



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, March 23, 2011

Electricity

Winter Storms Knock Out Power to 26,700 Consumers Energy Customers in Michigan March 23

http://www.mlive.com/news/saginaw/index.ssf/2011/03/26700_consumers_energy_custome.html

Update: PSE&G's 1,049 MW Hope Creek Nuclear Unit 1 in New Jersey at Full Power by March 23

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 22 the unit was operating at 64 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Exelon's 1,134 MW Limerick Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Ramped Up to 99 Percent by March 23

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 22 the unit was operating at 81 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Southern's 856 MW Hatch Nuclear Unit 1 in Georgia Ramped Up to 99 Percent by March 23

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 22 the unit was operating at 84 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

After Blade Fall, Iberdrola Restarts 150 MW Wind Farm near Rugby, North Dakota by March 21

Iberdrola Renewables Inc. shut the farm after a rotor and three blades fell from one of its towers on March 14, news and company sources said. The company inspected the site and concluded that it was safe to restart electricity production, a spokeswoman said. It was not clear what caused the collapse.

http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2011/03/22/business-us-nd-wind-blades-fall_8368370.html

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-21/iberdrola-halts-u-s-wind-farm-after-suzlon-turbine-blades-fall-to-ground.html>

Petroleum

Update: No-Fly Zone Widened as Coalition Forces Continue to Strike Pro-Gadhafi Forces in Libya March 22-23

For the latest combat updates, please click on any of the links below.

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/africa/03/23/libya.war/index.html?hpt=T1>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/24/world/africa/24libya.html?hp>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-23/nato-members-fail-to-agree-on-libya-role-as-france-seeks-arab-involvement.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-12837330>

Update: U.S. Treasury Department Sanctions 14 Libyan-Owned Companies March 22

The U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) yesterday identified 14 companies owned by Libya's National Oil Corporation, as subject to sanctions pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13566. E.O. 13566 blocks all property and interests in property of the Government of Libya and its agencies, instrumentalities and controlled entities within U.S. jurisdiction, whether specifically identified by OFAC or not. U.S. persons are prohibited from engaging in business with any Libyan state-owned entity.

<http://www.treasury.gov/press-center/press-releases/Pages/tg1114.aspx>

Update: Trapped Drill Pipe Caused Blowout Preventer to Fail in April 2010 at Deepwater Horizon Oil Well in U.S. Gulf of Mexico: Government-Commissioned Report

"A portion of drill pipe" became "trapped between the ram blocks" at the Deepwater Horizon oil well in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, preventing the blind shearing rams from fully closing and sealing the well, Norway-based Det Norske Veritas said in a report by March 23. The U.S. government commissioned the report. Click the first link to view volume 1 of the report and the second link to view volume 2.

<http://www.deepwaterinvestigation.com/external/content/document/3043/1047291/1/DNV%20Report%20EP030842%20for%20BOEMRE%20Volume%20I.pdf>

[http://www.deepwaterinvestigation.com/external/content/document/3043/1047295/1/DNV%20BOP%20report%20-%20Vol%202%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.deepwaterinvestigation.com/external/content/document/3043/1047295/1/DNV%20BOP%20report%20-%20Vol%202%20(2).pdf)

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFN2326545620110323>

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704050204576218653335935720.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

http://www.dnv.com/press_area/press_releases/2011/dnvreportondeepwaterhorizonbopconcluded.asp

Reuters, 13:20 March 23, 2011

Crude Prices to Blame as U.S. Gasoline and Heating Oil Futures Surge to 30-Plus Month Highs March 22

RBOB gasoline RBJ1 for April delivery surged 0.71 cents to close at \$3.0045 per gallon and heating oil HOJ1 for April delivery jumped 2.37 cents to close at \$3.0762 per gallon on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) yesterday, marking the highest respective closes since August and September of 2008. Reuters blamed the increases on higher crude prices.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFWEN989520110322>

Power Outage Shuts Units at Valero's 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery March 22-23

A plant-wide power failure forced shut production units and led to flaring from the west plant of Valero's 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery on March 22, according to the company and local police. The company was powering up the affected units and expected them to resume production shortly, a spokesman said by March 23.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152314>

<http://www.kztv10.com/news/valero-flaring-no-threat-to-community/>

Reuters, 10:09 March 23, 2011

Natural Gas

State Regulators Cite Cascade Natural Gas for 364 Alleged Safety Violations along Natural Gas Pipeline System in Washington by March 22

Cascade Natural Gas Co. failed to maintain complete records, follow company procedures regarding underground leaks, or finish some corrosion control monitoring within a required time frame along its 4,436-mile natural gas pipeline system, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission said at the conclusion of its two-year investigation into the company. The Commission identified 364 alleged safety violations. The company said it believed its system was safe, but acknowledged it had "not met all requirements to document it is safe."

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2011/03/22/1418343/state-files-complaint-against.html>

BLM to Lease Wyoming Tracts Containing an Estimated 758 Million Tons of Coal

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will hold four competitive lease sales in the coming months, offering Powder River Basin tracts in Wyoming that contain an estimated 758 million tons of low sulfur coal, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced on March 22. In addition, BLM expects to announce – also in the coming months – the availability of records of decision for the South Porcupine, North Porcupine, North Hilight and West Hilight coal sale tracts in the Wyoming portion of the Powder River Basin. Combined, the tracts cover 13,966 acres and contain an estimated 1.6 billion tons of mineable coal.

