



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, March 25, 2015

Electricity

Update: Exelon's 1,111 MW La Salle Nuclear Unit 2 in Illinois Ramps Up to 85 Percent by March 25

The unit was reduced to 23 percent of capacity by March 6. The unit began slowly increasing power output by March 16. On the morning of March 24 the unit was operating at 61 percent, up from 48 percent on March 23.
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

PG&E's 119 MW Belden Hydro Unit 1 in California Shut by March 24

The plant entered a planned and unplanned shutdown by March 24.
<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201503241515.html>

CDWR's 933 MW Hyatt-Thermalito Hydro Unit in California Reduced by March 24

The unit entered a planned and unplanned curtailment of 706 MW.
<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201503241515.html>

Martinez Cogen's 115 MW Martinez Cogen Gas-fired Unit in California Shut by March 24

The unit entered an unplanned outage.
<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201503241515.html>

Petroleum

CN Rail Says Harsh Winter One Reason for Increase in 2014 Accidents

An unusually harsh winter is one of the reasons Canadian National Rail Co (CN) experienced a sharp increase in the number of train accidents in 2014, the company's Chief Operating Officer (COO) said on Tuesday. The COO told a committee of federal legislators that deep cold can cause rails and wheels to crack. The company has increased inspections of tracks, he added. Canada's Transportation Safety Board is investigating two recent accidents involving CN Rail oil trains that came off the tracks and caught fire near Gogoma, Ontario. CN Rail has imposed speed restrictions on northern Ontario tracks until it understands the reason for the derailments.
http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=46988

USW Reaches Agreement with Tesoro at Its 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery March 24

Tesoro Corp on Wednesday said it reached an agreement yesterday with the local United Steelworkers (USW) at its Martinez, California refinery. Tesoro said employees will begin returning to work this week.
Reuters, 10:24 March 25, 2015

Chevron Reports Plant Upset, Flaring at Its 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery March 22

Reuters, 18:18 March 24, 2015

Phillips 66 Reports Equipment Back to Normal March 25 after Process Upset March 23 at Its 314,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery

Reuters, 4:09 March 25, 2015

Phillips 66 Reports FCCU Regenerator Upset at Its 200,000 b/d Ponca City, Oklahoma Refinery March 23

Reuters, 13:39 March 25, 2015

CVR Reports FCCU Regenerator Startup, Emissions at Its 70,000 b/d Wynnewood, Oklahoma Refinery March 17

<http://www.cvrrefining.com/RefiningOperations/index.html>

Reuters, 13:41 March 25, 2015

HollyFrontier Reports Emissions at Its 155,300 b/d Tulsa, Oklahoma Refinery March 25

Reuters, 13:39 March 25, 2015

ExxonMobil Says No Production Impact from Piping Leak at Its 344,600 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery

ExxonMobil Corp on Wednesday said work to isolate and stop the process piping leak was underway at its Beaumont, Texas, refinery, and there was no impact to production. On Tuesday, the refinery had reported a leak in the process piping and emissions from gas plant 5 east.

Reuters, 7:40 March 25, 2015

Reuters, 22:52 March 24, 2015

U.S. Crude Stocks Rise as Cushing, Oklahoma Storage Maintains Record – EIA

U.S. crude inventories rose last week, data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) showed on Wednesday. Crude inventories rose by 8.2 million barrels in the last week, compared with analysts' expectations for an increase of 5.1 million barrels. The level of crude in storage in the U.S. remained at an 80-year high for the eleventh consecutive week. Crude stocks at the Cushing, Oklahoma, delivery hub rose by 1.91 million barrels, EIA said, building on last week's record high.

Reuters, 10:36 March 25, 2015

North Dakota Drilling Rig Count Falls Below 100; Not Enough to Maintain Existing Production of 1.2 Million b/d – State Officials

North Dakota's drilling rig count fell below 100 on Wednesday, a level not seen for more than five years and one that state officials expect will not be enough to maintain existing oil production of 1.2 million b/d. There were 98 rigs operating in the state on wells owned by ExxonMobil's XTO Energy, Norway's Statoil, and others, according to data from the state's Department of Mineral Resources (DMR). That is down from 120 at the start of the month and 198 in March 2014. DMR said earlier this month that it did not expect the rig count to fall below 100, and warned that even at that level, "we could see production numbers drop off."

Reuters, 13:22 March 25, 2015

NuStar Energy Building Condensate Storage in South Texas to Enable Exports

NuStar Energy LP is building storage at its South Texas operations to enable exports of oil producers' lightly processed condensate out of the port of Corpus Christi, the senior vice president of marketing and business development said. He said the company is building the storage so it can keep the condensate segregated from other Texas crude oil that cannot be exported under U.S. law. The tanks are expected to be finished in June or July. NuStar's 200,000 b/d South Texas Crude Oil pipeline, which moves Eagle Ford shale output to its terminal at the port of Corpus Christi, can move condensate in batches separate from other oil. A second 65,000 b/d expansion of that line started up in February, he said. Condensate-only storage tanks are necessary to facilitate exports to ensure it does not commingle with non-exportable crude from wellhead to dock. The condensate-only storage includes tanks that can hold 120,000 barrels at the pipeline's origination terminal in LaSalle County and others that hold up to 400,000 barrels at NuStar's Corpus Christi terminal.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=46990

Southern Natural Gas Co Declares Force Majeure on Its South Main Loop Line in Georgia March 23

Southern Natural Gas Company identified an area on its South Main Loop Line downstream of Wrens compressor station in Jefferson County, Georgia, where repairs need to be made. Southern reduced its line pressure downstream of Wrens compressor station on the South System to facilitate investigation and safe repairs. Southern anticipates that repairs will continue at least into gas day March 25, and later if necessary. Starting with the evening cycle for gas day March 25, Southern will be allocating capacity in the East of Wrens Delivery Group. Southern will be unable to schedule any IT service and will need to reduce the level of alternate firm service in order to protect its ability to provide primary firm service until repairs can be made.

<http://ixsnp.sonetpremier.com/ebbmasterpage/Notices/NoticesAutoTable.aspx?code=SNG&status=Notice&name=Critical%20Notices&sParam1=007&sParam7=36953&sParam11=D&details=Y>

DCP Midstream Reports Engines Shut, Flaring at Its 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas March 24

DCP Midstream reported engines no. 21 and 22 shut, causing a flare event. The engines were restarted but would not stay running. A mechanic was working to fix the problem.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=211698>

Other News

Patriot Coal Idles Production at Samples and Winchester Mines in West Virginia Due to Less Demand, High Inventory March 22

Patriot Coal Corporation announced that its Paint Creek Complex has temporarily idled coal production at both the Samples surface mine and Winchester underground mine effective March 22. The action was taken in response to high coal inventory levels driven by a combination of the CSX rail service disruption in February and continued weakness in demand for coal. Appalachian thermal coal markets have been particularly hard hit over recent months by the combined impacts of coal-fired plant closures driven by EPA emission regulations, low-cost natural gas, and diminished export opportunities. Processing and shipping of coal to customers from on-site stockpiles will continue throughout the idle period. Coal production is scheduled to resume in approximately three to four weeks.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=216060&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=2027803&highlight>

International News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 25, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	48.67	44.58	100.00
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.78	2.77	4.41

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>

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