



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, March 21, 2011

Major Developments

Winds, Rain Knock Out Power to nearly 250,000 Customers in California March 20

Winds and rain cut power to 110,000 Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) customers, about 79,000 Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) customers, and nearly 59,000 Southern California Edison (SCE) customers in California on March 20, multiple news and company sources reported. Some 58,842 SCE customers, 12,000 LADWP customers, and an unclear number of PG&E customers remained without power, as of latest reports.

<http://www.khsltv.com/content/localnews/story/Powerful-Storm-Causes-Damage-Overnight-In-the/1wbXRal0VqkG3s98dVIp1w.csp>

<http://marinadelrey.patch.com/articles/storm-knocks-out-power>

http://www.sce.com/AOC_Outagemap/OutageListView.html

<http://www.ladwpnews.com/go/doc/1475/1044219/>

<http://www.pge.com/myhome/customerservice/energystatus/outagemap/>

Electricity

Winds and Thaw Cut Electricity to More than 30,000 Customers in Maine March 18

Heavy winds and thawing ground toppled multiple trees and power lines, cutting electricity to more than 21,000 Central Maine Power customers and nearly 11,000 Bangor Hydro Electric customers in Maine, news and company sources reported.

http://www.onlinesentinel.com/news/strong-wind-soft-ground-huge-mess_2011-03-18.html

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/38c9eea6f39d49b687d330dd71189ce4/ME--Winds-Power-Outages/>

Wolf Creek Nuclear's 1,165 MW Wolf Creek Nuclear Unit 1 in Kansas Shut by March 19

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 18 the unit was operating at full power. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

PSE&G's 1,092 MW Salem Nuclear Unit 2 in New Jersey Reduced to 85 Percent by March 21

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 20 the unit was operating at full power. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

PSE&G's 1,049 MW Hope Creek Nuclear Unit 1 in New Jersey Shut by March 19

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 18 the unit was operating at full power. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

FPL's 693 MW Turkey Point Nuclear Unit 4 in Florida Shut by March 21

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 20 the unit was operating at 70 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Constellation's 565 MW Nine Mile Point Nuclear Unit 1 in New York Shut by March 21

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 20 the unit was operating at 89 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Exelon's 1,134 MW Limerick Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Reduced, Ramped up over Weekend

The unit ramped down from full power on the morning of March 18 to 25 percent power by March 19, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reported. The unit ramped up to 57 percent power by March 21, according to the NRC.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Update: Indiana-Michigan Power's 1,000 MW D.C. Cook Nuclear Unit 1 in Michigan at Full Power by March 20

Indiana Michigan Power shut the unit by March 13 to perform maintenance on the unit's main generator, the company said in a release. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 19 the unit was operating at 74 percent.

<https://www.indianamichiganpower.com/info/news/viewRelease.aspx?releaseID=1015>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Southern's 856 MW Hatch Nuclear Unit 1 in Georgia Reduced to 82 Percent by March 21

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 20 the unit was operating at 94 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

Update: AES's 506 MW Redondo Gas-Fired Unit 7 in California Returns to Service by March 19

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201103191515.html>

AES's 498 MW Alamitos Gas-Fired Unit 5 in California Shuts, Restarts by March 18-19

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage by March 18, but returned from that outage by March 19.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201103191515.html>

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201103181515.html>

NRG's 813 MW Limestone Coal-Fired Unit 1 in Texas Shuts March 19

The unit shut after a line trip and fan failure, the company said in a filing with state regulators.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152170>

After Brief Shutdown, AEP to Restart 721 MW Pirkey Coal-Fired Power Plant in Texas March 19-21

The unit shut on March 19-21 due to a "turbine overspeed test/trip/reset problem," American Electric Power (AEP) said in a filing with state regulators. The company expected to restart the unit on March 19-21, according to a separate regulatory filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152168>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152169>

Update: U.S. and European Warplanes Attack Gadhafi Loyalists in Effort to Enforce No-Fly Zone in Libya over Weekend

U.S., British, French, and other European forces launched at least two waves of air strikes in Libya this weekend, multiple news and official sources reported, in a bid to enforce a United Nations-sanctioned no-fly zone over the North African nation. The strikes were said to have prevented Gadhafi's forces from nearing the rebel stronghold of Benghazi, and at least one U.S. official said Gadhafi's efforts had been "stalled," as of latest reports. Libya declared a ceasefire on March 20, but a U.S. official said the western coalition was watching closely to see if that statement was "a pledge or just words." President Obama, meanwhile, said that the United States intended to cede full responsibility over the mission to its partners, once the coalition had eliminated Libya's air defenses. Libya typically produces about 1.6 million b/d of oil. That total has slid to less than 400,000 b/d, Reuters reported on March 21.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/21/us-markets-oil-idUSTRE72D01W20110321?pageNumber=2>
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/21/us-libya-timeline-idUSTRE72K41V20110321?pageNumber=2>
<http://www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/africa/03/21/libya.civil.war/index.html?hpt=T1>
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/22/world/africa/22libya.html?hp>
http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2011-03-20-libya_N.htm

