



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, February 12, 2013

Electricity

Update: More Than 33,500 Customers Remain Without Power in U.S. Northeast February 12 after Winter Storm Last Weekend

A major winter storm with blizzard conditions slammed the U.S. Northeast Friday and Saturday, dumping 2 to 3 feet or more of snow across New England, and knocking out power to at least 667,763 utility customers across eight states from Maryland to Maine. As of 2:30 p.m. EST Tuesday, 33,502 customers remained without power, mostly in Massachusetts. National Grid on Sunday said it hoped to restore power to most of its remaining affected customers by the end of the day Tuesday. NSTAR said today it was still working to restore remaining outages at the South Shore, Cape Cod, and the South Coast regions, where heavy winds and significant amounts of snow brought down trees, blocking roadways and damaging the electrical system. The company expects to have power restored to most customers Tuesday or Wednesday, and to restore normal operations by Thursday night. For details on the impact of this storm on customer outages, energy infrastructure issues, and restoration efforts, see:

Emergency Situation Reports issued by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Electricity Delivery & Energy Reliability (OE/ISER) at the following URL: http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/emergency_sit_rpt.aspx.

http://www.nationalgridus.com/aboutus/a3-1_news2.asp?document=7522

http://www.nstar.com/ss3/nstar_news/press_releases/2013/blizzard-2-12.pdf

U.S. Northeast Customer Power Outages			
February 8–12, 2013			
State/Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
National Grid (MA)	MA	161,233	6,919
NSTAR	MA	241,581	24,878
Massachusetts Subtotal			31,979
Consolidated Edison	NY	2,750	1,705
New York Subtotal			1,705
TOTAL*			33,502

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

Sources:

https://s3.amazonaws.com/stormcenter.nationalgridus.com/external/sc_ma.html

<http://outage.nstar.com/outage/outagemap.aspx>

http://apps.coned.com/stormcenter_external/default.html

<https://www1.nationalgridus.com/PowerOutageMap-RI-RES>

Loss of Condenser Vacuum Shuts FPL's 693 MW Turkey Point Nuclear Unit 3 in Florida February 11

Florida Power & Light (FPL) reported that Turkey Point Unit 3 on Monday night experienced a loss of condenser vacuum, causing an automatic reactor trip, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Auxiliary feedwater water actuated automatically based on low steam generator levels following the trip. Steam generator levels were returned to normal levels, and Unit 3 was in stable condition at the time of the filing.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130212en.html>

Update: TVA's 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Unit 3 in Alabama Shut for Work on Condenser Cooling Water February 11

The unit was shut yesterday for maintenance on the condenser cooling water after groundwater from rain damaged the system. On the morning of February 11 the unit was operating at 40 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-02-12/nuclear-output-falls-as-3-reactors-shut-in-the-southeast.html>

Update: Progress Energy's 872 MW Brunswick Nuclear Unit 1 in North Carolina Ramped Up to 85 Percent by February 12

On the morning of February 11 the unit was operating at 71 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

Luminant's 593 MW Big Brown Coal-Fired Unit 2 in Texas Trips While Reducing Load for Boil Tube Repairs February 11

Luminant reported Big Brown Unit 2 tripped while reducing load for boiler tube repairs Monday afternoon, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The unit trip was caused by a trip of the auxiliary boiler, which was providing steam to the boiler feed pump. The loss of steam pressure tripped the unit automatically.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=179190>

Update: San Diego Gas & Electric's 575 MW Palomar Natural Gas-Fired Unit in California Returns to Service by February 11

The unit returned from an unplanned curtailment of 300 MW that began by February 9.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201302111515.html>

NRC Issues Final Environmental Impact Statement for DTE's Proposal to Build 1,600 MW Fermi Nuclear Unit 3 in Michigan

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Thursday announced it has issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and has concluded there are no environmental impacts to preclude issuing a Combined License (COL) to build and operate the proposed Fermi Unit 3 near Newport, Michigan. Detroit Edison (DTE) submitted a COL application in September 2008, seeking permission to construct and operate an Economic Simplified Boiling Water Reactor at its Fermi nuclear power plant, adjacent to the company's existing reactor. General Electric-Hitachi Nuclear Energy submitted an application to certify its 1,600-MW electric design in August 2005. The FEIS is a milestone in the overall Fermi 3 COL review, which continues.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2013/13-008.pdf>

