



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

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday, March 20, 2006

## *Electricity*

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### **Sempra Selects Route For New 130-mile 1,000 MW Transmission Line in California**

San Diego Gas & Electric Co. (SDG&E), a subsidiary of Sempra Energy, announced that it has selected a route for a new 130 mile electric transmission line designed to carry 1,000 MW. The project could carry as much as 900 MW of solar generation to the SDG&E service territory. Plans call for the work to begin during the second half of 2007 and for the line to be in service in 2010.

Reuters, 14:14 March 20, 2006.

### **Update: NRC Says Tritium Leak at Entergy's Indian Point Nuclear Plant No Danger to Public**

On March 17, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission announced the findings of its five-month investigation into a leak of radioactive tritium at Entergy's Indian Point nuclear generating station in New York. The NRC concluded that there was no danger to the public, basically the same conclusion reached in the investigation conducted by local officials.

[http://pro.encycentral.com/professional/news/power/news\\_article.cfm?id=6466777](http://pro.encycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6466777)

### **Update: Illinois Sues Exelon Over Tritium Leak**

The Attorney General of Illinois filed suit against Exelon for leaking tritium into the ground water supply at its Braidwood nuclear plant in Illinois. The suit also alleges that the company failed to report the leak

<http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-tritium17.html>

### **Progress Energy's 838 MW Unit 3 at its Crystal River Nuclear Plant in Florida Reduced to Repair Transformer**

Progress Energy reported that the output from the 838 MW unit 3 at its Crystal River nuclear generating station in Florida has been reduced so that repairs can be made to a step-up transformer.

Reuters, 12:58 March 20, 2006.

### **Update: NRC Sees Performance Improvements at Point Beach Nuclear Plant**

[http://pro.encycentral.com/professional/news/power/news\\_article.cfm?id=6468432](http://pro.encycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6468432)

### **Update: Progress Energy's 937 MW Brunswick Unit 2 Nuke Ramps up to 95 Percent in North Carolina March 17**

Progress Energy increased power at unit 2 of its Brunswick nuclear generating station in North Carolina to 95 percent by March 17 following completion of repairs. While the repairs were underway, the plant operated at about 60 percent of capacity.

Bloomberg, 10:06 March 17, 2006.

## Petroleum

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### **Update: FERC Orders Colonial Pipeline to Continue Shipping MTBE**

On March 17, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ordered Colonial Pipeline to continue shipping gasoline containing the additive MTBE. The order rejected a request from Colonial Pipeline, concerned about liability issues, asking the FERC to review shipments on a case-by-case basis.

OPIIS, 15:35 March 17, 2006

### **Agip Pipeline Sabotaged in Nigeria: Total of 631,000 b/d Now Shut by Attacks**

During the night of March 17, an explosion sabotaged a crude oil pipeline operated by the Nigerian subsidiary of Eni SpA. Crude production has been stopped, and Reuters reports that as of March 20, Eni estimates that the 75,000 b/d of production will resume by the end of the month. The attack on the Agip pipeline raises the total oil production shut in Nigeria to 631,000 b/d, approximately 26 percent of the total production of the country.

<http://www.forbes.com/fdc/welcome.shtml>

Bloomberg, 12:09 March 20, 2006.

Reuters, 15:07 March 18, 2006

Reuters, 11:31 March 20, 2006.

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/8337212.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>

## Natural Gas

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### **Less than Half of the Oil & Gas Platforms in the Gulf of Mexico Have Been Inspected for Damage from Last Year's Storms**

Normally, unless companies complete damage assessments and repairs for their offshore platforms within six months, the leases revert to the government. However, because of the extent of the damage in the Gulf of Mexico the Minerals Management Service is granting extensions up to one from the time of the hurricanes.

<http://www.nola.com/business/t-p/index.ssf?base/money-0/1142579806218460.xml>

### **Philadelphia Gas Works and Hess End Discussions on Plans for LNG Terminal**

The Philadelphia Gas Works (PGW) has ended discussions with Amerada Hess concerning development of a new LNG terminal to be located on the Delaware River. The City council passed a resolution in February opposing the project. However, according to a representative of PGW, the utility remains committed to the concept.

