



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

**Monday Evening, April 08, 2013**

## ***Electricity***

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### **Gusty Winds Cut Power to 26,000 PG&E and SMUD Customers in Northern California April 7–8**

Powerful winds swept across the San Francisco Bay area and Sacramento overnight Sunday and this morning, toppling trees and power lines and cutting power to 14,000 Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) customers and more than 12,102 Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) customers.

<http://www.smud.org/en/outages/index.htm>

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

<http://www.mercurynews.com/gusty-winds-blowing-throughout-bay-area-causing-power>

<http://fox40.com/2013/04/07/windy-night-causes-short-mass-power-outage-in-south-sacramento/>

### **Mon Power Announces Program to Enhance Electric System and Reliability in West Virginia**

Mon Power, a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp., today announced that it will spend approximately \$60 million this year to further enhance the electrical system and reliability in its 34-county service area, primarily in north-central West Virginia. Major projects scheduled for this year include:

- Installing a second transformer at the Miracle Run Substation;
- Replacing equipment at the Weirton Substation to provide additional capacity in the Weirton area of Hancock County, West Virginia;
- Replacing electrical equipment identified during routine inspections of the transmission system to improve reliability throughout Mon Power's service area;
- Continuing Mon Power's ongoing vegetation management program;
- Upgrading equipment on distribution circuits throughout the service territory;
- Installing equipment to help maintain proper voltage levels throughout Mon Power's service area;
- Expanding the distribution system to provide electrical service to new residential and commercial customers in north-central West Virginia; and
- Inspecting and replacing distribution poles in Mon Power's service area.

[https://www.firstenergycorp.com/content/fecorp/newsroom/news\\_releases/mon-power-spend-of--60-million-in-2013-designed-to-enhance-elect.html](https://www.firstenergycorp.com/content/fecorp/newsroom/news_releases/mon-power-spend-of--60-million-in-2013-designed-to-enhance-elect.html)

### **NRC Seeks Public Comment on Draft Analysis to Support Revised ‘Station Blackout’ Rule**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Thursday announced it is seeking public comment on the agency’s draft regulatory basis to amend current requirements for U.S. nuclear power plants to safely withstand a “station blackout,” or complete loss of alternating current power. The agency is amending its station blackout rule based on lessons learned from the March 2011 nuclear accident in Fukushima, Japan. One of Fukushima’s key lessons was the need to ensure a nuclear power plant can keep its safety systems functioning even if normal power sources and emergency diesel generators are lost. As part of implementing this lesson, the Commission in October 2011 directed the staff to revise the station blackout rule in an expedited manner. In March 2012 the NRC issued an Order for all U.S. reactors to put “mitigating strategies” in place to safely handle extreme situations such as station blackouts. In March 2013 the Commission directed the staff to expand the rulemaking to incorporate requirements for ensuring a nuclear power plant can keep enough water in its spent fuel pool to maintain safety. The draft document concludes the agency has a proper basis for amending the rule.

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1309/ML13095A146.pdf>

## **NRC Cites Dominion for an Emergency Preparedness Issue at Its Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant in Wisconsin**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Friday issued a violation to Dominion's Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant in Wisconsin, which will result in additional oversight. NRC inspectors identified the violation during a December 2012 emergency preparedness inspection. The violation involved the plant's failure to identify the loss of an indicator to monitor system and effluent parameters for accurately classifying and declaring a general emergency and a site area emergency. Alternative methods were available to make the necessary emergency classification and declaration. The utility has restored the instrument, returned it to service, and has taken corrective actions to better assess emergency equipment failures. The NRC staff has characterized the inspection finding as "white," or as having a low to moderate safety significance.

<http://pbadupws.nrc.gov/docs/ML1309/ML13095A336.pdf>

## **Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuclear Unit 1 in Mississippi Reduced to 91 Percent by April 8**

On the morning of April 7 the unit was operating at full power.

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

## **Luminant Shuts Its 593 MW Big Brown Coal-Fired Unit 1 in Texas to Repair Boiler Tube Leak April 4**

Luminant reported its Big Brown Unit 1 tripped while at load Thursday night during a shutdown to repair a boiler tube leak, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators had to trip the unit due to heavy loss of water to prevent additional damage to boiler tubes. Unit fans were left on to assist in cooling the boiler. Operators will restart the unit following repairs.

<http://www1.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ear/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=181286>

## **Cabrillo Power's 110 MW Encina Natural Gas-Fired Unit 3 in California Shut by April 7**

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201304071515.html>

## **Update: Edison's 100 MW Walnut Creek Natural Gas-Fired Unit 1 Returns to Service by April 5; 100 MW Natural Gas-Fired Unit 4 Shuts by April 5**

Unit 1 returned from an unplanned outage that began by April 4. Unit 4 was shut for unplanned reasons.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201304051515.html>

## **Petroleum**

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### **Update: Buckeye Restarts 50,000 b/d Line 304 Product Pipeline after Repairing Leak in Michigan April 7**

Buckeye Partners said it restarted its Line 304 in Monroe County, Michigan Sunday morning after completing repairs to the pipe, which was shut last Monday after a crack leaked about 20 barrels of petroleum products. Operators purged the line and replaced a short section of it over the weekend. In addition to Line 304, which runs from Toledo, Ohio to Detroit, Buckeye shut Lines 303 and 211, which also run in the area, after a small area of dead vegetation was discovered last week. Buckeye restarted Lines 303 and 211 last Wednesday.