Mississippi Power Retires 67 MW Eaton Coal-Fired Power Plant in Mississippi

Mississippi Power on February 7 announced it has retired its Plant Eaton electric generating facility in Petal, Mississippi. The utility plans to replace the lost generation with its Kemper County energy facility, currently under construction and scheduled for commercial operation in May 2014.

http://www.mississippipower.com/news/iframe_pressroom.asp

Petroleum

Enterprise Reports a Small Leak on Its 400,000 b/d Seaway Crude Oil Pipeline at the Colbert Pumping Station in Oklahoma February 11

Enterprise Products Partners reported a pinhole leak on its Seaway Pipeline spilled 10 gallons of oil at the Colbert pumping station near Bryan, Oklahoma Monday morning, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators secured the release. Genscape said the line was shut for about 11 hours on Monday due to the spill, but flows have since resumed to near 221,000 b/d. The Colbert pumping station remains shut.

Reuters, 10:30 February 12, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1038221

Update: Monroe Energy Restarts FCCU at Its 185,000 b/d Trainer, Pennsylvania Refinery by February 11

Monroe Energy LLC restarted a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Trainer refinery, a spokesman said on Monday. Operators shut the 52,000 b/d unit in late December to repair a slurry circuit.

Reuters, 17:16 February 11, 2013

Shell Contains Small Fire at Its 329,800 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery February 12

Shell Oil Co. reported that it contained a small fire and unspecified release at its Deer Park refinery Tuesday morning, according to a message on a community information line.

Reuters, 11:45 February 12, 2013

SRU Malfunction Causes Emissions at Valero's 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery February 11

Valero Energy Corp. reported an unspecified "excursion" on a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) tail gas incinerator (TGI) caused emissions at its Port Arthur refinery Monday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The filing reports emissions from two shell claus off-gas treating (SCOT) TGIs and from two SRUs at the refinery. The malfunction had no impact on production, a spokesman said.

Reuters, 14:13 February 11, 2013

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=179180>

SRU Resumes Normal Operation at Valero's 120,000 b/d Meraux, Louisiana February 11 after Malfunction February 10

Valero Energy Corp. reported its Meraux refinery was operating normally Monday following a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) malfunction the previous day. There was no material impact to production, a spokesman said. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reported elevated levels of sulfur dioxide in St. Bernard Parish after Valero reported a release of sulfur dioxide at the refinery Saturday, local media reported.

Reuters, 12:28 February 11, 2013

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/news/2013/02/12/valero-refinery-in-louisiana-exceeds.html>

Compressor Failure Shuts Unspecified Unit at Flint Hills's 280,500 b/d Saint Paul, Minnesota Refinery by February 11

Flint Hills Resources shut an unspecified unit at its St. Paul refinery on Saturday following a compressor failure, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1037984

Reuters, 12:50 February 12, 2013

CO-OP Shuts 28,000 b/d Crude Unit to Assess Fire Damage at Its 145,000 b/d Regina, Saskatchewan Refinery February 11

Federated Co-operatives Ltd. on Monday said it was reducing production rates at its Regina refinery to assess damage from an overnight fire in a coker pump house. The refinery has shut a 28,000 b/d crude unit for about 36 hours while investigating the impact of the fire, which lasted about 30 minutes after it ignited around 12:30 a.m. local time Sunday. With demand for gasoline and diesel at a seasonal low, the refinery was producing 100,000 b/d prior to the fire. Operators said output will be around 80,000 b/d during the investigation.

Reuters, 15:22 February 11, 2013

Natural Gas

Enterprise Restarts Units after Unscheduled Shutdown at Its Mont Belvieu NGL Facility in Texas February 10

Enterprise Products Partners L.P. reported an unscheduled shutdown of the BEF unit at its Mont Belvieu natural gas liquids (NGL) facility Sunday night, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators reported the following morning that the plant was restarting designated isomerization units after an unscheduled shutdown. The facility had previously reported unspecified fractionation units unexpectedly shut on February 5.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=179194>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=179224>

Lightning Strike Cuts Power, Shuts Enbridge Teague Gas Plant in Texas February 10

Enbridge reported a suspected lightning strike cut commercial power to its Teague plant on Sunday, causing electrical damage that forced the plant to shut and caused emissions, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators curtailed all inlet gas until commercial power was restored and the damage was repaired. Operators had to increase inlet sulfur levels to restart the sulfur recovery unit (SRU), which led to excess emissions from the SRU and amine units, the claus sulfur unit, and incinerator stack.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=179161>

