



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, March 30, 2015

Electricity

Update: Exelon's 619 MW Oyster Creek Nuclear Unit in New Jersey at Full Power by March 29

On the morning of March 28 the unit was operating at 55 percent after restarting and ramping up to 20 percent by March 27. The unit experienced a reactor scram from full power on March 22 due to an Average Power Range Monitoring (APRM) hi signal.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20150323en.html>

Update: PSE&G's 1,096 MW Salem Nuclear Unit 1 in New Jersey Ramped Up to 83 Percent by March 29

On the morning of March 28 the unit was operating at 66 percent after restarting and ramping up to 3 percent by March 22. The unit shut on March 15 from 61 percent power due to failure to restore the containment fan cooler unit.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20150316en.html>

Update: NMC's 522 MW Prairie Island Nuclear Unit 2 in Minnesota at Full Power by March 29

On the morning of March 28 the unit was operating at 30 percent after restarting and ramping 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."

<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/>

STP's 1,251 MW South Texas Nuclear Unit 2 in Texas Shut by March 29

On the morning of March 28 the unit was operating at full power.

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

AES's Redondo Gas-fired 506 MW Unit 7 and 496 MW Unit 8 in California Shut by March 28

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201503281515.html>

AES's 226 MW Huntington Beach Gas-fired Unit 1 in California Reduced by March 27

The unit entered an unplanned curtailment of 106 MW.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201503291515.html>

Solar Partners's 133 MW Ivanpah Solar Unit 3 in California Shut by March 29

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201503291515.html>

Update: RRI Energy, Inc's 130 MW Mandalay Gas-fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by March 27

The unit returned from an unplanned curtailment of 110 MW that began by March 21.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201503271515.html>

Update: Calpine's 120 MW Gilroy Cogen Gas-Fired Unit in California Returns to Service by March 27

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

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201503271515.html>

TVA Reports Worker Injured, Exposed to Radiation at Its 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 2 in Alabama March 25

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) reported a worker at its Browns Ferry nuclear plant suffered minor injuries and slight radiation exposure March 25 after falling five feet while conducting an inspection of the dry well of unit 2 as part of a planned refueling outage. TVA reported the employee was successfully decontaminated and there were no radiological safety consequences related to the mishap.

http://www.al.com/news/huntsville/index.ssf/2015/03/browns_ferry_worker_injured_ex.html#incart_river

Petroleum

BP-Husky Restarts Coker Unit at Its 135,000 b/d Toledo, Ohio Refinery March 30 – Sources

The BP Plc-Husky Energy joint-venture Toledo, Ohio, refinery restarted a coker unit and was operating at normal conditions, sources familiar with plant operations said on Monday. The refinery completed the restart of its 55,000 b/d fluidic catalytic cracking unit on Thursday.

Reuters, 11:28 March 30, 2015

ExxonMobil Reports Flaring Due to Unit Startups at Its 502,500 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana Refinery March 28

ExxonMobil Corp reported during a start up of units, nitrogen oxide and nitrogen dioxide released to flare at its Baton Rouge, Louisiana refinery on March 28, according to a filing with the National Response Center.

Reuters, 9:37 March 30, 2015

ExxonMobil Says Operations Normal after Chemical Plant Fire at Its Beaumont, Texas Complex March 30

ExxonMobil Corp said on Monday operations were normal at its Beaumont, Texas, refinery after a fire at the chemical plant in the complex. The company said the fire at the chemical plant was put out and had been temporarily shut down before resuming operations. The Beaumont area complex houses a 344,600 b/d refinery, chemical plant, and lubricants manufacturing plant. A local news station reported the fire started around midnight when a vapor release from a propylene line caught fire.

Reuters, 6:51 March 30, 2015

Total Reports Unit Upset at Its 225,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery March 28

Total, on Saturday, reported emissions due to a sudden upset within unit 860 at its Port Arthur, Texas, refinery, according to a filing with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The filing said unit operations were temporarily interrupted.

Reuters, 21:37 March 29, 2015

Flaring Reported at Valero's 200,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery March 27 – Community Line

Reuters, 14:29 March 27, 2015

Valero Reports Flaring at Its 132,000 b/d Benicia, California Refinery March 27

Reuters, 19:57 March 27, 2015

Update: Tesoro Begins Restart Process at Its 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery March 27; Sees Normal Operations in Two Weeks

Tesoro Corp said on Friday that its Golden Eagle refinery in Martinez, California, has begun the restart process and it expects the refinery to be back to normal operating levels over the next two weeks. Striking workers at the refinery ratified a new contract, ending a 52-day strike at that plant, the United Steelworkers union (USW) had said on March 25. The Martinez refinery was in the final stages of a major turnaround when Tesoro workers walked off their jobs on February 1 as part of the national strike that spread to 15 plants, including 12 refineries accounting for one-fifth of U.S. crude oil refining capacity. The company said the strike has resulted in higher operating costs than its previous outlook and lower capture rates compared to historical averages across its West Coast system. Reuters, 19:28 March 27, 2015

Oil Trains Delivered More Than 13.5 Million Barrels of Crude Oil from Midwest to East Coast in January – EIA

U.S. oil trains delivered more than 13.5 million barrels of crude oil from the Midwest to the East Coast in January, according to data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA). Oil producers in North Dakota have relied on oil trains to reach East Coast refiners ready to process the light, sweet crude from their fields.

