



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, March 29, 2016

Electricity

Update: Duke Energy's 846 MW Oconee Nuclear Unit 1 in South Carolina Restarts, Ramps Up to 19 Percent by March 29

The unit was shut on March 6, when a transformer caught fire at Duke Energy's Oconee nuclear power plant in South Carolina.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2016/20160307en.html>

<https://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/docs/eads/ead030716.pdf>

FPL's 693 MW Turkey Point Nuclear Unit 4 in Florida Shut by March 29

On the morning of March 28 the unit was operating at full power. The cause for the shutdown remains unclear at this time.

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

Energy Northwest's 1,107 MW Columbia Generating Station Nuclear Unit in Washington Shut on March 28

The unit was shut from full power on Monday after operators received an indication that an equipment cooling system was not functioning properly. A company spokesman said early on Tuesday that there was no release of radiation from the unit, nor any danger to the public. Officials hope to restart the plant later this week after an investigation into the cooling system malfunction.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2016/20160329en.html>

Reuters, 7:47 March 29, 2016

Update: RRI Energy's 215 MW Mandalay Gas-fired Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by March 28

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began by March 25.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201603281515.html>

SCE's 820 MW Big Creek Hydro Unit in California Reduced by March 28

The unit entered an unplanned curtailment of 392 MW.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201603281515.html>

Crockett's 240 MW Gas-fired Unit in California Shut by March 28

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201603281515.html>

Entergy Outsources Security for Its Closed Yankee Nuclear Plant in Vermont

Entergy Corp announced Tuesday that it plans to hire an outside contractor to handle security at its closed Vermont Yankee nuclear plant in Vernon beginning in late June. Vermont Yankee's security manager said Entergy had been planning to hire an outside security contractor since the plant closed at the end of 2014.

Reuters, 11:01 March 29, 2016

Georgia Power Says Closure Preparation Activities Underway at 29 Ash Ponds March 29

Georgia Power today announced that preparation activities are currently underway to permanently close all of the company's 29 ash ponds located at 11 coal-fired generation facilities across the state. Twelve ponds are scheduled for closure in less than two years; 16 are expected to close in less than 10 years; and one pond is expected to close in approximately 10–14 years. The company has worked with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) on the closure plan and will continue to work closely with the EPD throughout the closure process.

<https://www.georgiapower.com/about-us/media-resources/newsroom.cshhtml>

Petroleum

Update: PBF Energy to Restart Coker at Its 182,200 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery by March 29 after January Blizzard – Sources

PBF Energy plans to restart the 49,000 b/d coker at its Delaware City, Delaware, refinery by Tuesday after a two-month outage, according to two sources familiar with the plant's operations. The coker has been shut since a late January due to a power outage caused by a significant blizzard. As a result of the outage, the company decided to advance planned work on the unit, which had been previously scheduled for mid-March.

Reuters, 10:25 March 28, 2016

Phillips 66 Reports FCCU Emissions at Its 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery March 29

Phillips 66 reported emissions from the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) stack exceeded 35 percent opacity at its Borger, Texas refinery.

Reuters, 14:37 March 29, 2016

Shell Restarting Unit after Brief Shutdown at Its 156,400 b/d Martinez, California Refinery March 28

Royal Dutch Shell on Monday said its Martinez, California refinery was conducting startup procedures for a unit that was briefly shut over the weekend. The company did not identify the unit, but said operations were normal.

Reuters, 17:18 March 28, 2016

Meridian Submits Permit Applications for Its 55,000 b/d Davis, North Dakota Refinery March 23

Meridian Energy Group, Inc. announced on March 23 it had submitted its first round of permit applications relating to its 55,000 b/d Davis refinery project to be located in Billings County, North Dakota. Meridian filed applications for a Zoning Certificate and Conditional Use Permit with Billings County. In the coming weeks, Meridian will file additional permit applications, including an application for the refinery's Construction Permit with the State of North Dakota Health Department. Also included will be an application for a Conditional Use Permit for an equipment assembly and fabrication facility, which will serve the needs of both the refinery as well as other local oil and gas businesses. If approved, the Davis refinery would become North Dakota's third, as well as only the second "greenfield" refinery constructed in the U.S. since 1976. Pending permit and regulatory approvals, Meridian plans to break ground on the project during first-half 2016 and commence commercial operations in 2018.

<http://www.ogj.com/articles/2015/12/meridian-energy-group-plan-refinery-for-north-dakota.html>

Natural Gas

Vectren to Begin Mainline, Service Line Upgrades in Oakwood, Ohio as Part of Multi-Year Pipeline Replacement Effort

Vectren Energy Delivery on March 16 announced that it will begin replacing natural gas mainlines and service lines in Oakwood as part of the company's multi-year pipeline replacement program, which aims to replace about 700 miles of bare steel and cast iron pipeline infrastructure throughout Ohio. In Oakwood, nearly \$1.9 million will go toward replacing nearly four miles of gas main and nearly 270 service lines in 2016 with a polyethylene system. Since 2008, more than eight miles have been retired within the Oakwood, but Vectren intends to retire a total of 25 miles over the next several years.

<http://www.vectren2.com/evision/oakwoodbsci031616.pdf>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Update: Venezuela's PDVSA Says Operations Normal at Main Oil Port March 25

Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA on Friday said it guaranteed that operations were normal at its main oil port, adding it had provided uninterrupted services to an average of 56 tankers per month. Reuters on Thursday reported heavy backlogs in tanker loadings at the port of Jose, which a union leader and a legislator said were the result of technical problems with loading arms. The company said that 70 percent of the oil production exported from Venezuela, equivalent to around 1.5 million b/d, is loaded at Jose. Thomson Reuters vessel tracking data shows some 70 tankers anchored around state-run PDVSA's ports in Venezuela and the Caribbean, most of them waiting to load oil for export and to offload imported crude and products.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=51566

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia Agree to Resume Khafji Oilfield Operations March 29

Kuwait has agreed with Saudi Arabia to resume production at the joint Khafji oilfield, Kuwait's acting oil minister said on Tuesday. The oil field had been producing 280,000–300,000 b/d, but was shut in October 2014 due to environmental reasons. The oil minister added that the field's production ramp up will be small and gradual as a result of some environmental considerations. The field is operated by Al-Khafji Joint Operations Co., a joint venture between AGOC, a subsidiary of state oil firm Saudi Aramco, and Kuwait Gulf Oil Co. Reuters, 5:37 March 29, 2016

Ecuador Oil Minister to Discuss Output Freeze with Colombia, Mexico

Ecuador's oil minister said on Monday he will travel to Colombia and Mexico this week to discuss a proposed meeting between Latin American oil producers to unify the region in backing an output freeze or other measures to bolster prices. This meeting would mark the first significant sign that non-OPEC producers such as Colombia and Mexico were involved in an effort to bolster prices, which have been hit hard by worries about global oversupply. The minister on Monday added that the three Latin American countries as well as Venezuela were hoping to hold the meeting prior to a larger meeting in Doha, Qatar next month, which involves both OPEC and non-OPEC producers. Ecuador and Venezuela have pushed hard for a meeting between both OPEC and non-OPEC producers because of their economies heavy reliance on oil production and exports. OPEC's current members are Algeria, Angola, Ecuador, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela.

Reuters, 23:34 March 28, 2016

http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/about_us/25.htm

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 29, 2016			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL			
West Texas Intermediate U.S.	36.68	41.40	48.78
\$/Barrel			
NATURAL GAS			
Henry Hub	1.73	1.76	2.73
\$/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

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

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