Acid Gas Incinerator Malfunction Causes Sulfur Dioxide Emissions at DCP Midstream's 165 MMcf/d Rock Creek Gas Plant in Texas February 3

DCP Midstream reported the acid gas incinerator at its Rock Creek gas plant shut down on February 3 when an incinerator blower switch malfunctioned, causing sulfur dioxide emissions, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=178887>

Boiler Fan Malfunction Causes Flaring at DCP Midstream's 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas February 4

DCP Midstream reported the No. 1 and No. 2 boiler draft fans at its Goldsmith plant failed on February 4, causing the amine treater to turn sour and resulting in flaring, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=178935>

DCP Midstream Reports Sulfur Dioxide Emissions at Its 70 MMcf/d Fullerton Gas Plant in Texas February 11

DCP Midstream reported a tail gas incinerator (TGI) at its Fullerton plant was shedding excess sulfur dioxide for approximately three hours due to a malfunction on the continuous emission monitoring system unit, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=179188>

Kinder Morgan to Extend Its Natural Gas Pipeline System in South Texas to Serve Calpine's Magic Valley Generating Station

Kinder Morgan Energy Partners, L.P. (KMP) on Monday announced it will invest approximately \$30 million to expand its Texas intrastate pipeline system in South Texas to extend service to Calpine's Magic Valley Generating Station in Hidalgo County.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=119776&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1783852>

Northern Requests Permission to Build LNG Offloading Facilities at Its Garner Peak-Shaving Plant for Use in LNG Tractor-Trailers, Other Machinery

Northern Natural Gas Co. on January 18 filed a new application with the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to build and operate liquefied natural gas (LNG) offloading facilities at its peak-shaving storage plant in Garner, Iowa. The Garner Plant has a 2-Bcf cryogenic storage tank, and its liquefaction equipment can condense an average of 12.5 MMcf/d of gas to liquid. Northern is requesting approval to construct and operate an offloading facility at the Garner Plant to optimize the use of its LNG tractor-trailers, which support the operation and maintenance of Northern's system. Further, the proposed facilities could provide for liquefaction and delivery service on an interruptible basis to third parties.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=38510

<http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/common/OpenNat.asp?fileID=13158119>

Other News

Update: U.S. Approves CNOOC's Takeover of Nexen; Marks Final Approval Needed to Close Deal

Nexen Inc. today announced that it has received approval from the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) with respect to CNOOC Limited's \$15.1 billion takeover of Nexen, marking the last approval needed to close on the deal. Acquiring Nexen would allow CNOOC to secure oil and gas reserves in western Canada, the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, offshore Nigeria, and the U.K. North Sea. The transaction is expected to close the week of February 25, 2013 and remains subject to customary closing conditions.

http://www.nexeninc.com/en/AboutUs/MediaCentre/NewsReleases/News/Release.aspx?year=2013&release_id=135181

Update: Dakota Spirit AgEnergy Receives RFS2 Approval for Its Proposed 65 MMGal/Year Ethanol Plant in North Dakota

Dakota Spirit AgEnergy announced it achieved its renewable fuels certification this week through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its proposed 65 million gallon per year biorefinery, which will produce ethanol, distillers grains, and fuel-grade corn oil at the Spiritwood Energy Park near Jamestown, North Dakota. Under the EPA's revised Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS2), cornstarch-based ethanol production facilities built after 2007 are required to have lifecycle carbon intensities 20 percent lower than conventional motor fuels. EPA's RFS2 approval this week affirms that Dakota Spirit AgEnergy meets the 20 percent threshold. Pending ongoing financing work, groundbreaking is slated to begin this summer.

<http://www.dakotaspiritagenergy.com/indexjump.asp>

Interior Department, BOEM to Offer 38 Million Acres for Oil and Gas Development in Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 227

The U.S. Department of Interior and the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) on February 7 announced that Central Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 227 will offer 38.6 million acres offshore Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama for oil and gas exploration and development. The lease sale could lead to the production of nearly one billion barrels of oil and almost 4 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The sale includes all unleased areas in the Central Gulf of Mexico Planning Area. It will be the second sale under the Administration's new Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2012–2017, and the first of five Central Gulf of Mexico lease sales that will be held under the program.

<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/interior-to-offer-38-million-acres-for-oil-and-gas-development-in-central-gulf-of-mexico-lease-sale.cfm>

International News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
February 12, 2013			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	97.35	96.66	98.38
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.20	3.27	2.50

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