Reuters, 16:30 April 5, 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/08/buckeye-restart-idUSL2N0CV0WT20130408>

### **Update: Coast Guard Says 60 Barrels Leaked from Shell's 16-Inch West Columbia, Texas Crude Oil Pipeline into Vice Bayou Waterway March 29**

The U.S. Coast Guard on Thursday reported that roughly 60 barrels of crude oil spilled from Shell Pipeline Co.'s 16-inch West Columbia, Texas pipeline near Houston and entered the Vice Bayou waterway, which connects to the Gulf of Mexico. The spill has been contained. Shell had shut the 15-mile pipeline, which transports crude from Genoa to the East Houston Tank Farm operated by Magellan Midstream Partners, on March 29 after alarms indicated a possible breach. On April 1, operators reported that electronic calculations showed a loss of 700 barrels (~30,000 gallons) of crude oil from the pipeline, but that it was unknown at that time whether any oil had been released.

<http://rt.com/usa/shell-pipeline-oil-texas-409/>

## **Canadian Pacific Mixed-Freight Train Bound for Montreal Derails, Spills 400 Barrels of Oil in Ontario April 3**

Canadian Pacific Railway Ltd. (CP) reported that early last Wednesday, 20 cars on an eastbound, mixed-freight train bound for Montreal left the tracks near White River, Ontario, spilling approximately 400 barrels (~16,800 gallons) of oil. CP said it was still investigating the cause of the accident, but it expected the track to re-open last Thursday. This was the second accident CP experienced in a single week: On March 27, fourteen cars on a 94-car Canadian Pacific train hauling crude oil from Alberta, Canada and bound for Chicago derailed in western Minnesota, spilling 20,000–30,000 gallons of crude.

<http://rt.com/usa/shell-pipeline-oil-texas-409/>

<http://news.yahoo.com/cp-rail-says-400-barrels-oil-spilled-ontario-205047444--finance.html>

## **Update: Safety Regulator Approves Chevron to Restart CDU at Its 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery**

California's Occupational Safety & Health Division on Friday gave Chevron Corp. permission to restart the central crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Richmond refinery, an agency spokesman said. The No. 4 CDU has been shut since an August 6, 2012 fire. The refinery has been operating at about 50 percent of capacity while repairs were underway.

Reuters, 16:30 April 5, 2013

## **Unspecified Breakdown Leads to Flaring at ExxonMobil's 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery April 8**

ExxonMobil Corp. reported unplanned flaring at its Torrance refinery early Monday morning was due to an unspecified breakdown, according to a filing with the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Reuters, 09:14 April 8, 2013

## **ExxonMobil Says Wastewater Leak at Its 192,500 b/d Chalmette, Louisiana Refinery Had No Impact on Production April 3**

ExxonMobil Corp. on Friday said there had been no impact on production at its Chalmette refinery following a leak on Wednesday. Operators reported an unknown amount of wastewater had leaked from the facility's No. 1 flare drum, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. A spokeswoman said the liquid material released was condensate water from the flare system. Operators quickly contained the leak, but it was later linked to strong odors in the area and was under investigation by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Reuters, 14:16 April 5, 2013

<http://rt.com/usa/louisiana-exxon-chemical-spill-362/>

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwervlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1042781](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwervlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1042781)

## **Valero Shuts Unspecified Process Units at Its 120,000 b/d Meraux, Louisiana Refinery April 5**

Valero Energy Corp. reported that a controlled shutdown of unspecified process units at its Meraux refinery resulting in flaring Friday morning, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The release had not been secured at the time of the filing, but operators had air monitoring systems in place.

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwervlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1043029](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwervlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1043029)

## **Phillips 66 Reports Work on Flare Gas Recovery System at Its 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery April 6**

Phillips 66 reported it was performing work on the flare gas recovery system at its Wood River refinery on Saturday, according to a filing with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

Reuters, 16:49 April 7, 2013

## **Power Outage Damages Compressor at United Refining's 65,000 b/d Warren, Pennsylvania Refinery April 4**

United Refining Co. reported flaring at its Warren refinery Thursday after a power outage caused damage to a compressor, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators had not secured the release by the time of the filing, but had adjusted operations to reduce emissions and were working to repair the compressor.

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwervlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1043025](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwervlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1043025)

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwervlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1042961](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwervlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1042961)

## **Philadelphia Energy Restarts Isomerization Unit, Other Units at Its 335,000 b/d**

### **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery by April 1**

Philadelphia Energy Solutions reported Friday that it restarted an isomerization unit at the Girard Point section of its Philadelphia refinery on April 1. It also restarted an unspecified Unit 231 on March 28, and Unit 433 on March 27, following repairs.

Reuters, 16:27 April 5, 2013

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## **Natural Gas**

### **DCP Midstream Reports Explosion, Brief Fire at Its 3 MMcf/d Natural Gas Compressor Station in Langston, Oklahoma April 4**

DCP Midstream LLC reported no one was injured Thursday after an explosion and fire at its 3 MMcf/d natural gas compressor station near Langston, Oklahoma, which is 45 miles north of Oklahoma City. The station is a small gathering station. Operators quickly isolated the line and allowed the fire to burn off all the natural gas remaining in the line before firefighters extinguished the fire early Friday. DCP Midstream said its customers were unaffected by the incident. The cause of the explosion was under investigation.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/05/energy-dcpmidstream-explosion-idUSL2N0CS17P20130405?feedType=RSS&feedName=utilitiesSector&rpc=43>

[No injuries in Oklahoma natgas compressor blast-local media](#)

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## **Other News**

Nothing to report.

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## **International News**

Nothing to report.

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## **Energy Prices**

<b>U.S. Oil and Gas Prices</b> April 8, 2013			
	<b>Today</b>	<b>Week Ago</b>	<b>Year Ago</b>
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	92.84	96.78	103.31
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	3.98	4.03	1.98

Source: Reuters

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## **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](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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