



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, April 07, 2015

Major Developments

Explosion, Fire at SMECO/Pepco Substation Knocks Out Power to Over 24,000 Customers in Washington, D.C. and Maryland April 7; White House and Capitol Impacted

A small explosion and fire at Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative's (SMECO's) and Pepco's jointly owned Ryceville substation knocked out power to 21,832 SMECO customers in Maryland and 2,415 Pepco customers in Washington, D.C. shortly after 12:45 p.m. EST on Tuesday. The outages impacted the White House, Capitol, State Department, and other buildings in D.C. and Maryland. According to SMECO, a Pepco 230 kV transmission conductor located at the Ryceville station broke free from its support structure and fell to the ground. This failure resulted in the loss of supply to SMECO's Ryceville and Hewitt Road stations. The Pepco supply to the Morgantown and Chalk Point interconnect locations was also interrupted. No SMECO equipment was damaged and all protective devices operated correctly to isolate SMECO equipment from the Pepco fault. SMECO rerouted power through its 230 kV system in Calvert and St. Mary's County to restore service. All SMECO customers affected by the event were restored by 2 p.m. Pepco reported that it experienced a dip in voltage in the Washington D.C. area shortly before 1 p.m. but there was never a loss of permanent supply of electricity to customers. The dip in voltage caused equipment at some customer facilities to transfer to their backup systems. The momentary outage occurred because of customer equipment responding to a dip in voltage. At 2:00 p.m. Pepco reported that there were no current supply problems and that crews were onsite investigating the cause. The Department of Homeland Security said it was looking into the power outages, but had no immediate reason to believe it was terror-related or a criminal act.

http://www.smeco.coop/news/15-04-07/Equipment_Failure_Results_in_Power_Outages.aspx

<http://www.pepco.com/library/templates/Interior.aspx?Pageid=6442454157&id=6442457069>

<http://stormcenter.smeco.coop/>

<http://www.pepco.com/pages/connectwithus/outages/outagemaps.aspx>

<https://twitter.com/PepcoConnect>

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/04/07/politics/power-outage-washington-dc/index.html>

<http://www.wusa9.com/story/news/local/2015/04/07/power-outage/25411283/>

Electricity

Update: Exelon's 855 MW Quad Cities Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois at Full Power by April 7

By the morning of April 6 the unit had restarted and ramped up to 45 percent. 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>

Exelon's 855 MW Quad Cities Nuclear Unit 2 in Illinois Reduced to 85 Percent by April 7

On the morning of April 6 the unit was operating at full power.

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

Update: NMC's 522 MW Prairie Island Nuclear Unit 2 in Minnesota at Full Power by April 7

On the morning of April 6 the unit was operating at 28 percent after restarting 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>

Update: PPL's 1,105 MW Susquehanna Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania at Full Power by April 7

On the morning of April 6 the unit was operating at 81 percent, reduced from 97 percent by April 5.

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

PG&E's 407 MW Helms Hydro Unit 2 in California Shut by April 6

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201504061515.html>

Mirant's 317 MW Pittsburg Gas-fired Unit 6 in California Reduced by April 6

The unit entered an unplanned curtailment of 272 MW.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201504061515.html>

Cupertino Electric Reaches Major Installation Milestone on Sempra's 250 MW AC Copper Mountain Solar 3 Project in Nevada

The Energy Alternatives Division of Cupertino Electric, Inc. on Monday announced that it reached a major installation milestone on Sempra U.S. Gas & Power and Consolidated Edison Development's 250 MW AC Copper Mountain Solar 3 project located in Boulder City, Nevada. Working alongside Amec Foster Wheeler, Cupertino Electric has installed 1 million photovoltaic (PV) solar modules on the 1,400-acre, fixed tilt, ground-mount project that broke ground in early 2013.

