



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, April 09, 2010

## **Electricity**

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### **Georgia Power Questions Economic Viability of Coal-fired Power Plants amid Threat of Regulations**

Georgia Power has suspended environmental upgrades at its 1,746 MW Harlee Branch and 1,487 MW Yates coal-fired power plants in Georgia, and is questioning “the economic viability” of some of its coal-fired power facilities amid the threat of environmental regulations, it said in a filing with the state’s Public Service Commission.

<http://www.ajc.com/business/eyeing-changes-in-regs-446848.html>

### **Duke's 754 MW Moss Landing Gas-Fired Unit 6 in California Shut by April 8**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage by April 8.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201004081515.html>

### **OPPD's 478 MW Fort Calhoun Nuclear Unit in Nebraska Shut by April 9**

Operators shut the unit due to an “inoperable steam generator inlet isolation valve,” the company said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that on the morning of April 8 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20100409en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **APS Declares Unusual Event after Earthquake near 4,209 MW Palo Verde Nuclear Power Plant in Arizona April 8**

Arizona Public Service declared an unusual event after an estimated 5.5 magnitude earthquake struck near its 4,209 MW, three-unit Palo Verde nuclear power plant, but later lifted that declaration after operators discovered no damage to the facility, the company said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20100409en.html>

### **Update: NRC to Increase Oversight at Entergy’s 563 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant in Vermont**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) plans to “conduct additional inspections” to “oversee Entergy’s efforts to address groundwater contamination” at its 563 MW Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, the agency said in a release. The NRC also intends to “to review and assess the company’s response to an NRC Demand for Information (DFI) issued in early March.” Entergy told the NRC in early January that a groundwater well near the facility had tested positive for tritium. Entergy then alleged, after an internal investigation, that certain of its employees had provided the State of Vermont with contradictory or misleading information. The NRC, in response, issued a DFI, ordering the company to confirm certain information it had provided to the NRC.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2010/10-014.i.html>

### **Obama Administration Announces Nearly \$100 Million for Smart Grid Workforce Training and Development April 8**

The Department of Energy plans to award nearly \$100 million for 54 smart grid workforce training programs. The projects will leverage more than \$95 million in funding from community colleges, universities, utilities and manufacturers to develop and implement training programs.

<http://www.energy.gov/news/8842.htm>

## **Snowstorm Knocks Out Power to More than 51,000 Enmax Customers in Alberta, Canada April 8**

The storm cut electricity to more than 51,000 customers for about one hour, an Enmax official said. The company had restored service to all but 5,000, as of this morning.

<http://www.vancouversun.com/technology/Spring+storm+clobbers+Calgary+leaving+trail+power+outages+crashes/2779838/story.html>

## ***Petroleum***

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### **Update: PBF Energy to Purchase and Reopen Valero's 210,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery**

PBF Energy plans to refurbish the refinery in 2010 and resume operations in the second quarter of 2011, the company's chief said in a conference call with Delaware Governor Jack Markell. Valero announced in November 2009 that it planned to permanently shut the facility, citing "financial losses caused by very poor economic conditions."

<http://www.philly.com/philly/business/90331974.html>

[http://www.valero.com/NewsRoom/Pages/PR\\_20100408\\_0.aspx](http://www.valero.com/NewsRoom/Pages/PR_20100408_0.aspx)

[http://www.valero.com/NewsRoom/Pages/PR\\_20091120\\_0.aspx](http://www.valero.com/NewsRoom/Pages/PR_20091120_0.aspx)

### **BLM Postpones April 13 O&G Lease Sale across 91,000 Acres in Montana and Dakotas, Citing Climate Change**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) postponed the oil and gas (O&G) lease sale to study how field development might impact climate change.

[http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/04/08/business/AP-US-Leases-Suspended-Climate.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2010/04/08/business/AP-US-Leases-Suspended-Climate.html?_r=2)

### **Shell Reports Process Upset at 329,800 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery April 8**

Shell said a "process upset" might cause flaring, according to a hotline message. It was not clear if the incident had any impact to production.

Bloomberg News, 14:45 April 8, 2010

### **Citgo Performs Repairs at 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery for Repairs**

A "slowdown for repairs" led to flaring at Citgo's 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois refinery by April 8, the company said in a filing with state regulators.

Bloomberg News, 15:44 April 8, 2010

### **FCC Snag Triggers Flaring at CVR Energy's 115,700 b/d Coffeyville, Kansas Refinery April 8**

Operators pulled feed out of the gasoline-producing fluid catalytic cracker (FCC) as they sought to resolve the issue, the company said in a filing with state regulators.