<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/Salazar-Announces-Coal-Lease-Sales-in-Wyoming.cfm>

Japanese Earthquake/Tsunamis

Update: Workers Continue Fight to Avert Meltdown at Tokyo Electric Power's Earthquake-and-Tsunami-Damaged Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan March 22-23

For more information on the nuclear situation in Japan, please click on any of the links below.

<http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2011/japan.tsunami/index.html?hpt=T2>

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2011/03/16/world/asia/reactors-status.html>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/23/us-japan-quake-idUSTRE72A0SS20110323>

Update: Tokyo Electric Power Did Not Complete Some Planned Inspections Prior to Earthquake and Tsunami at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/21/japan-nuclear-inspection-idUSL3E7EL0M120110321>

Update: NRC Renews Operating License for Entergy's 563 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Vermont March 21

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued the plant a 20-year license renewal on March 21, but the state legislature must still authorize any extension. The plant's original license expires in 2012. The NRC had expected to issue the extension earlier, but the earthquake and tsunamis in Japan – and subsequent nuclear disaster – led it to postpone those plans.

http://www.boston.com/news/science/articles/2011/03/22/nrc_oks_20_year_extension_for_vt_nuclear_plant/

United States Storing 71,862 Tons of Radioactive Nuclear Waste: Associated Press

The United States is home to 71,862 tons of radioactive nuclear waste, and 75 percent of that total is stored in ponds similar to the ones at Tokyo Electric Power's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan. U.S. industry officials – while maintaining the safety of on-site storage – have, for years, pushed for a longer-term solution. On-site storage ponds are not protected in the same way as nuclear reactors.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110323/ap_on_bi_ge/us_japan_quake_us_spent_fuel/print

NRC to Make Entergy's 2,311 MW Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant in New York its "Top Priority" During Seismic Risk Review: Governor Cuomo

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) pledged to make Indian Point its first and top priority in its review of seismic risk at 27 nuclear plants throughout the country, New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo said on March 22. The NRC also agreed to a cooperative review of Indian Point as a joint effort between the NRC and New York State. In addition, NRC Chair Greg Jaczko agreed to conduct a personal site inspection of Indian Point with New York officials.

<http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/03222011indianpointupdate>

Newer Nuclear Reactors Less Likely to Suffer Failures Similar to Those at Earthquake-and-Tsunami Damaged Facility in Japan

Newer nuclear power reactors employ passive cooling systems – systems that do not require electricity to operate – and would therefore not fail in the event of a power disruption, as they did in the aftermath of an earthquake and tsunamis at Tokyo Electric Power's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan, according to nuclear experts.

<http://homelandsecuritynewswire.com/new-reactor-design-lessens-risks>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices March 23, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	102.20	98.12	81.44
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.05	3.86	4.02

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Storms Cut Power to about 19,300 SCE Customers in California March 22

http://www.fireengineering.com/index/articles/Wire_News_Display.1383735028.html

Hu Honua Bioenergy LLC to Convert Former Coal-Fired Power Plant in Hawaii into 24 MW Biomass-Based Power Plant – Company Expects to Open Facility by Late 2012

<http://www.bigislandvideonews.com/2011/03/22/county-hearing-officer-recommends-hu-honua-permit-approval/>

Federal Magistrate Says GenOn Northeast Management to Blame for Discharging Metal from Power Plant in Indiana County, Pennsylvania

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/AP-Judge-finds-GenOn-liable-apf-168771634.html?x=0&.v=1>

BOEMRE Approves Fourth Deepwater Drilling Permit Since Deepwater Horizon Disaster March 22 – Exxon Mobil Corporation to Drill about 240 Miles South of Lafayette, Louisiana

<http://www.boemre.gov/ooc/press/2011/press0322a.htm>

Propane Leak Temporarily Forces Shut Canadian Pacific Railway in Sturtevant, Wisconsin March 21

http://www.journaltimes.com/news/local/article_1c0ff052-5479-11e0-bdd6-001cc4c002e0.html

Natural Gas Leak Prompts Brief Evacuation in Old Fort, North Carolina March 21 – PSNC Fixes Leak in Less Than Two Hours

<http://www2.mcdowellnews.com/news/2011/mar/21/gas-leak-forces-evacuation-ar-879656/>

Fault Forces Shut Sulfur Reaction Furnace at Fullerton Gas plant in Texas March 22

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152301>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152311>

Update: Railroad Commission of Texas Rejects EPA's Conclusion that Range Resources' Natural Gas Operations Led to Water Contamination in Parker County, Texas by March 22

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2011/03/22/1929590/texas-agency-gas-driller-didnt.html>

Update: PG&E Says it Could Take Rest of 2011 to Locate All Required Natural Gas Pipeline Records – CPUC Requested Records in Wake of Fatal September Explosion along Company's Pipeline System in San Bruno, California

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=26091

Large-Scale CO2 Underground Storage Less Risky than Previously Believed: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

<http://www.fastcompany.com/1741903/making-sure-that-carbon-capture-and-storage-doesnt-lead-to-disaster>

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

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

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