<http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/newjersey/ny-bc-nj--pgw-gasterminal0318mar18.0.2588251.story?coll=ny-region-apnewjersey>

### **Coast Guard Expresses Concern About Revised Plan for Weaver's Cove LNG Terminal**

The Coast Guard has expressed concern about the safety of the revised plan from Weaver's Cove Energy to use smaller vessels to deliver the LNG to the Fall River plant. The change to use smaller vessels came about when plans to demolish a bridge blocking access for large LNG tankers was prohibited. The Coast Guard's concern centers on the safety of the smaller tankers passing safely through the constricted opening at the bridge site. The Coast Guard has asked the company to revise the plan.

[http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news\\_article.cfm?id=6466748](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news_article.cfm?id=6466748)

### **FERC Initiates Study for Two Proposed LNG Terminals**

To expedite the permitting process for two proposed LNG terminals, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has issued notices of intent to prepare environmental impact studies and requested comments from the public on the developments proposed by Quoddy Bay LLC and Downeast LNG.

[http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news\\_article.cfm?id=6469169](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news_article.cfm?id=6469169)

## Other News

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Nothing to Report.

## Energy Prices

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<b>U.S. Oil and Gas Prices</b>			
March 20, 2006			
	<b>Today</b>	<b>Week Ago</b>	<b>Year Ago</b>
<b>CRUDE OIL</b>			
<b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b>	60.31	61.81	56.70
\$/Barrel			
<b>NATURAL GAS</b>			
<b>Henry Hub</b>	7.00	6.77	7.16
\$/Million Btu			

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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### **National Research Council Report Concludes Ability for California to Set Own Emission Standards Still Needed**

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/7340080.xml?p=Electric%20Power/News&sub=Electric%20Power>

### **Ground Broker for 50 Million Gallon per Year Ethanol Plant in South Dakota**

[http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news\\_article.cfm?id=6466728](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6466728)

### **Availability of Corn a Key Driver in Plans for Construction or Expansion of Ethanol Plants**

[http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news\\_article.cfm?id=6469475](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6469475)

### **Study Says New Mexico Ranks Number One in Production of Coal-bed Methane in U.S.**

[http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news\\_article.cfm?id=6466780](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/gas/news_article.cfm?id=6466780)

### **Good Snowpack in Pacific Northwest Leads to Predictions of Surplus of Electric Generation for the coming Summer**

<http://powermarketers.net/contentinc.net/newsreader.asp?ppa=8knpp%5E%5BgjmooqrUTli%216%3C%22bfe1%5D%5D>

### **Bill to Open ANWR to Oil & Gas Exploration Passes Senate; House to Consider**

[http://www.energyintel.com/PublicationHomePage.asp?publication\\_id=5](http://www.energyintel.com/PublicationHomePage.asp?publication_id=5)

### **Valero Sees Adequate Ethanol Supply for Transition During MTBE Phaseout**

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/9669193.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>

**Analysts Sees Rig Shortage as Contributing Factor to Inhibit Growth of Natural Gas for Years to Come**

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

**Update: Spill of Less than 10 Gallons of Heavy Oil Confirmed in Seattle's Elliott Bay**

Reuters, 15:45 March 17, 2006.

**Occidental Offering Package up to \$1 Billion to Settle Legal Dispute in Ecuador**

[http://biz.yahoo.com/rb/060317/energy\\_ecuador\\_occidental.html?.v=1](http://biz.yahoo.com/rb/060317/energy_ecuador_occidental.html?.v=1)

**Plan Announced to Build World's Largest LNG Plant in Nigeria**

<http://www.tribune.com.ng/200306/news08.htm>

**Internet Site Posts Jihadist Plan to Attack Oil Pipelines**

<http://siteinstitute.org/bin/articles.cgi?ID=publications156906&Category=publications&Subcategory=0>

**Fire Disrupts Iranian Crude Oil Line – Line Seen Back in Service on March 21**

Reuters, 08:00 March 20, 2006.

*Links*

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***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](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html)

Updated after 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.

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