



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, March 20, 2015

Electricity

NRC's Assessment Identifies Deficiencies in Corrective Action Plan at Entergy's 688 MW Pilgrim Nuclear Plant in Massachusetts; Heightened Attention to Continue

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC's) end-of-cycle performance assessment of the Pilgrim nuclear power plant in Plymouth, Massachusetts identified deficiencies in the implementation of corrective action plans for unplanned scrams that were not completed as intended or were closed prematurely, among other findings. The review resulted in the plant being issued two new white inspection findings to replace two existing white performance indicators, and the plant will continue to receive heightened attention until further notice.

<http://carver.wickedlocal.com/article/20150317/NEWS/150319197/12581/NEWS>

http://www.entergy-nuclear.com/plant_information/pilgrim.aspx

DTE's 1,089 MW Fermi Nuclear Unit 2 in Michigan Shut on March 19

The unit experienced an automatic reactor scram from full power due to an oscillation power range monitor upscale actuation.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20150320en.html>

Update: Southern's 1,149 MW Vogtle Nuclear Unit 2 in Georgia at Full Power by March 20

On the morning of March 19 the unit was operating at 65 percent after restarting and ramping up to 47 percent by March 17. On March 14, the unit experienced an automatic reactor trip from full power on a system injection actuation signal.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20150316en.html>

PCWA's 176 MW Colgate Hydro Unit 2 in California Ramps Up to 85 Percent by March 19

The unit returned from an unplanned curtailment of 150 MW

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201503191515.html>

Petroleum

DOI Announces New Rules for Fracking on Federal Lands March 20

The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) said on Friday it finalized new rules to govern drilling on federal land using a process known as fracking, including new measures to protect groundwater. The rules, the culmination of a four-year process, will affect over 100,000 oil and gas wells on federally managed lands, 90 percent of which use the hydraulic fracturing technique. It requires operators to validate well integrity and maintain strong cement barriers to prevent oil leaks into water supplies; requires firms to disclose the chemicals they use; strengthens standards for storing waste fluids and requires companies to submit more information before drilling.

<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/interior-department-releases-final-rule-to-support-safe-responsible-hydraulic-fracturing-activities-on-public-and-tribal-lands.cfm>

http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/wo/Communications_Directorate/public_affairs/news_release_attachments.Par.6134.File.tmp/HF-Final-Agency-Draft.pdf

New York Governor Announces 93 Defects Found during Crude Oil Tank Car and Rail Inspections

New York Governor Andrew Cuomo announced completion of a round of targeted crude oil tank car and rail inspections, which uncovered 93 defects, including seven critical safety defects that required immediate corrective action, and two hazardous materials violations. The inspections are the latest in a series of actions that state agencies are taking at the direction of the Governor to protect New Yorkers from the potential dangers associated with the transport of crude oil by freight rail companies. State and federal teams examined 453 crude oil tank cars and approximately 148 miles of track in these inspections. On March 11 and 12, inspection teams from the New York State Department of Transportation and the Federal Railroad Administration carried out track and crude oil tanker inspections at the CSX Corporation-owned Frontier Rail Yard in Buffalo, and the Canadian Pacific (CP) Railway-owned Kenwood Rail Yard in Albany. The inspections focused on track, track hardware, and tank car mechanical safety equipment, including wheels and brakes. The teams also performed hazardous materials inspections to ensure that equipment is in line with regulations, including valves, valve closures, and placards that describe the cargo being shipped. They also checked tank car inspection and pressure test dates.

<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-results-latest-round-rail-safety-inspections>

Small Fire Extinguished in Crude Unit at ARG's 11,000 b/d Bradford, Pennsylvania Refinery March 17

A small fire was extinguished at a crude unit in American Refining Group Inc's (ARG) refinery in Bradford, Pennsylvania on Tuesday, FireDirect.Net reported on Friday. The refinery's operations continued without interruption, according to a company spokeswoman

<http://www.firedirect.net/index.php/2015/03/usa-fire-suppressed-at-arg-refinery/>

Reuters, 9:32 March 20, 2015

Valero Reports Flaring at Its 88,000 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery March 19

Valero Energy Corp on Thursday reported a situation led to flaring at its Houston, Texas refinery, according to a community alerting system.