<http://www.cei.com/about-cei/media-room/press-release/cupertino-electric-amec-foster-wheeler-build-one-the-largest>

Petroleum

Ship Collision, Oil Spill in Louisiana Shuts Stretch of Lower Mississippi River April 6; Delays Minimal

About 420 gallons of oil spilled into the Mississippi River after the 751-foot Privocean bulk carrier broke free around 5:00 p.m. EDT Monday, drifted downriver, striking the 98-foot "Texas" towing vessel and hitting the 816-foot tank ship Bravo, which was discharging crude oil, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) said. The Texas began taking on water but was able to ground itself on the river bank before sinking and initial assessments showed about 420 gallons of oil discharged into the river, which is closed from mile marker 163 to 154. Another 126 gallons spilled on the deck of the Bravo but was contained and will be cleaned up. USCG response teams and an environmental services company are responding to the spill. Ships are single-trafficking between mile markers 160 and 163 and no queues were reported on Tuesday afternoon. Eight refineries along the Mississippi River in that region account for about 12 percent of U.S. refining capacity, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. The plants have said they usually have least a few days' crude supply on hand to carry through periods when tankers cannot reach them.

<http://www.platts.com/latest-news/shipping/houston/miss-river-delays-minimal-after-multi-ship-collision-21256971>

<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2487870/>

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=47133

Reuters, 4:44 April 7, 2015

NTSB Issues Urgent Recommendations Calling For Improved Rail Tank Cars to Carry Flammable Liquids Such as Crude Oil and Ethanol

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) on Monday issued four urgent recommendations calling for more robust and fire-resistant rail cars to be produced to safely carry flammable liquids such as crude oil and ethanol. In its recommendations, the NTSB calls for an aggressive schedule of replacing or retrofitting the current rail car fleet with better thermal protection against heat from fires, such as through a ceramic thermal blanket, and increasing the capacity of pressure relief devices. The NTSB said the current fleet of DOT-111 tank cars rupture too quickly when exposed to a pool fire caused by a derailment or other accident with resulting spillage and ignition. And based on a series of accidents the NTSB has investigated in recent months, performance of the industry's enhanced rail car, the CPC-1232, is not satisfactory under these conditions. The NTSB also called for swiftness in changing the fleet and called for intermediate deadlines and transparent reporting to ensure the tank car fleet is being upgraded as quickly as possible.

<http://www.nts.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/pr20150406b.aspx>

Philadelphia Energy Solutions Restarts Catalytic Cracker at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery after Brief Outage April 7

Reuters, 15:38 April 7, 2015

PBF Reports Emissions at Its 182,200 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery April 7

Reuters, 10:54 April 7, 2015

Update: Phillips 66 Says Its 252,000 b/d Alliance, Louisiana Refinery Still Restarting April 7 after Shutdown Due to Power Loss April 4

Phillips 66 on Tuesday was still in the process of restarting its Alliance, Louisiana refinery after it was shut on Saturday due to power loss.

Reuters, 8:53 April 7, 2015

Motiva Reports Emissions at Its 600,250 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery April 6

Motiva Enterprises LLC reported it experienced a loss of primary containment that resulted in air emissions in excess of reportable quantity at its Port Arthur, Texas refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Reuters, 17:39 April 6, 2015

Update: Citgo Resumes Normal Operations at Its 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery after Fire April 6

Citgo Petroleum Corp has completed maintenance inspections and resumed normal operations at its Corpus Christi, Texas refinery, according to a community information line. On Monday a small fire erupted in insulation on the unit and was quickly put out.

Reuters, 17:02 April 6, 2015

Phillips 66 Reports Process Upset, Control Equipment Restarted at Its 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery April 6

Reuters, 18:01 April 6, 2015

Update: Bridger to Replace Section of Its 42,000 b/d Poplar Pipeline in Montana after Spill; Pipeline Will Remain Shut

Bridger Pipeline LLC said Friday it will replace a pipeline that spilled almost 40,000 gallons of oil into a river in Montana with a new line buried more deeply to protect against future accidents. The January 17 spill into the Yellowstone River contaminated the water supply for 6,000 residents of Glendive in eastern Montana. The city's water was certified safe to drink on Friday after tests showed it no longer had harmful levels of benzene. The cause of the spill remains under investigation. The Poplar Pipeline will stay shut down from Glendive to near the Canada border until the damaged section is replaced, a Bridger spokesman said. The 340-mile line delivers crude from the Bakken oil patch of North Dakota and Montana to a terminal in Baker, Montana. The southern section of the line remains operational.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=46119

