrels of oil, according to a spokesperson.

Reuters, 1:10 March 19, 2014

Kirby to Build 29 Inland Tank Barges With Total Capacity of 830,000 Barrels Throughout 2014

Kirby Corp. on Monday announced plans to construct 29 additional 30,000 barrel inland tank barges with a total capacity of 830,000 barrels for delivery throughout 2014. Of the 29 inland tank barges, 18 are through the assumption of shipyard construction contracts from another inland tank barge operator and 11 are new orders placed by Kirby. The construction of the 29 inland tank barges are in addition to the previously announced construction during 2014 of 37 inland tank barges with a total capacity of 390,000 barrels at a cost of approximately \$45 million, as well as approximately \$45 million in progress payments on the construction of the 185,000 barrel coastal articulated tank barge and tugboat unit announced in January 2014 for delivery in mid to late 2015.

http://www.kirbycorp.com/3_ir/pr/20140317.pdf

Clean-up Underway at Shell's 145,000 b/d Anacortes, Washington Refinery after 150 Barrel Oil Spill March 15

Royal Dutch Shell Plc said cleanup activities were underway after a crude oil spill at its Puget Sound refinery in Anacortes, Washington on March 15. A hose failure led to a release of about 150 barrels of Alaska North Slope crude oil in the tank farm within the refinery, a Shell spokeswoman said in a statement on Wednesday.

Reuters, 11:47 March 19, 2014

CVR Energy Reports Start-up, FCCU Emissions at Its 70,000 b/d Wynnewood, Oklahoma Refinery March 18

CVR Energy Inc. reported carbon monoxide emissions from a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) regenerator due to a start-up at its refinery in Wynnewood, Oklahoma on March 18, according to a filing with state pollution regulators on Wednesday.

Reuters, 12:40 March 19, 2014

Catalytic Reformer at Citgo's 427,800 b/d Lake Charles, Louisiana Refinery Resumes Normal Activity March 18

Activity from the 52,200 b/d catalytic reformer at Citgo's Lake Charles refinery returned to normal operational levels on Tuesday after decreasing on Monday.

Reuters, 8:17 March 19, 2014

Excess Emissions Reported from FCCU at Marathon's 406,570 b/d Galveston Bay, Texas Refinery March 18

A period of excess emissions was observed from the 64,690 b/d fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at Marathon's Galveston Bay refinery on Tuesday. The refinery recently completed planned maintenance. The 240,000 b/d crude distillation unit and associated vacuum distillation unit were restarted last week, while the company reported earlier this week a residual hydrotreater was being prepared for restart.

Reuters, 8:10 March 19, 2014

Coker, CDU, VDU Restarted at Flint Hills' 320,000 b/d Pine Bend, Minnesota Refinery March 18

A 24,000 b/d coker was restarted and returned to normal levels yesterday evening at Flint Hill's Pine Bend refinery. The coker had been shut since March 14. The 150,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) and associated vacuum distillation unit (VDU) were restarted yesterday morning after being shut since March 10.

Reuters, 7:24 March 19, 2014

Hydrotreater Shut, Coker Remains Offline at Hollyfrontier's 138,000 b/d El Dorado, Texas Refinery March 18

The 45,000 b/d gas oil hydrotreater was shut down yesterday at Hollyfrontier's El Dorado refinery. Sustained unit cooling had been observed since Tuesday afternoon. The 19,000 b/d coker was shut on March 17, while all other monitored units remain online.

Reuters, 7:15 March 19, 2014

Alon Reports Crude Unit Emissions at Its 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery March 17

Alon USA Energy Inc. reported emissions from a crude unit at its Big Spring, Texas, refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Reuters, 11:21 March 18, 2014

Enterprise's 400,000 b/d Seaway Crude Oil Pipeline to Start Expansion by Early June

The expansion of Enterprise Products Partners LP's joint venture Seaway crude oil pipeline is slated to start up in late May to early June this year, an executive said on Tuesday. The company had said the 450,000 b/d twin pipeline that runs parallel to the current 400,000 b/d pipeline would start up in the second quarter.