Reuters 8:15 March 20, 2015

Chevron Says Operations Normal after Malfunction at Its 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery March 20

Reuters, 12:35 March 20, 2015

ExxonMobil Warns of Planned Flaring at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery March 19–23

ExxonMobil Corp warned of planned flaring at its refinery in Torrance, California, according to a filing with the South Coast Air Quality Management District on Wednesday. The filing listed event start date as March 19 and the end date as March 23.

Reuters, 20:40 March 18, 2015

Natural Gas

Update: NTSB Says Gas Leak before March 2014 New York City Explosion May Have Come from New Pipe

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) in a new report made public on Wednesday, said a gas leak that was reported just before a deadly explosion in East Harlem, New York on March 12, 2014, may have come from a relatively new section of plastic pipe, not the cast-iron segment that was installed in 1887. At the time of the explosion, when the NTSB said it had detected gas leaks, attention was focused on Con Edison's old main. The new NTSB report said that during testing with a tracer gas, high gas concentrations were found coming from a plastic segment that was installed in 2011. The report also found that the 69-foot plastic pipe segment had not been tested to federal specifications because it was exempt by New York regulations. The explosion demolished two buildings, killed eight people, and injured about 50. The report did not include any conclusions about the root cause of the explosion.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=46922

<http://www.coned.com/newsroom/news/pr20150318.asp>

<http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/hitlist.cfm?docketID=57111>

Update: El Paso to Lift Force Majeure on Its Line 1600 March 20

El Paso Natural Gas Co (EPNG) on Thursday said the force majeure event declared on March 17 associated with a Line 1600 anomaly repair will be lifted effective cycle 2 on March 20. EPNG said operations personnel were able to make up for delays caused by weather on Wednesday.

<http://passportebb.elpaso.com/ebbmasterpage/Notices/NoticesAutoTable.aspx?code=EPNG&status=Notice&name=Critical%20Notices&sParam1=1&sParam3=14671&sParam14=D&details=Y>

DCP Midstream Reports Turbine Shut at Its 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas March 19

DCP Midstream reported B turbine inadvertently shut due to first stage discharge overpressure. B Turbine was restarted and the cause of over pressure was investigated. It was discovered that the positioner on second stage was bad. Parts are on order and the replacement is in progress.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=211562>

ExxonMobil Reports Units Shut Due to Power Failure at Its 65 MMcf/d Dollarhide Gas Plant in Texas March 18

ExxonMobil reported units P-17, P-12, and FR-F1 were shut due to a power failure. All flowing wells were shut in to reduce and mitigate emissions. Electricians were working to diagnose the power failure and restart the units.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=211565>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Libya's NOC Operating Independently of Rival Governments

Libya's National Oil Corporation (NOC) on Thursday said it was working independently without taking orders from either of the country's rival governments. The internationally-recognized government said on Tuesday it wanted to route oil exports through an eastern NOC entity under its leadership rather than via Tripoli, which has traditionally handled oil exports. The two governments and parliaments are allied to armed factions fighting for territory and control of oil facilities.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/137765/Libyas_State_Oil_Firm_Operating_Independently_Of_Rival_Governments#sthash.BOzvC7Mv.dpuf

New Pumping Station Doubles Capacity of Ecopetrol's Transandino Pipeline in Colombia

Colombia's state-run Ecopetrol has more than doubled the capacity of its Transandino pipeline after launching a high-altitude pumping station, it said on Thursday. The Planta Paramo pumping station will enable 85,000 b/d of crude oil to be pumped daily to Tumaco terminal on the Pacific coast which serves Asian markets. The original pumping station at the site was destroyed by leftist guerrillas in 2004. Construction of the new facility began in 2011 and finished in December.

Reuters, 16:17 March 19, 2015

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 20, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	45.95	44.83	99.48
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.84	2.82	4.42

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>

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