



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, March 26, 2015

Electricity

Thunderstorms Knock Out Power to Over 77,000 Customers in Oklahoma March 25

Severe thunderstorms, bringing high winds, hail, and tornadoes, knocked out power to 77,600 customers in central Oklahoma on Wednesday. As of 2:30 p.m. CDT today, 12,631 customers remained without power. Public Service Company of Oklahoma, the hardest hit utility with 37,500 customer outages, said as a result of substantial progress overnight, it expected to restore electric service to all customers by noon on Friday. The majority of customers impacted by the storms would have service restored in advance of Friday, the company added. Oklahoma Electric Cooperative reported all service was restored as of 5:15 a.m. CDT Thursday. Canadian Valley Electric Cooperative and Indian Electric Cooperative said power was restored by around midnight CDT.

Oklahoma Customer Power Outages			
March 25–26, 2015			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Public Service Company of Oklahoma	OK	37,500	5,930
Oklahoma Gas and Electric	OK	36,000	6,576
Oklahoma Electric Cooperative	OK	2,600	0
Canadian Valley Electric Cooperative	OK	1,000	0
Indian Electric Cooperative	OK	500	125
TOTAL*		77,600	12,631

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

Sources:

https://oge.com/wps/portal/oge/outages/systemwatch/tut/p/a1/04_Sj9

<https://www.facebook.com/OGEPower>

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

<https://www.psoklahoma.com/outages/details.aspx?stormName=March+25+Severe+Thunderstorms>

<https://twitter.com/okcoop>

<http://www.canadianvalley.org/news.html>

<https://ebill.iecok.com/oms/outageMap>

<http://www.news9.com/story/28620441/thousands-still-without-power-in-okc-metro-following-severe-storms>

Update: NMC’s 522 MW Prairie Island Nuclear Unit 2 in Minnesota Restarts, Ramps Up to 30 Percent by March 26

Plant operators shut down unit 2 on March 5 as a precaution after a fire alarm sounded in the containment building. Officials stated that there was no indication of a fire and classified the incident as an “unusual event” and reported that the unit would remain offline while authorities investigate.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20150306en.html>

<http://www.kare11.com/story/news/2015/03/05/prairie-island-nuclear-plantshut-down-after-alarm-sounds/24423765/>

Update: Exelon’s 1,111 MW La Salle Nuclear Unit 2 in Illinois at Full Power by March 26

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 25 the unit was operating at 85 percent, up from 61 percent on March 24.

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

Exelon's 855 MW Quad Cities Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois Reduced to 86 Percent by March 26

On the morning of March 25 the unit was operating at full power.

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

FPL's 565 MW Duane Arnold Nuclear Unit in Iowa Reduced to 77 Percent by March 26

On the morning of March 25 the unit was operating at full power.

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

Solar Star California's 310 MW Solar Star Unit 1 and 270 MW Unit 2 in California Shut by March 25

The units entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201503251515.html>

Calpine's 120 MW Gilroy Cogen Gas-fired Unit in California Shut by March 25

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201503251515.html>

Update: PG&E's 119 MW Belden Hydro Unit 1 in California Returns to Full Service by March 25

The plant had entered a planned and unplanned shutdown by March 24.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201503251515.html>

Dominion to Site New 1,600 MW Natural Gas-Fired Power Station in Greensville County, Virginia

Dominion Virginia Power on Thursday announced it was proposing to build an approximately 1,600 MW, natural gas-fueled power station in Greensville County, Virginia. The station would be a combined-cycle facility consisting of three gas-fired combustion turbines and a steam turbine. Pending regulatory approval, construction would begin in mid- 2016 and the station would be operational in 2019. The station would be served by a Williams' Transco natural gas line that is being extended to the site and the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) that will cross the station property when that pipeline is built. Dominion is currently building a 1,300 MW combined-cycle power station just 4.5 miles away in Brunswick County that is about 58 percent complete.

<https://www.dom.com/residential/dominion-virginia-power/news/news-releases/136997>

Petroleum

Update: USW Says Workers Set to Return Next Week to Shell's 340,000 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery

Striking workers are scheduled to return to their jobs next week at Royal Dutch Shell Plc's joint-venture refinery in Deer Park, Texas, according to an official of the United Steelworkers (USW) union, ending a strike that began February 1. The national strike spread to 15 plants including 12 refineries that accounted for one fifth of U.S. crude oil refining capacity. USW members are also returning to work this week at Tesoro Corp's Anacortes, Washington, and Carson, California, refineries. Meanwhile, strikers at Tesoro's Martinez, California, refinery are set to vote on the new contract this week. Negotiations between the union and management at BP Plc's Whiting, Indiana refinery were proceeding slowly, said sources familiar with the talks. Representatives from the two sides have met for the past two days at BP's joint-venture refinery with Husky Energy in Toledo, Ohio. Company negotiators have also met for two days with USW members from LyondellBasell Industries' Houston, Texas refinery. Discussions between the USW and Marathon Petroleum Corp. to end strikes at the Catlettsburg, Kentucky and Galveston Bay, Texas, were moving at "a snail's pace," a source familiar with the talks said.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=47007

