



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, March 12, 2009

Major Developments

Valero Voluntarily Recalls 919,000 Barrels of Propane Gas that May Pose as Fire Hazard March 12

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission said that the propane may not have the recommended level of an odorant that alerts consumers of propane gas leaks.
Reuters, 12:03 March 12, 2009

Electricity

Study Says Wind-Generated Electricity from U.S. Midwest can Economically Displace Fossil-fuel Powered Sources after 2020 – Brattle Group

The Brattle group published a new study indicating that electricity generated from wind in the upper Midwest will become cost-competitive with conventional fuel sources like coal when connected to the electricity grid via extra-high voltage transmission lines. The current lack of extra-high voltage transmission lines creates a barrier to harnessing wind power as a more viable option.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Study-Finds-Wind-Power-prnews-14616006.html>

Louisiana Regulators Ordered a Stop to Entergy's Plans to Convert Little Gypsy Gas-fired Plant to Run on Petroleum Coke

Louisiana Public Service Commission told Entergy to suspend current development and restudy the plan amid changing economic conditions that have emerged since the project was approved in late 2007. At the time, it was believed that petroleum coke, a refinery byproduct, would provide a cheaper source of fuel than natural gas for the long term. However, natural gas prices have fallen by as much as two-thirds since then.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/PSC-suspends-power-apf-14609684.html>

RMT and John Deere Wind Energy Begins Commercial Operation of 69 MW Michigan Wind 1 Facility in Michigan

The wind facility, which is the largest in the state, began commercial operation in mid-December.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/RMT-Celebrates-Michigan-Wind-prnews-14608816.html>

Entergy's 1,025 MW Indian Point Nuke-fired Unit 3 in New York Shut March 11

Reuters, 14:36 March 11, 2009

Mirant's 337 MW Contra Costa Unit 6 Gas-fired Unit in California Shut by March 11

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit experienced an unplanned outage on March 11.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200903111515.html>

Calpine/Mitsu's 212 MW Greenfield Gas-fired Unit 1 in Ontario Shut March 11

Reuters, 14:36 March 11, 2009

Update: NPPD's 764 MW Cooper Nuke Unit in Nebraska Ramped Up to 37 Percent by March 12

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of March 11 the unit was operating at 1 percent. The unit was shut on March 6 to repair a tube leak.

Reuters, 07:15 March 12, 2009

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

Update: Luminant's 591 MW Sandow Coal-fired Unit 4 in Texas Restarts March 12

The unit was shut March 11 to repair a boiler tube leak.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=121177>

Reuters, 07:42 March 12, 2009

Update: OPG's 490 MW Nanticoke Coal-fired Unit 3 in Ontario Returns to Service by March 12

The unit was shut on March 8.

Reuters, 08:01 March 12, 2009

Bloomberg News, 07:36 March 12, 2009

Update: POWEREX's 428 MW Dynamic Resource Unit in California Returns to Service by March 11

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit experienced an unplanned curtailment of 328 MW on March 11.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200903111515.html>

Update: TransAlta's 406 MW Sundance Coal-fired Unit 4 in Alberta Returns to Service by March 12

The unit was shut on March 7.

Reuters, 08:07 March 12, 2009

Petroleum

Update: Marathon Restarts St. James-to-Garyville, Louisiana Crude Pipeline

The pipeline was shut March 10 by an explosion. Marathon shut the pipeline and determined that it was undamaged by the blast before restarting it. The pipeline supplies crude to Marathon's 256,000 b/d Garyville, Louisiana refinery.

Reuters, 10:31 March 12, 2009

ConocoPhillips's 139,000 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery Shut March 11

The company safely shut the refinery after a complete power failure yesterday afternoon. The cause of the outage is unknown.

Reuters, 18:24 March 11, 2009

Bloomberg News, 22:30 March 11, 2009

SRU Compressor Trips at Shell's 340,000 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery March 11

The cause of the event is currently under investigation

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1240851420090312>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=121214>

Unit 812 at Total's 232,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery Shut March 11

The unit was shut to repair a leak in the cooling water line.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=121205>

Ithaca Energy to Begin Production at Jacky Field in the North Sea by end of March

The field will produce about 7,500 b/d. Total output from the Jack and adjacent Beatrice oil fields could reach 11,000 b/d by the end of April.

Bloomberg News, 05:22 March 12, 2009

Natural Gas

Nothing to Report.

Other News

AT&T to Spend \$565 Million Over Ten Years on Alternative-Fuel Vehicles for Corporate Fleet

AT&T Plans on purchasing 8,000 vehicles that run on compressed natural gas for installation and repair vans, and replace about 7,100 current cars with hybrid-electric models.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123676879729393589.html.html>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
March 12, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	45.66	43.90	109.35
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.92	4.23	9.85

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Overtuned Oil Tanker Spills 2,700 Gallons of Diesel along Interstate 95 near Richmond, Virginia and Blocked Traffic

Officials Recovered 2,040 Gallons of Diesel

http://www.wric.com/Global/story.asp?S=9987820&nav=menu28_1

Maryland PSC Approves U.S. Cellular Corp's Proposed 60 MW Dan's Mountain Wind Farm

http://www.canadianbusiness.com/markets/market_news/article.jsp?content=D96SFMA80

Equipment Failure at TXU's 750 MW Martin Lake Coal-fired Unit 3 March 12

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=121216>

ExxonMobil Loses Lawsuit over Leak at a Maryland Gasoline Station that Caused Families Hundreds of Millions of Dollars in Damages

Bloomberg News, 10:47 March 12, 2009

Update: ConocoPhillips and BP's Proposed 2 Bcf/d Gas Pipeline in Alaska to be In Service by 2019

http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/djf500/200903111028DOWJONESDJONLINE000667_FORTUNE5.htm

OPEC Exports (Excluding Angola and Ecuador) to Decrease 350,000 b/d to 22.76 MMb/d to March 28, Lowest Level in Five Years – Analyst

Reuters, 12:29 March 12, 2009

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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