



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday, April 06, 2007

## **Electricity**

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### **Update: Thousands Remain Without Power from Spring Storm in Northeast**

Estimates vary as to the extent of the storm related outages and as to the number of customers remaining without power on Friday morning. Nonetheless, at the height of the storm, at least 190,000 customers and perhaps more than 200,000 customers lost power. Power restoration has cut the number of customers remaining without power to between 70,000 and 90,000 thousand as of Friday morning April 6. Hardest hit by the heavy wet snow were New Hampshire where some 80,000 customers lost power and Maine where 117,000 customers lost power. According to a representative of Central Maine Power, approximately 59,000 customers were without power as of this morning. Utilities in both states anticipate complete restoration by sometime on Saturday, April 7.

<http://www.unionleader.com/article.aspx?articleId=55870fa2-1577-4478-9ea5-2a744ee70823&headline=NH+powerless+against+heavy+snow>

<http://www.fosters.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070406/FOSTERS01/70406035>

<http://news.mainetoday.com/updates/010707.html>

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/17980146/>

[http://www.boston.com/news/globe/city\\_region/breaking\\_news/2007/04/spring\\_snowstor.html](http://www.boston.com/news/globe/city_region/breaking_news/2007/04/spring_snowstor.html)

### **Faulty Signal During Test Causes Prairie Island Nuke to Shut April 5**

According to the operating company for the power plant, an incorrect signal was sent during a safety equipment test that resulted in the plant shut down automatically. Once the exact cause is determined and repairs made, the plant will be restarted.

<http://www.rivertowns.net/daily/pch/c070406/>

### **Update: TXU issues Apology for Statements Regarding Closing of Plants**

The CEO of TXU and TXU Wholesale issued an apology for the statements made in a filing with the Texas PUC indicating that TXU would close plants as a result of a \$210 million penalty assessed against the company. The executives stated that the company was asking the PUC to disregard the earlier filing and indicated that the company will later file a more appropriate request.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/04-06-2007/0004561052&EDATE=>

<http://www.txucorp.com/media/newsrel/detail.aspx?prid=1039>

<http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/dn/latestnews/stories/040707dnbustxu.3b5419df.html>

### **Tri-State Delays Construction of a 700 MW Coal-fired Plants in Kansas**

Tri-State Generation and Transmission announced that it would delay construction on one of two 700 MW coal-fired plants to be built in Kansas. Construction of one of the plants is scheduled to get underway by the middle of 2008. Construction of the other plant has been postponed indefinitely.

[http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci\\_5604474](http://www.denverpost.com/headlines/ci_5604474)

<http://www.hutchnews.com/news/regional/stories/Plant040607.shtml>

## **Petroleum**

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### **Valero Reports Weather Related Problem at its 245,000 b/d Texas City Refinery April 4**

In a report to state regulators, Valero indicated that an unspecified weather related problem resulted in control devices flaring. According to the report, there was no impact on production.

Reuters, 16:40 April 5, 2007

## Natural Gas

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### Despite Substantial Increase in Number of Active Rigs, 2006 Natural Gas Production Essentially Flat – Study

According to a new study by Wachovia Capital Markets, despite an increase of approximately 16 percent in the number of active drilling rigs exploring for natural gas in the U.S., gas production increased by only about 0.6 percent during 2006 compared to 2005. In the Wachovia study, the impact of the hurricanes has been taken into account. In an earlier study by the EIA, showed an increase of 2.7 percent but did not take the impact of the 2005 hurricane season into account. Wachovia attributes the weak production gain to the lack of any significant gains from offshore exploration efforts in the Gulf of Mexico.

Oil Daily, April 9, 2007

## Other News

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### Update: Wyoming Blizzard Delays Loading of 170 BNSF Coal Trains

In addition to the approximately 160 Union Pacific coal trains that were delayed by the storms that hit the region between late March and early April, BNSF, the other major rail carrier in the area, reports that 170 of its trains could not be loaded as well. BNSF reported that on March 30, three trains, representing only about five percent of the normal number of trains could be loaded. The railroads are working to move trains as mining activity returns to normal and with adequate supplies at utilities, no coal supply problems for utilities appear likely.

Bloomberg News, 17:01 April 5, 2007

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 6, 2007			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b>			
<b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b>	64.26*	66.09	67.26
\$/Barrel			
<b>NATURAL GAS</b>			
<b>Henry Hub</b>	7.53*	7.34	7.06
\$/Million Btu			

Source: Reuters

\*Note: Markets closed on April 6, prices reflect closing prices from April 5.

## Energy Notes

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### Storm Causes 12,000 LG&E Customers to Lose Power in Kentucky April 5

<http://www.courier-journal.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070405/NEWS01/704050453/1008/NEWS01>

<http://www.kentucky.com/181/story/35837.html>

### Update: U.S. State Department Will Continue to Assert Right of Passage to Planned Quoddy Bay LNG Site

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

**Shell Estimates its Nigerian Production Should be Back to Pre-disruption Levels in Five to Six Months**

[http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news\\_article.cfm?id=8086606](http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=8086606)

**Update: Number of Oil Tankers Still Waiting to Offload Cargoes at Marseille, France Reduced to 14**

Bloomberg News, 10:03 April 6, 2007

**Oil Executives Say Days of “Easy Oil” are Past**

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aH57.uZe.sAI&refer=energy>

**Links**

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***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](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/index.aspx>.

Please direct comments and questions to: [ead@oe.netl.doe.gov](mailto:ead@oe.netl.doe.gov)