



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, March 21, 2016

Electricity

Strong Storms Knock Out Power to Over 78,000 Customers in Texas March 18–19

Strong thunderstorms and high winds, with wind gusts of up to 78 mph, knocked out power to 78,237 customers in South Texas on Friday night into Saturday. As of 3:30 p.m. EDT, Monday, 3,701 customers remained without power. AEP Texas, the hardest hit utility with 68,000 customer outages, reported 110 electricity poles that had either been broken or blown over from the storm. The utility on Sunday night said it had made tremendous progress to restore electricity to customers and approximately 1,100 customers remained without power in the greater Corpus Christi area. AEP said it expected full restoration by noon Monday. Nueces Electric Cooperative (NEC), which reported 7,000 customer outages, said its transmission system partner, South Texas Electric Cooperative, lost several line sections affecting the Driscoll, Robstown, Ricardo, Riviera, and Corpus Christi areas. The hardest hit areas are the Robstown and Corpus Christi areas with numerous structures damaged. The table below shows total affected customers and the latest reported outages by utility. The “Affected” column shows the total count of customers that lost power at one point or another over the course of the storm for each utility. These outages may not have occurred concurrently and are not the same as peak outages.

Texas Customer Power Outages			
March 18–19, 2016			
Electric Utility	State	Affected	Latest Reported
AEP	TX	68,000	3,622
Nueces Electric Cooperative	TX	7,000	72
Austin Energy	TX	3,237	7
TOTAL *		78,237	3,701

**Total outages represent only electric utilities listed in this table.

Sources:

<https://www.aeptexas.com/outages/details.aspx?stormName=Coastal+Bend+March+Spring+Storm>

<https://www.aeptexas.com/outages/outageMap.aspx>

<https://austinenergy.com/outages/>

<https://twitter.com/austinenergy>

<http://www.nueceselectric.org/content/nueces-electric-cooperative-storm-outage-update-march-19-2016-1155-am>

<http://outage.nueceselectric.org/>

<http://www.caller.com/news/local/coastal-bend-recovers-from-aftermath-of-severe-storms-2e6b39d7-3dd9-6145-e053-0100007f14cb-372811451.html>

Entergy Reports Over 11,000 Customers without Power in Texas Due to Substation Issue March 21

Entergy on Monday reported 11,015 customers were without power without power due to a problem at the Goslin substation. The company said personnel were onsite to make the necessary repairs. As of 3:30 p.m. EDT Monday, 1,665 customers remained without power.

<https://twitter.com/EntergyTX>

http://www.etrviewoutage.com/external/tx.aspx?_ga=1.101554057.987583654.1457466767

Duke Energy’s 1,100 MW McGuire Nuclear Unit 1 in North Carolina Shut by March 19

On the morning of March 18 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2016/>

Southern's 870 MW Hatch Nuclear Unit 2 in Georgia Reduced to 80 Percent by March 20

On the morning of March 19 the unit was operating at 95 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2016/>

Update: Exelon's 1,163 MW Byron Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois at Full Power by March 19

On the morning of March 18 the unit was operating at 55 percent, reduced from full power on March 17.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2016/>

Exelon's 1,111 MW La Salle Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois Shut on March 19

The unit was shut from 55 percent to replace seals on two pumps. The pumps that circulate water in the reactor were not performing to optimum levels, the company said. The unit had returned to 100 percent power on Friday, following a refueling and maintenance outage.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2016/>

Reuters, 11:53 March 21, 2016

Consumers Energy to Shut 7 Coal Plants Producing Nearly 1,000 MW of Power in Michigan by April 15

Consumers Energy on Monday announced it would be shutting down its seven oldest coal plants in Michigan by April 15. Collectively, the plants are capable of generating 958 MW of electricity. The plants include the 320 MW B.C. Cobb 4 and 5 in Muskegon; the 310 MW J.C. Weadock 7 and 8 in Hampton Township; and the 328 MW J.R. Whiting 1, 2, and 3 in Luna Pier.

<https://www.consumersenergy.com/News.aspx?id=8436&year=2016>

Petroleum

Coast Guard Responds to Sunken Tow Vessel, Oily Bilge Water Discharge on Intracoastal Waterway near Barataria, Louisiana March 20

The Coast Guard on Sunday was responding to a tow vessel, the Ally Kat, which partially sank at mile marker 10 on the Intracoastal Waterway near Barataria, Louisiana, and discharged approximately 200 gallons of oily bilge water. Responders on scene deployed boom around the Ally Kat in an effort to contain any further oily bilge water discharge. The Ally Kat contained about 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel, however none had reportedly leaked. Coast Guard Sector New Orleans Incident Management Division was investigating the cause of the incident.

<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2800006/>

Coast Guard Reports Safety Zone Removed at Reopened Port of Los Angeles, California March 17 after Oil Leak March 13

The Coast Guard on Thursday removed a safety zone, due to an oil leak, that restricted recreational and commercial vessel traffic in the Cerritos channel. Watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles/Long Beach command center on March 13 received a report of an unknown quantity of oil coming from the cargo ship, Istra Ace, in the Cerritos channel. An initial investigation revealed faulty piping may have allowed oil to leak from the starboard side of the ship. Clean-up efforts were ongoing and members of the Coast Guard and California Fish and Wildlife were overseeing all response efforts, while the Los Angeles Port Police and Los Angeles City Fire were assisting in monitoring the area.

