



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, March 30, 2011

Electricity

Smoke Leads FPL to Declare Unusual Event at 1,155 MW Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant in New Hampshire March 28

FPL declared an unusual event after "smoke was detected coming from an elevator power supply transformer in the 'B' Residual Heat Remover (RHR) vault," the company said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The company de-energized the affected cabinet and "the fire was proven to be out," according to the filing. FPL terminated the unusual event in a little over an hour. There were no injuries and the plant remained at full power throughout the incident.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20110329en.html>

Electrical Fire, Elevated Carbon Monoxide Levels Prompt Constellation to Declare Unusual Event at 1,768 MW Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Plant in New York March 29

Constellation Energy declared an unusual event after "a small fire on a 'Lift-A-Loft'" led to "elevated carbon monoxide (CO) levels in the Unit 1 Drywell," the company said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Workers were evacuated from the Drywell and the blaze "was immediately extinguished," according to the filing. Carbon monoxide levels fell from as high as 79 PPM to below 50 PPM within less than one hour. There were no injuries and the company terminated the unusual event after 31 minutes.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20110329en.html>

Cabrillo Power's 106 MW Encina Gas-Fired Unit 1 in California Shut by March 29

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage by March 29.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201103291515.html>

Update: Some 152 Texas Power Units Experienced Forced Outages amid Cold Weather in Early February: ERCOT

Some 152 power generation units experienced forced outages amid the abnormally cold weather that blasted Texas on February 1-4, the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) said on March 29. The shutdowns, combined with high electric demand, led ERCOT to initiate rolling blackouts throughout its service territory.

http://www.ercot.com/news/press_releases/2011/nr03-29-11

http://www.ercot.com/news/press_releases/2011/nr02-02-11b

http://www.statesman.com/blogs/content/shared-gen/blogs/austin/investigative/entries/2011/03/29/final_tally_more_than_a_fifth.html

Petroleum

Update: After Leak Repairs, Valero Restarting HOC at 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery March 29-30

Valero repaired a leak at the heavy oil cracker (HOC) by March 29 and expected to finish restarting the unit by the evening of March 30, according to a company spokesman and Reuters. The company did not expect the HOC leak to materially affect production.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/29/refinery-operations-valero-corpuschristi-idUSL3E7ET3J920110329>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152623>

Marathon Restarting Alkylolation Unit at 76,000 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery March 30

Marathon shut the unit due to a leak on March 27.

Reuters, 08:23 March 30, 2011

Obama Aims to Cut U.S. Oil Imports to Approximately 7.3 Million b/d by 2025, Compared to 11 Million b/d in 2008

President Obama aims to reduce U.S. oil imports by one-third – from 11 million b/d in 2008 to approximately 7.3 million b/d by 2025 – the President announced on March 30. To help achieve that goal, the President seeks to expand domestic oil, gas, and biofuels production and to develop more efficient cars and trucks, among other measures.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/03/30/fact-sheet-americas-energy-security>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/30/us-obama-energy-idUSTRE72S3C820110330?feedType=RSS&feedName=topNews>

Most Onshore/Offshore U.S. Oil-and-Gas Leases Sitting Idle: Department of Interior Report

More than two-thirds of offshore leases in the Gulf of Mexico and more than half of onshore leases on federal lands remain idle, neither producing nor under active exploration and development by companies who hold those leases, the Department of the Interior said in a report released on March 29. The offshore total includes almost 24 million inactive leased acres which could hold more than 11 billion barrels of oil and 50 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/DOI-Releases-Report-on-Unused-Oil-and-Gas-Leases.cfm>

Update: Fighting and Sanctions Keeping Libyan Oil Exports Completely Offline: Shipping Sources

Libya has not exported crude oil, fuel oil, or clean products “for about 10 or 12 days,” a shipping source said on March 30. Qatar, however, announced earlier this week that it would sell oil produced from rebel-controlled Libyan fields, and the United States said by March 30 that it would not sanction oil sales from rebels, so long as those sales steer clear of entities connected to Muammar Gadhafi.

Reuters, 12:25 March 30, 2011

OSX, OGX to Deploy 100,000 b/d FPSO in mid-2013 at Waimea Oilfield Offshore Brazil

The OSX-2 floating production, storage, and offloading (FPSO) vessel will be equipped produce up to 100,000 b/d of oil and store as much as 1.3 million barrels, according to OSX.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110329-715065.html>

Natural Gas

Nothing to report.

Other News

Update: Great River Energy to Construct 58 MMGal/Yr. Hybrid Ethanol Plant near Spiritwood, North Dakota Instead of Previously-Proposed 20 MMGal/Yr. Cellulosic Ethanol Plant

Great River Energy’s Dakota Spirit AgEnergy plans to construct a 50 MMGal/Yr. corn-based ethanol plant and an 8 MMGal/Yr. cellulosic ethanol plant near Spiritwood, North Dakota, instead of a 20 MMGal/Yr. cellulosic ethanol facility, as previously proposed, the company said on March 29. Dakota Spirit said a recently-completed feedstock study had prompted it to change its plans. That study showed that a 20 MMGal/Yr. cellulosic plant would need corn stover plus wheat straw from an expanded 100 mile radius. The amount of residue needed from such a large area was, according to the company, a limiting factor for the 20 MMGal/Yr. plan. The hybrid approach, conversely, was expected to reduce costs. Dakota Spirit referred to the corn-based plant as “Phase I” and the cellulosic addition as “Phase II.” It was not clear, however, when the company expected to open the phases.