Reuters, 10:19 March 18, 2014

<http://seawaypipeline.com/>

Natural Gas

Update: NTSB Investigators Identify Gas Leak at Site of New York Blast

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) which has been investigating a natural gas explosion that leveled two New York City apartment buildings last week, killing eight people, said on Tuesday it had identified a gas leak next to one of the buildings. A resident had reported the smell of gas to utility Consolidated Edison shortly before the explosion. The NTSB, in a statement on Tuesday, said the eight-inch cast iron and plastic gas main that served the buildings had failed a pressure test at the normal operating pressure. Pressure testing of the lines serving adjacent buildings found no significant problems, the NTSB said. Last week, the agency said that preliminary tests had indicated a high concentration of gas underground. Consolidated Edison Inc. said two spot checks of the building's gas equipment in February had shown that all systems were operating normally.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=42631

Enbridge Reports Facility Shutdown at Its Tilden Gas Plant in Texas March 19

Enbridge reported due to loss of power from the electrical grid, its Tilden gas plant shut down resulting in intermittent episodes of gas flaring as the systems were cleared and restarted. Once power was restored to the facility, the plant was restarted and as acid gas became available, the acid gas injectors were restarted and stabilized.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=195637>

DCP Midstream to Construct New 200 MMcf/d Zia II Sour Natural Gas Processing Plant in New Mexico

DCP Midstream, LLC on Wednesday announced it will construct a 200 MMcf/d sour natural gas processing plant, Zia II Plant, in Lea County, New Mexico, with associated gathering system expansions to service producers in both southeast New Mexico and west Texas regions of the Permian Basin. In addition to the Zia II Plant, the project includes front-end treating for sour gas, two acid gas injection wells, a 50-mile, 20-inch high pressure trunk line that will intersect DCP Midstream's existing New Mexico gathering system, and new high-pressure pipelines and compression in west Texas. The project is expected to be in commercial operation during the first half of 2015.

<https://www.dcpmidstream.com/newsroom/press-releases/dcp-midstream-to-expand-sour-processing-capacity-w>

Other News

Update: Green Plains' Fergus Falls Ethanol Plant in Minnesota Resumes Production March 17 after Fire March 10

Green Plains Otter Tail, a subsidiary of Green Plains Renewable Energy Inc., resumed operations on March 17 at its Fergus Falls ethanol plant after shutting down March 10 due to a fire in the plant's dryer system. The plant will produce a byproduct of ethanol production that is sold as livestock feed until the dryer system can be repaired.

<http://www.startribune.com/local/250674781.html>

South Sudan Oil Output Steady at 160,000 b/d, Unity Oil Fields Still Halted

South Sudan’s oil production was holding steady at about 160,000 b/d on Wednesday based on output from fields in Upper Nile state, an oil ministry official said. Production from the country’s other main producing area, Unity state, was not expected to resume soon, the official told Reuters. Production on Monday was 162,000 b/d, the official said, around the same level reported since the start of the year but down a third from the 245,000 b/d recorded before a conflict flared in mid-December 2013. Upper Nile state fields produce Dar blend crude, which is a heavy and sour blend. The lighter and sweeter Nile blend produced from the Unity fields tends to sell at a premium to Dar.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/132160/South_Sudan_Oil_Output_Steady_Unity_Fields_Still_Halted#sthash.7dM6DorH.dpuf

Violence in Iraq Stops Repairs on Kirkuk-Ceyhan Oil Pipeline to Turkey

Escalating violence along Iraq’s northern crude oil pipeline to Turkey has prevented technicians from fixing damage due to sabotage that has suspended flows since the beginning on March, sources from Iraq’s North Oil Company (NOC) said on Wednesday. The Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline to Turkey was attacked 54 times by insurgents last year, sharply restricting exports to world markets from the Mediterranean port of Ceyhan. Militants attacked maintenance teams and Iraqi security forces, preventing other teams from assessing the damage, NOC sources said. Turkish energy officials told Reuters on Wednesday it was not immediately clear when the oil flow would resume. The pipeline has a capacity of around 1.6 million b/d but only one of its two conduits has been in operation, with capacity of about 600,000 b/d.

Reuters, 11:12 March 19, 2014

Iran Oil Exports Higher than Sanctions Allow as Asia Buys More

Iran exported oil at levels higher than allowed under Western sanctions for a fourth straight month in February, ship loading data seen by Reuters showed. February crude loadings by Iran’s top four buyers – China, India, Japan, and South Korea – rose to 1.16 million b/d versus 994,669 b/d in January, according to the loading plan. Additionally Turkey bought 105,824 b/d in January and 117,857 b/d in February surpassing the sanctions limits at least since November. The higher sales to Iran’s main clients have come after a temporary agreement eased some sanctions aimed at undermining Tehran’s nuclear program. Under the deal, Iran’s exports are supposed to be held at an average 1 million b/d for the six months to July 20. But shipments to Asia have topped that level at least since November, according to customs and ship tracking data.

Reuters, 1:51 March 19, 2014

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 19, 2014			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	99.97	98.40	92.86
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.47	4.65	3.98

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

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