<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2799310/>

<http://mynews1a.com/life/2016/03/17/port-of-los-angeles-cleanup-crews-restore-access-to-harbor-after-oil-spill/>

Valero Reports Equipment Malfunction, Unit Upset at Its 205,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery March 19

Valero Energy Corp reported several materials were released to the flare due to a unit upset on complex no. 7 on March 19, according to a filing with the National Response Center.

Reuters, 10:55 March 21, 2016

Shell Reports Unit Shut at Its Scotford, Alberta Facility March 20

Royal Dutch Shell PLC shut a unit at its Scotford, Alberta, facility on Sunday, according to a community alerting system. The message added that there would be intermittent flaring for the next 24 hours. The Scotford facility houses a 100,000 b/d refinery and a 255,000 b/d oil sands upgrader.

Reuters, 9:21 March 20, 2016

ExxonMobil Reports Unplanned Flaring, Breakdown at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery March 18

ExxonMobil Corp reported unplanned flaring due to a breakdown at its refinery in Torrance, California, according to a filing with the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Reuters, 3:03 March 18, 2016

Flint Hills Reports Valve Failure, Coker Trip at 339,000 b/d Rosemount, Minnesota Refinery March 20

Flint Hills Resources reported a pressure safety valve failed causing a release of sulfur dioxide to the atmosphere on March 20 at its Rosemount, Minnesota refinery, according to a filing with the National Response Center. The company also reported the 23 coker unit tripped on March 20 due to a loss of boiler feed water which caused the “E” drum to pop on the pressure safety valve.

Reuters, 11:14 March 21, 2016

Reuters, 11:06 March 21, 2016

U.S. Oil Drillers Add Rig after 12 Weeks of Cuts March 18 – Baker Hughes

U.S. energy firms last week added one oil rig after 12 weeks of cuts, data from Baker Hughes showed on Friday. The total oil rig count rose to 387 in the week to March 18, compared with 825 oil rigs operating in the same week a year ago, Baker Hughes said. In 2015, drillers cut on average 18 oil rigs per week for a total of 963 for the year, the biggest annual decline since at least 1988. Before this week, drillers cut on average 15 oil rigs per week so far in 2016.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/143609/Baker_Hughes_US_Oil_Drillers_Add_One_Rig_After_12_Weeks_Of_Cuts#sthash.vkqoixRD.dpuf

Natural Gas

Enbridge Reports Emergency Maintenance, Flaring at Its Pittsburg Gas Plant in Texas March 17

Enbridge reported it depressurized Comp-1 to conduct required emergency maintenance and emissions normally captured by the vacuum recovery unit (VRU) system were directed to the HP-Flare resulting in the emission event. Once maintenance was completed, Comp-1 and the VRU were returned to service.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=229327>

Southern Union Reports SRU Shut at Its 140 MMcf/d Keystone Gas Plant in Texas March 17

Southern Union reported the auxiliary burner for the sulfur recovery unit (SRU) went offline and would not restart due to dry-bed temperatures. The igniter wiring and igniter were changed and the auxiliary burner was lit. Dry-bed temperatures were reduced and the SRU was put back online. Acid gas was flared to minimize emissions.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=229334>

Regency Reports AGC Shut at Its 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas May 17

Regency reported flared acid gas coming from the amine treater when the acid gas compressor (AGC) shut on low waste water GPM (gallons per minute). The injection pump's transmitter was recalibrated and the bladder and relief valve on the south injection pump were replaced.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=229317>

Other News

BOEM Proposes Updated Air Quality Monitoring Regulations for Offshore Oil, Gas Activity March 17

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on Thursday proposed updated air quality regulations that will more accurately account for emissions from offshore oil and gas activity, effectively ensuring that those activities do not significantly harm the air quality of any state. The proposal updates 36-year-old regulations and incorporates BOEM's recent Arctic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) jurisdiction over air quality. Together, the proposed changes will reduce emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds, Nitrogen Oxide, Sulfur Oxide, Carbon Monoxide, and Particulate Matter. BOEM regulates air quality emissions from oil and gas activity on areas of the OCS as a part of its review of exploration and development plans, and right-of-use and right-of-way applications in federal waters of the Western and Central Gulf of Mexico and the Arctic. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates air emissions on the remaining OCS as part of its permitting process under the Clean Air Act.

<http://www.boem.gov/press03172016/>

International News

Venezuela's 310,000 b/d Cardon Refinery Shuts Two Distillation Units – Sources

Venezuela's Cardon refinery shut two distillation units following operational problems last week, a union leader and a refinery worker said on Sunday. A fire on March 16 forced Cardon to shut distillation unit no. 4 and a problem at a furnace on March 18 led to the shutdown of distillation unit no. 1, according to a union leader.

Reuters, 1:56 March 20, 2016

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 21, 2016			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	39.86	37.15	45.95
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	1.84	1.72	2.84

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