<http://www.dakotaspiritagenergy.com/documents/2011.03.29DakotaSpiritAgEnergynewsrelease.pdf>

MSHA Inspectors Issue 127 Citations and Four Orders during February Inspections at Seven Coal Mines

Federal inspectors issued 127 citations and four orders during special impact inspections conducted at seven coal mines in February 2011, the U.S. Department of Labor's Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) said on March 28. The MSHA began the special impact inspections last April after the fatal explosion at Massey Energy's Upper Big Branch coal mine in West Virginia. The MSHA targets mines with poor compliance history or particular compliance concerns.

<http://www.msha.gov/MEDIA/PRESS/2011/NR110328.asp>

New Law to Force California Utilities to Derive 33 Percent of Electricity from Renewable Sources by 2020

The California Senate and General Assembly signed off on a law by March 29 that would require in-state utilities to derive 33 percent of their sold electricity from renewable sources – solar, wind, geothermal, or other – by 2020. The Governor was expected to sign the bill, as of latest reports. The state's current renewable requirement is 20 percent.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704471904576231611388263814.html>

Some U.S. Nuclear Power Plants are More Susceptible than Others to Blackout-Induced Radioactive Leaks: Associated Press Investigation

A power outage could lead to core damage at any U.S. nuclear power plant, but some plants – such as FirstEnergy's Beaver Valley facility in Pennsylvania – are more susceptible than others, according to an Associated Press investigation.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20110329/ap_on_re_us/us_us_japan_nuclear_blackouts_9

Update: High Levels of Radioactive Iodine Discovered in Ocean Water near Tokyo Electric Power's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan March 29

Workers discovered high levels of radioactive iodine – more than 3,000 times beyond the regulatory limit – in the ocean near Tokyo Electric Power's earthquake-and-tsunami-damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan on March 29, the nation's Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency said. It was not clear if the iodine was the result of a leak or airborne radiation. Tokyo Electric Power, separately, said by March 30 that it planned to decommission four of the facility's reactors. To read more about the situation in Japan, click on any of the links below.

<http://www.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/asiapcf/03/30/japan.nuclear.reactors/index.html?hpt=T2>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/30/world/asia/30japan.html?hp>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-12903725>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 30, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	104.15	102.20	80.89
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.27	4.05	3.83

Source: Reuters

BPA Offers up to \$25,000 Reward for Information Leading to Arrest and Conviction of Those Responsible for Recent Copper Wire Theft from Substation in Kent, Washington – Incident Occurred Late Last Week

<http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/BPAnews/nreleases.cfm>

Citing Various Problems, NRC to Increase Oversight at Wolf Creek Nuclear's 1,165 MW Wolf Creek Nuclear Power Plant in Kansas, Progress Energy's 710 MW Robinson Nuclear Power Plant in South Carolina, and OPPD's 478 MW Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant in Nebraska

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/7b04e20460f549a7bfe3a2fb58651ece/KS--Kansas-Nuclear-Plant/>

Citing Entergy's Alleged Failure to Comply with Fire Safety Regulations at 2,311 MW Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant in New York, New York Attorney General Urges NRC to Take Enforcement Action March 28

http://www.ag.ny.gov/media_center/2011/mar/mar28a_11.html

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/ElectricPower/6947237>

Propane Tanker Crashes, Catching Fire and Prompting Temporary Local Evacuations in New York March 28-29 – Workers Burned off 9,500 Gallons of Propane

<http://www.timesunion.com/local/article/Official-Danger-of-truck-explosion-over-1312267.php>

Update: Equipment Failure to Blame for Explosion, Fire at Evergreen Oil's Used Oil Re-Refinery in Newark, California March 29 – One Injured, Blaze Extinguished within Hours

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2011/03/29/Fire-out-at-California-waste-oil-refinery/UPI-56301301417746/

Fuel Truck Accident Leaves One Dead, Forces Shut Local Road near Fort Worth, Texas March 28 – Unspecified Quantity of Gasoline Catches Fire

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/community-news/fort-worth/headlines/20110328-after-fiery-crash-two-lanes-of-westbound-i-30-in-fort-worth-to-be-closed-for-months-.ece>

No Injuries as Natural Gas Well Catches Fire in Anderson County, Texas March 28

<http://www.cbs19.tv/Global/story.asp?S=14333635>

State DEP Directs Antero Resources Appalachian Corp, Bronco Drilling Company to Halt Operations at Natural Gas Well Pad near Salem, West Virginia March 28 – DEP Cites Evidence that Drilling Mud Flowed into Indian River

<http://www.dep.wv.gov/news/Pages/DEPhaltsdrillingoperation.aspx>

<http://www.mariettatimes.com/page/content.detail/id/133743/W-Va--DEP-halts-drilling-operation-due-to-spill--.html?isap=1&nav=5019>

Calpine Inc. Seeks CEC Okay to Construct 2.8-Mile Pipeline that Would Link 540 MW Gas-Fired Sutter Energy Center with Natural Gas Fields in Grimes, California

<http://www.appeal-democrat.com/news/gas-105267-plant-sutter.html>

Equipment Failure Leads to Emissions Event at Midkiff Gas Plant in Texas March 29

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152629>

Power Outage at Upstream Facility Leads to Excess Pressure along Natural Gas Pipeline in Texas March 29 – Incident Leads to Brief Emissions Events at Carrizo Springs Compressor Station and Dimmit County Compressor Station

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152624>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152625>

SRU Shutdown leads to SO2 Release at Sneed Booster Station in Texas March 29

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152626>

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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