Kleese Development Reports 2,000 Gallon Waste Oil Spilled in Ohio April 3

Operations at Kleese Development's Vienna, Ohio facility were halted April 3 until further notice following an estimated 2,000 gallon or more spill of light waste oil from a buried drain pipe that leaked into 2 ponds and the Little Yankee Run wetlands. Crews worked to clean up the areas impacted by the spill and authorities are investigating the incident.

<http://www.vindy.com/news/2015/apr/04/oil-spill-cleanup-continues-in-vienna/>

City of Vancouver Orders Environmental Review of NuStar's Proposed Oil-by-Rail Terminal in Washington

The City of Vancouver, Washington, on Friday said it will conduct a thorough environmental review of NuStar Energy LP's proposal to convert a bulk terminal into a facility capable of receiving crude oil by rail. A full environmental impact statement will examine the risk of train accidents, oil spills, and air pollution associated with the project, which would allow the company to receive up to 22,000 b/d of oil at the facility. North American shipments of oil by rail have jumped dramatically in recent years as oil produced in North Dakota and Canada has been loaded onto tanker cars bound for coastal refineries.

Reuters, 22:01 April 6, 2015

Louisiana Offshore Oil Port Auctions Domestic Storage

Louisiana's offshore oil port, with huge underground storage caverns, was built to handle imported oil but is now leasing space to traders who need to store U.S. crude. The Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP) recently auctioned 11.3 million barrels of monthly storage space and has scheduled another auction Tuesday, The Advocate reported. LOOP and the CME Group are offering contracts to store up to five grades of oil in LOOP's eight caverns. The facility will auction 7 million barrels of storage space per month, or a total of 84 million barrels' worth for the year. LOOP was receiving about 1 million barrels of imported oil a day in 2008. Imports have fallen by about half, but domestic production has kept the amount it handles steady. Last year, for the first time in its 34-year history, LOOP received, stored, and distributed more domestic crude than imports. Oil must be moved by barge from a port to LOOP.

<http://fuelfix.com/blog/2015/04/05/louisiana-oil-port-made-for-import-rents-domestic-storage/>

Natural Gas

Nothing to report.

Other News

Update: Renewable Energy Group Estimates 2–4 Months to Restore Operations at Its Geismar, Louisiana Biorefinery after Fire

Renewable Energy Group, Inc. on Tuesday said preliminary damage assessments are still ongoing at its Geismar, Louisiana biorefinery after an April 2 fire. The company said the damage appears to be contained to a limited area of the production facility and estimates that it should take 2-4 months to restore operations. The company plans to incorporate a one-month maintenance shutdown that was previously scheduled for this summer to bring filtration and other upgrades online during the restoration time period. The company expects that it will be able to resume loadout operations for Renewable Hydrocarbon Diesel in inventory later this week.

<http://www.regi.com/news/2015/04/07/renewable-energy-group-provides-update-geismar-plant-fire>

International News

Calvalley, Third Party Shippers Using Facilities at Block 18 Advised to Suspend All Crude Oil Shipments in Yemen April 7

Calvalley Petroleum Inc and other third party shippers using the facilities at Block 18 have been advised by the operator to suspend all crude oil shipments to the facility, until further notice, as a result of operational and capacity issues resulting from the current conditions in the Republic of Yemen. As the period of this crude oil shipment restriction is currently unknown, the company has commenced shutting down production operations for safety and security reasons.

<http://www.calvalleypetroleum.com/files/news/calvalleynews-2015-04-07.pdf>

EIA Says Iran Believed to Hold at Least 30 Million Barrels of Crude Oil in Storage, Could Ramp Up Production by at Least 700,000 b/d by End of 2016

Reuters, 12:09 April 7, 2015

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 7, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	53.61	47.88	100.48
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.62	2.61	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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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

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