



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, April 6, 2015

Electricity

500 kV Line Failure at PG&E's Table Mountain Substation Knocks Out Power to Over 79,000 Customers in California April 6

An insulator failure on a 500 kV transmission line at the Table Mountain substation this morning knocked out power to 79,523 Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) customers in Butte County, California. PG&E restored the last customers affected by the outage at about noon local time. Investigations continue into the cause of the outage.

<https://twitter.com/pge4me>

<http://www.pge.com/myhome/outages/outage/>

<http://www.chicoer.com/general-news/20150406/update-about-79000-customers-lose-power-in-butte-county-time-of-restoration-uncertain>

<http://www.krcrtv.com/news/local/massive-power-outage-affects-thousands-in-butte-county/32212454>

Update: Dominion's 925 MW North Anna Nuclear Unit 1 in Virginia Restarts by April 5, Ramps Up to 95 Percent by April 6

By the morning of April 5 the unit had restarted and ramped up to 74 percent. Operators manually removed the North Anna 1 nuclear reactor from service April 2 because of an issue with a voltage regulator governing the electrical field on the unit's main generator. On the morning of April 1 the unit was operating at full power after restarting following a refueling outage on March 30.

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

http://www.richmond.com/business/local/article_6e08ddc3-f9d6-5452-a60f-7f899bf3477b.html

Update: DTE's 1,089 MW Fermi Nuclear Unit 2 in Michigan Restarts by April 3, Ramps Up to Full Power by April 6

On the morning of April 5 the unit was operating at 90 percent after restarting and ramping up to 8 percent by April 4. The unit experienced an automatic reactor scram from full power on March 19 due to an oscillation power range monitor upscale actuation.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20150320en.html>

Update: Exelon's 855 MW Quad Cities Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois Restarts, Ramps Up to 45 Percent by April 6

The unit experienced an automatic reactor scram on April 3 due to a steam leak.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20150406en.html>

NMC's 522 MW Prairie Island Nuclear Unit 2 in Minnesota Shut April 3; Restarts, Ramps Up to 28 Percent by April 5

The unit experienced a manual reactor scram from full power on April 3 due to loss of the main feedwater pump.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20150406en.html>

APS's 1,247 MW Palo Verde Nuclear Unit 3 in Arizona Shut by April 4

On the morning of April 3 the unit was operating at full power.

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

Update: NRC Finalizes Security-Related Inspection, Will Increase Oversight at Dominion's 2,162 MW Millstone Nuclear Power Plant in Connecticut

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) announced April 2 that it would increase its level of oversight at Dominion's Millstone nuclear power plant in Waterford, Connecticut after finalizing a "greater than green" security-related inspection finding.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2015/15-012.i.pdf>

Update: Dominion's Millstone 1,130 MW Nuclear Unit 3 and 871 MW Unit 2 in Connecticut Ramp Up to Full Power by April 5

On the morning of April 4 unit 3 was operating at 83 percent and unit 2 was operating at 70 percent. The units were operating at full power on March 31 before being reduced on April 1.

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

Exelon Reports Electrical Fire Extinguished at Its 2,264 MW Limerick Nuclear Power Plant in Pennsylvania April 5; No Impact to Power Operations

Exelon Corp said on Sunday a small electrical fire was extinguished in the reactor building at its Limerick nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania. The company said the fire was contained in an electrical panel that overheated. There was no impact to power operations and both two units at the plant remained at full power.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/small-fire-put-exelons-pennsylvania-013346668.html>

PPL's 1,105 MW Susquehanna Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Reduced to 81 Percent by April 6

On the morning of April 5 the unit was operating at 97 percent.

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

Summit Power to Begin Construction this Year on 400 MW Coal-to-Gas Power Plant in Texas

Summit Power announced it will break ground this year on a new 400 MW power plant in Odessa, Texas that will use a chemical process to strip coal feedstock of carbon, sulfur, and mercury, resulting in a hydrocarbon that can fuel the power plant. According to project developers, the synthetic gas will burn even cleaner than natural gas. The extra carbon dioxide that gets stripped away will be sold to production company Whiting Petroleum, which will pump it underground for enhanced oil recovery. The Department of Energy has awarded the project \$450 million in federal grants.