BP Reports Power Surges, Flaring at 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery March 20

"Power surges... caused several units to become unstable" and led to flaring at the facility, BP said in a filing with state regulators. The company stabilized the units "and resumed operation," according to the filing. It was not clear if the incident impacted production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152193>

Process Upset Triggers Emissions at ConocoPhillips' 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery March 19

It was not clear if the incident had any impact on production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152189>

Valero Restarts Hydrocracker at 144,000 b/d Benicia, California Refinery over Weekend

The unit experienced an upset on March 18. Valero was returning it to planned rates on March 21, the company said.

Reuters, 10:34 March 21, 2011

Leak Leads Buckeye to Shut 10-Inch Diesel Pipeline in Pennsylvania March 20

Buckeye Partners LP expected to finish repairing the pipeline today, a company spokeswoman said. The line delivers approximately 2,000 barrels per hour of diesel from Mantua, Ohio to Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, according to Reuters. It was not clear how much diesel was spilled.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-21/buckeye-shuts-pennsylvania-oil-products-pipe-after-release-1-.html>

Reuters, 22:25 March 20, 2011

Colonial Pipeline Completes 24,000 b/d Expansion, Plans Further Upgrades along U.S. Gulf Coast-to-Southern and Eastern U.S. Petroleum Products Pipeline

System improvements have expanded capacity by 24,000 b/d along Colonial Pipeline's petroleum products pipeline, and the company expects the completed improvements – along with a second set of upgrades to be finished this summer – to add about 100,000 b/d of capacity between Greensboro, North Carolina and the New York Harbor, the company said on March 21. Colonial is also proposing projects that would increase the capacity of its mainlines between Houston, Texas and Greensboro, North Carolina by more than 140,000 b/d. The company would implement the expansions over the next 12-24 months. The Colonial Pipeline system delivers 2.3 million b/d of refined petroleum products from Gulf Coast refineries to customers across the southern and eastern United States.

http://www.colpipe.com/press_release/pr_109.asp

Tesoro Plans 10,000 b/d Expansion at Existing 58,000 b/d Mandan, North Dakota Refinery

Tesoro Corporation plans to expand capacity at its Mandan, North Dakota refinery from 58,000 b/d to 68,000 b/d by the second quarter of 2012, the company said on March 21.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=79122&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1541127&highlight=>

Update: After Failed Restart Attempt, Multiple Units Remain Offline at PdVSA's 335,000 b/d Isla, Curacao Refinery March 21

Multiple units – including a catalytic cracker – remained offline on March 21, a union official said, more than one week after four of the facility's processing units shut for unspecified reasons. The company failed in its bid to restart the four units last week. During the attempt, a smoke release forced local residents to evacuate. Workers aimed to restart the units this week, according to the union official.

Reuters, 10:11 March 21, 2011

Electrical Problems Force Shut PdVSA's 140,000 b/d El Palito, Venezuela Refinery March 21

PdVSA expected to restore the system later on March 21, the company said.

DJN, 11:34 March 21, 2011

Mexico's Pemex to Boost Crude Oil Production from 2.576 Million b/d in 2010 to 2.7 Million b/d by End of 2012

Mexico's Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) will boost its crude oil output from 2.576 million b/d in 2010 to 2.6 million b/d by the end of 2011 and 2.7 million b/d by the end of 2012, the company's Chief Executive said on March 18.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=105280

Natural Gas

CenterPoint Energy Sees No Customer Impact after Rupture and Fire along 20-Inch Natural Gas Pipeline in Minnesota March 17

A 20-inch CenterPoint Energy-owned natural gas pipeline ruptured and caught fire early on March 17, but there were no injuries and the incident did not impact customer deliveries, according to company and news sources.

