



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, February 27, 2013

Electricity

Winter Storms Knock Out Power to 54,000 Customers in Michigan as Utilities Work to Restore Power in the Central United States February 26–27

A powerful winter storm system moved into the Midwest February 26–27, knocking out power to 54,000 utility customers in Michigan. Including outages reported February 25–26 in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and New Mexico, a total of 345,934 customers have been affected by the storm system over the last three days. As of 4:30 p.m. EST, approximately 80,000 customers remained without power in states affected by the storms, including 30,000 customers in DTE Energy’s service territory in Michigan. The utility hopes to restore power to its affected customers by midnight tonight. The National Weather Service on Wednesday forecast that the storm will make its way toward the Northeast, bringing snowfall to the eastern Great Lakes across upstate New York and into central and northern New England by Friday.

<http://www.weather.gov/>

Central and Midwest United States Customer Power Outages			
February 25–27, 2013			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Consumers Energy	MI	14,000	4,316
DTE Energy	MI	40,000	30,000
Ameren Missouri	MO	13,000	331
Association of Missouri Electric Coops	MO	54,837	27,326
Kansas City Power & Light	MO/KS	106,000	6,440
Westar Energy	KS	7,984	32
Empire District Electric Co.	KS/OK	4,000	0
Oklahoma Electric Cooperative	OK	19,200	0
Oklahoma Gas & Electric	OK	33,000	10,355
Public Service Co. of Oklahoma (AEP)	OK	12,276	0
American Electric Power (Texas)	TX	5,537	0
CPS Energy	TX	22,000	5
Oncor Energy	TX	5,500	318
Xcel Energy	TX/NM	8,600	0
TOTAL*		345,934	79,123

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

Sources:

- <http://www.consumersenergy.com/outagemap>
- <http://www.dteenergy.com/map/outage.html>
- <http://www.freep.com/Heavy-snow-brings-power-outages-accidents-school-closures>
- <http://www.annarbor.com/news/digging-out-dense-snowfall-leaves-power-outages-and-a-messy-clean-up/>
- <http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/Roughly-50-000-customers-lose-power-in-Michigan>
- <http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20130227/METRO/302270372>
- <http://apps.ameren.com/outage/OutageMap.aspx?state=MO>
- <http://www.amec.org/content/outage-reports>
- http://www.kcpl.com/kcmaps/frameset_menus.htm
- http://www.kcpl.com/storm/storm_update.html
- <https://www-11.westarenergy.com/outagemaps/outagetable.asp>
- <https://www.empiredistrict.com/Outages/OutageMap.aspx>
- <https://www.facebook.com/OklaElec>
- <http://public.oge.com/systemwatch/SystemWatch.swf?startMapID=1>
- <https://www.psoklahoma.com/outages/>

<https://www.aeptexas.com/outages/>
http://outagemap.cpsenergy.com/CPSStaticMapsEXT/CPSStaticMapV2_EXT.html
<http://stormcenter.oncor.com/default.html>
http://www.xcelenergy.com/Outages/Report_a_Problem/Outage_Map/Outage_Map
<https://www.appalachianpower.com/outages/>

NRG to Add More Than 2,000 MW of Natural Gas-Fired and Solar-Powered Generating Capacity in 2013

NRG Energy Inc. on Wednesday said it will add over 2,000 MW of natural gas and solar power generating capacity in 2013. The previously announced natural gas projects include the 550 MW El Segundo combined cycle plant, the 720 MW Marsh Landing peaking plant in California, and the 75 MW WA Parish peaking plant in Texas. The previously announced solar projects include the 377 MW Ivanpah project in California, the 290 MW Agua Caliente project in Arizona, and the 250 MW California Valley Solar Ranch in California.

Reuters, 11:45 February 27, 2013

http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=121544&p=irol-newsArticle_Print&ID=1789773&highlight=

Update: SCE Responds to NRC Technical Questions on Restart Plans for Its 1,070 MW San Onofre Nuclear Unit 2 in California

Southern California Edison (SCE) on Tuesday announced it has submitted additional information requested by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) as part of a discussion of the steps needed to restart San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station Unit 2 and to address current compliance with the plant's technical specifications. Both units at San Onofre have been shut since January, when operators discovered premature tube wear in the steam generators. The NRC must approve plans to restart each unit SCE has proposed restarting Unit 2 at 70 percent power for five months to prevent the conditions that caused excessive tube wear in San Onofre's steam generators. SCE has not yet presented a restart plan for Unit 3, which has more damage than Unit 2.