Phillips 66's 238,000 b/d Bayway, New Jersey Refinery Unaffected by Local Power Outage March 26 – Sources

Reuters, 8:51 March 26, 2015

Phillips 66 Reports Breakdown, Emissions at Its 139,000 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery March 25

Reuters, 18:25 March 25, 2015

Mexico's Pemex Expects U.S. Commerce Department Approval of Oil Swap, Hopes Deal Paves Way for Direct U.S. Oil Exports

Pemex said it expects imminent approval from the U.S. Commerce Department to allow it to swap up to 100,000 barrels of heavy crude for a similar amount of lighter U.S. oil, what could be the latest milestone toward loosening the four-decade old ban on exporting U.S. oil. Pemex hopes swaps will pave the way for the U.S. to eventually allow for direct crude oil exports to Mexico, an exemption it allows for Canada. U.S. law allows swaps of crude on a case-by-case basis with "adjacent countries" based on "convenience and increased efficiency of transportation."

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=47017

Transport Canada Requests CN Rail Safety Plan after Derailments

Transport Canada on March 12 issued a notice to Canadian National Railway Co (CN) requesting a plan to ensure safety along the Ruel subdivision, where three trains derailed in fewer than 30 days in February and March, the railway said on Wednesday. The notice was given under the Railway Safety Act (RSA). A CN Rail spokesman said the company has already advised Transport Canada of actions taken to improve safety in the area, including increased track inspections and a speed restriction. He added that CN plans to submit its formal response to Transport Canada's RSA notice, with additional updates on the action plan it's already submitted to the department, within the next week.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=47015

Natural Gas

TransCanada's ANR Pipeline Declares Force Majeure on Its 1.3 Bcf/d Michigan Leg South Segment in Indiana March 26

ANR Pipeline Co declared force majeure for all natural gas transactions on its Michigan leg south segment as a result of housing developments along its 22- and 30-inch pipelines near the town of St. John, Indiana. The force majeure will apply to services west to east through the St. John Compressor Station. ANR will reduce capacity along St. John (west-to-east) by 535 MMcf/d (leaving 798 MMcf/d available) May 1-4; and 831 MMcf/d (leaving 502 MMcf/d available) May 5-10.

<http://anrebb.transcanada.com/>

DCP Midstream Reports Booster Station Shut at Its 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas March 25

DCP Midstream reported too much gas was coming into the plant due to the wadell booster station being down. The booster station was put back on by field operators.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=211803>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Yemen Shuts Major Sea Ports Due to Conflict March 26 – Industry Sources

Yemen shut its major seaports on Thursday, industry and local sources said, after Saudi Arabia and Arab allies struck the Iran-allied Houthi forces that have been fighting Yemen's Western-backed president. All major seaports were shut down on Thursday due to the rising conflict, an industry source said. Local sources in Yemen confirmed the closure. Yemen exports about 1.4-1.5 million barrels of Masila crude each month, mainly to China.

Reuters, 5:13 March 26, 2015

Iraq's February Oil Exports below Planned Levels by Nearly 1 Million b/d – Oil Ministry

Iraq's oil exports for February were below planned levels, the country's Oil Ministry said Wednesday, depriving the nation of necessary funds for its battle against the Islamic State militants. Crude exports in February averaged 2.596 million b/d—almost a million barrels less than planned. The militants control a number of oil fields and have shut down facilities in nearby areas. Also, a major export pipeline in northern Iraq was shut down earlier last year due to attacks, preventing Iraq from exporting around 400,000 b/d. The center of Iraq's oil industry, which is in the mainly Shiite south of the country, has been spared the militants onslaught. But its export facilities on the Persian Gulf are often affected by bad weather, causing a dip in exports.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=47001

Iran Storing 30 Million Barrels of Oil at Sea – Shipping Sources

Iran is storing at least 30 million barrels of oil on its fleet of supertankers as Western sanctions continue to constrain sales, tanker market sources say. Sanctions have halved Iran's oil exports to just over 1 million b/d since 2012. Iran has placed unsold crude oil stocks off its coast, mainly onboard tankers belonging to its national carrier NITC. Shipping industry sources said 15 of NITC's Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCC), each capable of carrying 2 million barrels of oil, were deployed for floating storage, an amount unchanged since the beginning of February.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=47011

Pemex Gets Approval to Drill Mirus 1 Ultra Deep Water Oil Well in Gulf of Mexico

Mexico's national hydrocarbons commission on Wednesday approved state-owned oil company Pemex's plans to drill the Mirus 1 ultra deep water well, located in the Perdido Fold Belt, which straddles the U.S.-Mexico maritime border in the Gulf of Mexico. The well is believed to contain 160 million barrels of oil equivalent and will be drilled at a water depth of nearly 9,660 feet.

Reuters, 22:10 March 25, 2015

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 26, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL			
West Texas Intermediate U.S.	51.36	43.64	100.22
\$/Barrel			
NATURAL GAS			
Henry Hub	2.74	2.77	4.50
\$/Million Btu			

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

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. ET. 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