<http://www.summitpower.com/story/odessa-coal-to-gas-power-plant-to-break-ground-this-year/>

NextEra Energy to Build 250 MW Golden West and 150 MW Carousel Wind Farm Projects in Colorado

NextEra Energy Resources LLC started work on two wind farm projects in eastern Colorado and expects the projects to be operational by the end of 2015. The 150 MW Carousel Wind Power Project in Kit Carson County will sell all its power to Westminster's Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association Inc. under a 25-year contract. The 250 MW Golden West Wind Energy Project in El Paso County will sell its power to Xcel Energy Inc.

http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/blog/earth_to_power/2015/04/nextera-energy-to-build-640m-colorado-wind-farms.html?ana=yahoo

Petroleum

Update: USW Workers Approve Contract for Marathon's 242,000 b/d Catlettsburg, Kentucky Refinery April 3

United Steelworkers union (USW) workers at Marathon Petroleum Corp's Catlettsburg, Kentucky, refinery voted on Friday to approve a new contract, ending a two-month work stoppage, a company spokesman said. The workers at the refinery, who walked off their jobs on February 1, are scheduled to begin returning to work this week. The Catlettsburg refinery continued production during the strike with temporary replacement workers. Workers remain on strike at Marathon's Galveston Bay Refinery in Texas City, Texas, and at an adjoining power generation plant. Strikes are also continuing at BP Plc's Whiting, Indiana, refinery, the BP-Husky Energy joint-venture refinery in Toledo, Ohio, and LyondellBasell Industries refinery in Houston, Texas.

Reuters, 22:29 April 3, 2015

Phillips 66's 252,000 b/d Alliance, Louisiana Refinery Restarting April 6 after Shutdown Due to Power Loss April 4

Phillips 66 was in the process of restarting its Alliance, Louisiana refinery on Monday after it was shut on Saturday due to power loss. The refinery also reported a release of materials due to the power loss, according to a filing with the National Response Center.

Reuters, 12:06 April 6, 2015

Reuters, 9:52 April 6, 2015

Power Loss Shuts FCCU 3 at Marathon's 451,000 b/d Galveston Bay, Texas Refinery April 4; FCCU 1 Remains Shut from Jan. 13 Malfunction – Sources

Two units remained shut at Marathon Petroleum Corp's Galveston Bay Refinery in Texas City, Texas, sources familiar with plant operations said on Sunday. The refinery's 120,000 b/d fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) 3 was shut on Saturday night due to a loss of electrical power, a Texas City official said on Saturday. Prior to Saturday's power loss, FCCU 3 had been running at about 140,000 b/d to make up for the prolonged outage of the plant's 60,000 b/d which has been shut since a January 13 malfunction. Marathon plans to idle FCCU 1 in 2016 when it completes the integration of production streams at the Galveston Bay Refinery and its neighboring 84,000 b/d Texas City refinery, which has a 55,000 b/d FCCU. Marathon also wants to idle the Galveston Bay's FCCU 1 to avoid the expense of adding costly pollution control equipment required by U.S. environmental regulators.

Reuters, 21:56 April 5, 2015

FCCU Running at Citgo's 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery Despite Fire April 6 – Sources

A fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) remained in operation in the East Plant of Citgo Petroleum Corp's Corpus Christi, Texas, refinery after a small fire erupted in insulation on the unit on Monday and was quickly put out, said sources familiar with plant operations. No injuries were reported due to the fire, the sources said.

Reuters, 14:29 April 6, 2015

CDU at BP's 413,500 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery Operating after Upset; FCCU Remains Shut April 6 – Sources

The 75,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) at BP Plc's Whiting, Indiana, refinery was back to normal operation on Monday following a brief shutdown Friday due to a malfunction, said sources familiar with plant operations. The 65,000 b/d fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at the refinery remains shut for repairs, the sources said.

Reuters, 12:49 April 6, 2015

Northern Tier Energy Reports Compressor Restart, Flaring at Its 89,500 b/d St. Paul Park, Minnesota Refinery April 4

Northern Tier Energy reported a compressor restarted and increased flaring at its St. Paul Park, Minnesota refinery April 4, according to a filing with the National Response Center.

Reuters, 10:00 April 6, 2015

Tesoro Reports Mechanical Failure at Its 96,860 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery April 6

Tesoro Corp reported a mechanical failure of the sulfur oxide emission control device at its Wilmington, California refinery, according to the California Emergency Management Agency.

Reuters, 9:29 April 6, 2015

PES Reports Multiple Unit Start-Ups, Shutdowns at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery April 6

Philadelphia Energy Solutions Inc (PES) reported the start-up of alkylation unit 868 at the Point Breeze section of its Philadelphia, Pennsylvania refinery after repairs. Alkylation units 868 and 869 were shut April 1 and 2, respectively. The company also reported the start-up of unit 859 and the isomerization unit 331 after maintenance activities on April 3. The plant's Cumene unit 1733 was also shut for technical trial on March 3 and will be restarted within 36 hours.