<http://www.edison.com/pressroom/pr.asp?id=8089>

<http://www.songscommunity.com/docs/rai/rai32.pdf>

Update: NRG Says STP's Fire-Damaged 1,251 MW South Texas Nuclear Unit 2 in Texas May Resume Service in Early May

NRG Energy Inc., which holds the STP Nuclear Operating Company, on Wednesday said it expects South Texas Unit 2 to return to service in early May. Operators shut the reactor January 8 after a main transformer failure ignited a brief fire, which damaged the transformer.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/27/utilities-operations-nrg-southtexas-idUSL1N0BR3NO20130227?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43>

Southern Shuts 1,149 MW Vogtle Nuclear Unit 2 in Georgia Due to Reactor Coolant Pump Leak February 26

Southern Nuclear reported that late last night, operators manually tripped Vogtle 2 in response to excessive leak-off flow from the No. 1 seal on the No. 4 reactor coolant pump, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. All systems operated correctly in response to the reactor trip. On the morning of February 26 Unit 2 was operating at 94 percent. The incident had no impact on Vogtle Unit 1.

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

Update: Southern's 856 MW Hatch Nuclear Unit 1 in Georgia Restarts by February 26, Ramps Up to 20 Percent by February 27

Hatch 1 is returning from an outage that began February 10, when operators initiated a manual reactor scram due to elevated reactor water conductivity in accordance with station abnormal operating procedures. On the morning of February 26 the unit was operating at 1 percent.

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

Update: TVA's 1,126 MW Sequoyah Nuclear Unit 2 in Tennessee Restarts, Ramps Up to 13 Percent by February 27

Sequoyah 2 is returning from an outage that began February 24, when operators manually tripped the unit due to a loss of condenser vacuum indication. Operators determined that a faulty test connection on the B Condenser vacuum pressure switch caused the loss of vacuum indication.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130227en.html>

Progress Declares ‘Unusual Event’ at Its Brunswick Nuclear Power Plant after Freon Leaks from Turbine Building Chiller February 26

Progress Energy Carolinas on Tuesday morning declared an Unusual Event at its Brunswick Steam Electric Plant due to a release of Freon from the 2A Turbine Building Chiller, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Operators classified the incident as an Unusual Event because the toxic substance was released in amounts that have or could adversely affect normal plant operations. The release affected only the area immediately surrounding the 2A Turbine Building Chiller. Operators terminated the Unusual Event nearly 5 hours later after installing a temporary patch on the 2A Turbine Building Chiller, and were working to evacuate residual Freon from the chiller unit.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130227en.html>

Update: NRC Outlines Additional Actions OPPD Must Perform Before Restarting Its 478 MW Fort Calhoun Nuclear Power Plant in Nebraska

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Tuesday announced it has issued an updated Confirmatory Action Letter (CAL) outlining three additional actions Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) officials have agreed to take prior to restarting the Fort Calhoun nuclear plant, which has been shut since April 2011 due to damage caused by flooding and a series of safety violations discovered during subsequent inspections. NRC first issued a CAL in June 2012 with a restart checklist. The new CAL items include a requirement to address safety system functional failures, containment internal structure issues, and the use of Teflon as a sealant on electrical cables inside containment.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2013/13-006.iv.pdf>

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1305/ML13057A287.pdf>

Update: CDWR’s 933 MW Hyatt-Thermalito Hydro Unit in California Returns to Service by February 26

The unit returned from a curtailment of 634 MW that began by February 12 and was due to both planned and unplanned causes. Prior to the curtailment of 634 MW, the unit had been in a curtailment of 793 MW, also due to planned and unplanned causes, since February 4

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201302261515.html>

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201302121515.html>

Update: Calpine’s 593 MW Metcalf Energy Center Natural Gas-Fired Unit in California Returns to Service by February 26