<http://www.eia.gov/petroleum/supply/monthly/?src=email>

Reuters, 12:27 March 30, 2015

ExxonMobil Considering Scaling Up Expansion Goal to 850,000 b/d for Its Beaumont, Texas Refinery – Sources

ExxonMobil Corp is considering scaling up plans for a multibillion-dollar expansion of its Beaumont, Texas, oil refinery to make it one of the largest in the world, according to sources familiar with the plans. Initially the company was considering doubling the current 344,600 b/d capacity by 2020, Reuters reported last year. Now it may go as high as 850,000 b/d by the end of the decade, according to the sources, a figure that would make it the largest U.S. plant and fourth-largest in the world. The latest details of the expansion plan, on which it has not made a final decision, emerged from ExxonMobil's campaign for a longer-than-usual term for the contract with the United Steelworkers union (USW) local chapter at the refinery. ExxonMobil has offered a minimum six-year contract consisting of the current four-year agreement negotiated earlier this month by the national union and U.S. refiners, plus two more years, according to the company. The USW has countered with a proposal that would assure no work stoppages during the current national agreement and in the next national agreement, which is expected to be three to four years in length.

Reuters, 7:30 March 30, 2015

Natural Gas

Update: Con Edison Found 'Hazardous Situation' in Gas Link before New York City Explosion

Utility workers dispatched in August to one of three buildings destroyed in an explosion and fire in New York City last week found dangerous gas line connections that created a "hazardous situation," a Con Edison spokesman said on Saturday. The crew was sent to the building after a Con Edison worker reading gas meters smelled gas on August 6 in the basement, the spokesman said. Utility workers found multiple leaks in hoses that had been connected to the gas line leading to a restaurant in the building. Con Edison shut off the building's gas for about 10 days, until it was determined to be safe. New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said on Friday that the blast was possibly tied to someone "inappropriately" tapping into a gas line. The owner of the restaurant where the explosion occurred said utility workers determined gas intended for his restaurant was being siphoned off illegally for use in newly renovated apartments upstairs. Investigators were looking into whether gas and plumbing work being done privately in one building led to the explosion.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/utility-found-hazardous-situation-gas-040614185.html>

<http://www.coned.com/newsroom/news/pr20150327.asp>

ExxonMobil Reports Flaring Due to Excess Gas Flow at Its 65 MMcf/d Dollarhide Gas Plant in Texas March 28

ExxonMobil reported a flare event due to excess gas flow from the field. Field operations shut in as many wells as possible to reduce and mitigate emissions.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=211944>

DCP Midstream Reports Turbines Shut at Its 70 MMcf/d Fullerton Gas Plant in Texas March 27

DCP Midstream reported the high pressure surge valves opened causing both turbines to go down on high discharge pressure. As a result, the field pressure increased above the flare set point causing the low pressure flare valve to open. Technicians resolved the issue and the turbines were put back online.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=211908>

ExxonMobil's 135 MMcf/d Salt Creek Gas Plant in Texas Shut Due to Power Loss March 29

ExxonMobil reported during nighttime operations its Salt Creek gas plant shut due to power loss, routing its inlet to flare. Operations were advised that power had also been lost to the field. Once power is restored, operations will put process and compression back online, ending emissions.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=211948>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Oil Flow on Iraqi Kurdistan's 425,000 b/d Kirkuk-Ceyhan Pipeline Expected to Resume March 30 – Botas

Oil flow on the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline between Iraq and Turkey's Mediterranean coast is expected to resume on Monday night once a technical problem has been fixed, an official from the Turkish energy company Botas said. Reuters, 7:32 March 30, 2015

Libya's Oil Output at 564,000 b/d, Expected to Rise in Coming Days – NOC

Libya's oil production is currently 564,000 b/d, a spokesman for the National Oil Corp (NOC) of Libya said. NOC expects oil output to rise in the coming days. Libya's natural gas production stood at more than 2 Bcf/d. Reuters, 5:02 March 30, 2015

Total Evacuates Expatriate Staff from Yemen Sites March 30

Total said it had evacuated all expatriate staff from Saana and Kharir fields in Yemen, although the sites have not been hit by an overnight military raid by Saudi-led forces against Houthi forces. Total said operations on Yemen's Block 10 have been reduced, with gas production maintained only for local power generation and to supply neighboring communities. Technical support is provided to the site from Dubai, a spokesperson said. Sources told Reuters on Sunday that exports of liquefied natural gas from the 6.7 million tons per year Yemen LNG plant operated by Total were running as normal.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/137899/Total_Evacuated_Expatriate_Staff_from_Yemen_Sites#sthash.boHTRzS.dpuf

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 30, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	48.11	46.80	101.65
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.63	2.82	4.39

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