Reuters, 11:09 April 6, 2015

Regency Reports AGI Compressor Shut at Its 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas April 5

Regency reported the acid gas injector (AGI) compressor shut on high fourth stage suction pressure. The louvers were opened to reduce temperature and pressure.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=212222>

Other News

Obama Administration Asks Congress to Widen Arctic Refuge Protections, Blocking Land from Oil and Gas Drilling

The Obama administration on Friday finalized its recommendation to expand protected areas of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, calling on Congress to block about 12 million acres from oil and gas drilling. President Barack Obama, in a letter to House Speaker John Boehner, stood by his administration's earlier recommendation to preserve a wide area of the state's Arctic refuge.

Reuters, 19:25 April 3, 2015

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/04/03/letter-president-arctic-national-wildlife-refuge-proposed-designations>

Renewable Energy Group Reports Its 75 Million Gallons per Year Geismar, Louisiana Biorefinery Shut Due to Fire April 3

Renewable Energy Group reported a fire at its Geismar, Louisiana biorefinery on April 3. The company said the refinery will remain shut until a damage assessment and investigation is complete.

Reuters, 16:44 April 3, 2015

<http://regi.com/node/686>

Update: Duke Energy Agrees to Pay \$2.5 Million in Dan River Coal Ash Spill Settlement with Virginia DEQ

Duke Energy Corp agreed to a \$2.5 million settlement proposed by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) relating to the 2014 coal ash spill into the Dan River in North Carolina, the DEQ said on Friday. Duke will spend \$2.25 million in carrying out environmental projects to benefit Virginia localities affected by the spill. The remaining \$250,000 will be placed in a DEQ fund to respond to environmental emergencies. A pipe break at a retired Duke coal plant in February 2014 triggered a coal ash spill and the event caused North Carolina's Senate to ask Duke to close 33 coal ash ponds in the state within 15 years.

Reuters, 17:45 April 3, 2015

<http://www.deq.virginia.gov/ConnectWithDEQ/NewsReleases.aspx>

International News

Update: Pemex Sees 2015 Regional Oil Output Unaffected by April 1 Platform Fire in Gulf of Mexico

Pemex expects to meet its 2015 output target of 646,000 b/d for the oil-producing region where a platform exploded April 1, a top executive said on Sunday. The fire broke out on Pemex's Abkatun Permanente processing platform in the Bay of Campeche at 3:40 a.m. local time on Wednesday, leading to the evacuation of 302 people. The fire was not extinguished until 7:30 p.m. local time that evening. Pemex's head of exploration and production said the incident had led Pemex to shutter production of about 220,000 b/d, with some 170,000 b/d coming back online between Sunday and Monday. The company said it was not yet known what started the fire and investigators were in the process of gaining access to the site to ascertain the cause.

Reuters, 14:21 April 5, 2015

Colombia's 80,000 b/d Cano Limon Oil Pipeline Shut by Bomb Attack April 5

Colombia's Cano Limon oil pipeline has been shut following a bomb attack on Sunday evening, state-run oil company Ecopetrol said, adding that it did not expect exports to be disrupted. Ecopetrol stocks crude at both ends of the 485-mile pipeline, which typically carries around 80,000 b/d. This could help cover export needs pending repairs, a process that usually takes three to five days. An Ecopetrol press officer said repairs were expected to be quick, ruling out any contract defaults or declaration of force majeure. The Cano Limon pipeline has the capacity to pump up to 220,000 b/d of crude oil to Covenas port and also carries oil for other companies including U.S. producer Occidental Petroleum.

Reuters, 14:40 April 6, 2015

Militants Attack Gas Pipeline in Nigeria's Delta Region April 3

Militants from the Urhobo ethnic minority group blew up a gas pipeline in Delta state early Friday morning to draw attention to their exclusion from lucrative pipeline protection contracts with the state oil company, an official said.

Reuters, 17:01 April 4, 2015

Libya's AGOCO Producing 317,000 b/d, Brega Oil Port Remains Closed

Eastern Libyan state firm Arabian Gulf Oil Company (AGOCO) is producing 317,000 b/d, the highest level in the last two years, the company's spokesman said on Monday. Libya's Brega oil port and Sirte Oil Company, located in the port area, have been closed by protesters over the past week, a source from the Brega port said.

Reuters, 14:38 April 6, 2015

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 6, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	52.03	48.11	101.17
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.59	2.63	4.48

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

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