The unit returned from an unplanned curtailment of 163 MW that began by February 25.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201302261515.html>

Alta Wind’s 150 MW Alta Wind Unit 1, 150 MW Unit 2, and 150 MW Unit 3 in California Shut by February 26

Alta Wind 1 entered an outage that was due to both planned and unplanned causes. Alta Wind Units 2 and 3 entered unplanned outages.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201302261515.html>

Petroleum

Update: Valero Expects No Impact on Production after Compressor Trip Shuts 57,000 b/d HCU at Its 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery February 26

Valero Energy Corp. reported a 57,000 b/d hydrocracking unit (HCU) at its Port Arthur refinery was recovering after a compressor trip on Tuesday. Operators reported that due to unknown causes, the external hydrogen supply was lost, which caused emissions and required operators to shut a hydrocracking unit, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The incident did not affect the refinery’s other, 292,000 b/d HCU, and the refinery expected no material impact to production.

Reuters, 11:39 February 27, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1039438

Update: Phillips 66 Schedules Maintenance on FCCU Wet Gas Compressor at Its 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery February 27 after Process Upset February 25

Phillips 66 reported it was scheduling maintenance on the No. 40 fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) wet gas compressor at its Borger refinery after a process upset caused emissions from that unit on Monday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Excess emissions are expected during the maintenance, which is scheduled to continue until March 8.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=179682>

CountryMark to Install Pollution Controls at Its 26,500 b/d Mount Vernon, Indiana Refinery after Agreement with Federal Regulators

CountryMark announced it will voluntarily invest more than \$18 million to reduce air-borne emissions from the Mt. Vernon refinery as part of an agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Justice Department. Under the agreement, CountryMark will update “grandfathered” permits for process heaters, boilers, and the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) to enhance leak detection and repair practices. CountryMark will also adopt new strategies for ensuring continued compliance with benzene management requirements under the Clean Air Act. CountryMark will also implement programs to minimize flaring events and maximize flaring efficiency.

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem.asp?ID=58167>

Update: Blueknight to Solicit Shipper Interest in North Extension to the Pecos River Crude Oil Pipeline in Texas

Blueknight Energy Partners, L.P. (BKEP) announced today that it will launch an open season on March 4 to solicit shipper commitments to transport crude oil from southern New Mexico to Crane, Texas. The proposed 95-mile extension will connect to BKEP’s previously announced 16-inch Pecos River Pipeline, which is expected to commence operation in the second quarter of 2013, and will provide shippers access to the Gulf Coast and Midland markets. Depending on the response to the open season, the north extension’s crude transportation capacity could reach up to 100,000 b/d and would be in service by the first quarter of 2015.

<http://investor.bkep.com/profiles/investor/ResLibraryView.asp?ResLibraryID=60662&GoTopage=1&Category=1029&BzID=1505&G=386>

Natural Gas

Equitrans Announces Open Season for Transmission and Storage Capacity on Proposed Allegheny Valley Connector in Marcellus Shale Region

EQT Midstream Partners, LP, an EQT Corporation company, and its subsidiary Equitrans, LP, today announced the commencement of a non-binding open season to gauge customer interest in securing firm transmission and storage capacity on the Allegheny Valley Connector. Located in the Marcellus Shale region, the primary function of the Allegheny Valley Connector will be to store and transport natural gas to numerous interconnects with assets owned by Peoples Natural Gas Company LLC, including use by Peoples and other gas suppliers to provide local distribution service to Peoples’ customers. Results from the open season will determine any additional capacity and/or specific system modifications that may be required.

<http://www.eqtmidstreampartners.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=743656>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Bomb Hits 16-Inch Fuel Oil Pipeline in Northern Iraq for the Third Time This Month

The Iraqi Oil Ministry on Wednesday reported that assailants on Tuesday again bombed and disabled a section of a 16-inch pipeline carrying fuel oil from the Baji refinery to the northern province of Nineveh—the third such attack on the pipeline in the past month.

<http://www.nzweek.com/world/fuel-pipeline-attacked-for-3rd-time-in-1-month-in-northern-iraq-51621/>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
February 27, 2013			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	93.14	94.39	108.95
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.46	3.23	2.60

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