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/NaturalGas/6916310>

<http://www.albertleatribune.com/2011/03/19/investigation-into-thursday%E2%80%99s-minneapolis-gas-blast-under-way/>

Other News

Japanese Earthquake/Tsunamis

Update: Workers Continue Battle to Avert Meltdown as Smoke Prompts Evacuation from Tokyo Electric Power's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan March 21

Smoke poured from reactors 2 and 3 at Tokyo Electric Power's earthquake-and-tsunami-damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan on March 21, multiple news, official, and company sources reported, as workers continued to struggle to restore electricity and cool the facility's reactors and storage ponds. The source of the smoke remained unclear, but a Japanese official said there did not appear to have been any explosion or increase in radiation. Workers laid cables that could connect reactors 3 and 4 to an external power source, but equipment damage was preventing TEPCO from restoring electricity to reactors 1 through 4, as of latest reports. Despite that, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said today that pressure had declined in the containment unit at reactor 3. He said, however, that the situation was still "very serious." An official at the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, meanwhile, said that three of the facility's units had experienced "some degree of core damage," but that those units were still in stable condition.

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/asiapcf/03/21/japan.nuclear.reactors/index.html?hpt=T2>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/22/world/asia/22japan.html?hp>

DJN, 09:28 March 21, 2011

Update: Cosmo Oil Extinguishes Post-Earthquake Fire at 220,000 b/d Chiba Refinery in Japan by March 21

Cosmo Oil extinguished the fire but had not restarted the facility, as of latest reports. The company, however, said it had increased capacity at two other refineries by a combined 80,000 b/d.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/21/japan-refinery-idUSTKZ00688420110321>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/18/japan-quake-cosmo-oil-idUSL3E7EI00220110318>

Update: Post-9/11 Safeguards Make Spent Fuel Pools at U.S. Nuclear Power Facilities More Secure Than Japanese Pools: NRC Chairman

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/21/us/21nuke.html?_r=2&ref=us

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 21, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	102.12	100.36	80.26
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.98	3.90	4.19

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Sempra Generation Dedicates 48 MW Copper Mountain Solar Power Project in Boulder City, Nevada March 18

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/nevada-officials-sempra-generation-dedicate-largest-us-photovoltaic-solar-plant-118250504.html>

Citing Nuclear Disaster in Japan, Arizona Corporation Commission to Hold Public Meeting with Arizona Public Service, Discuss Safety Issues at Company's Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant in Arizona

<http://www.ktvn.com/Global/story.asp?S=14283282>

Four Companies and Local Governments to Tap Federal Stimulus Funds in Bid to Construct Approximately 250 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in Hawaii

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/5e1e1b9300d14e2eb7d26f1bfc7cbbdb/Hi--Electric-Vehicle-Charging/>

Update: BOEMRE Approves Third Deepwater Drilling Permit since Deepwater Horizon Disaster March 18 – ATP Oil & Gas to Drill Well about 90 Miles South of Venice, Louisiana

<http://www.boemre.gov/ooc/press/2011/press0318.htm>

BOEMRE Needs More Personnel to Accelerate Drilling Permit Review Process: Director

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=105258

American Petroleum Institute's Board of Directors Approves Industry Center for Offshore Safety March 17

<http://www.api.org/Newsroom/offshore-safety.cfm>

Tanker Truck Crashes, Spills at Least 2,000 Gallons of Gasoline along I-84 in Idaho March 16

<http://www.nwcn.com/news/I-84-in-Southern-Idaho-reopens-after-semi-crash-spills-2000-gallons-of-gas-118174259.html>

Propane Leak Leads to Temporary Evacuations near Kalispell, Montana March 16

<http://www.nbcmontana.com/news/27233042/detail.html>

Scrubber Issues Lead to Hydrogen Sulfide Release at BP's 405,000 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery by March 21

Reuters, 00:34 March 21, 2011

U.S. Petroleum Demand Rises to 19.7 Million b/d in February 2011, or Highest February Total in Three Years: API

<http://www.api.org/Newsroom/demand-strong-feb11.cfm>

Unit Shuts, Restarts at West Credo Booster Station in Texas March 19

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152186>

Operators to Shut Glycol Unit at Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas March 18-19

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152165>

Turbine Failure at DCP Gas Plant Prevents Company from Accepting Gas from Certain Locations in Texas March 19-22

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152184>

Malfunction Leads to Shutdown, Emissions Event at Aker Gas Plant in Texas March 20

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152194>

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

Energy Assurance Daily provides a summary of public information concerning current energy issues. Published Monday through Friday to inform stakeholders of developments affecting energy systems, flows, and markets, it provides highlights of energy issues rather than a comprehensive coverage. *Energy Assurance Daily* is updated online Monday through Friday after 5:00 p.m. EST. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at:

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

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