Bloomberg News, 11:07 April 9, 2010

## ***Natural Gas***

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### **Companies Drill Fewer Wells, But Still Produce Record 558 Bcf of Coalbed Methane Gas in Powder River Basin, Wyoming during 2009**

The number of producing wells dropped by 3,500 in Wyoming's Powder River Basin last year, but those wells produced a record 558 billion cubic feet of coalbed methane gas, according to the Wyoming State Geological Survey. Industry officials said years of water pumping – and a subsequent decrease in hydrostatic pressure – had enabled fewer wells to produce greater quantities of gas at the Basin's "Big George" coal seam. A state official, however, said the decline in well activity would eventually lead to a drop in production.

[http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article\\_63442b42-3f98-11df-ba6f-001cc4c03286.html](http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_63442b42-3f98-11df-ba6f-001cc4c03286.html)

## Other News

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### Update: Smoke, Possible Fire Turns Back Rescuers at Massey Energy's Upper Big Branch Coal Mine in West Virginia April 9

Rescue efforts stalled this morning at Massey Energy's Upper Big Branch coal mine in West Virginia, four days after an explosion killed at least 25 workers. Smoky conditions suggested a fire might be burning underground, forcing rescuers to turn back.

Bloomberg News, 11:23 April 9, 2010

### Update: Massey Energy to Boost Production at Other Coal Mines after Deadly April 5 Explosion at Upper Big Branch Mine in West Virginia

Massey planned to boost production at other company-owned coal mines to compensate for the shutdown of its Upper Big Branch site in West Virginia, it said in a filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). Even still, the company said it did not expect other mines to fully account for the lost output. The company had planned to deliver 1.6 million tons of metallurgical coal from Upper Big Branch in 2010. It told the SEC that it intended to restart the Upper Big Branch mine "at some point in the future."

DJN, 08:52 April 9, 2010

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 9, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	84.61	85.06	50.89
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	3.92	3.72	3.50

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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### Winds Knock Out Power to More than 10,000 Avista Customers in Idaho April 8

<http://www.klewtv.com/news/local/90316027.html>

### Update: Windstorm Cuts Electricity to More than 22,000 BC Hydro Customers in British Columbia, Canada April 8

<http://www.vancouversun.com/technology/homes+lose+power+windstorm+hits+Lower+Mainland/2777823/story.html>

### Storm Drain System Tests Positive for Tritium at PSEG's 1,170 MW Salem Nuclear Unit 2 in New Jersey April 6

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20100409en.html>

### Grasslands Renewable Energy Seeks FERC Approval for "Wind Spirit Project" to Deliver 1,000 MW of Renewable Electric Capacity from Northern Plains to Customers across North America

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/3000-megawatts-of-renewable-energy-planned-for-montana-90224927.html>

<http://www.gre-llc.com/wind-spirit-project/project-overview/>

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/crownbutte-wind-power-joins-grasslands-renewable-energys-windspirit-project-85569822.html>

**Power4Georgians Receives State Environmental Okay on April 8 for Planned 850 MW Coal-Fired Unit Called Plant Washington in Georgia**

<http://www.macon.com/2010/04/09/1088169/plant-washington-gets-environmental.html>  
<http://www.power4georgians.com/wcpp.aspx>

**FPL Opens 10 MW Space Coast Next Generation Solar Energy Center at Kennedy Space Center in Florida April 8**

<http://www.fpl.com/news/2010/040810.shtml>

**Electric Transmission Texas Dedicates 4 MW Utility-Scale Battery in Texas April 8 – Battery is Nation’s Largest**

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/electric-transmission-texas-brings-largest-utility-scale-battery-in-the-united-states-to-one-of-oldest-cities-in-texas-90247902.html>

**Lightning Causes Fire, Destroys Two Oil Storage Tanks at Sunland Petroleum Company Oil Production Facility in Louisiana April 7**

<http://www.thetowntalk.com/article/20100409/NEWS01/4090329>

**Plains Exploration & Production Reaches Deal with Environmentalists that Would Allow Oil Drilling Offshore California**

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jhNPq2r16CikBupsutCEUdg-9K5wD9EUHE680>

**Update: South Korean Owner Negotiating With Somali Pirates over Release of Hijacked Samho Dream Oil Tanker April 9**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/04/09/AR2010040901401.html>

**Floating Oil Product Storage Dips 22 Percent, from 71.3 Million Barrels in Early March to 55.9 Million Barrels by April 8: ICAP Shipping**

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=22121](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=22121)

**Internal Corrosion Causes Leak along Duke Energy’s L-line Natural Gas Pipeline in Texas April 8**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=138107>

**Update: CPUC Okays Southern California Gas Co.’s Plan to Install Advanced Natural Gas Meters in California – Company Intends to Replace and Retrofit about 6 Million Meters, Beginning in mid-2012**

[http://public.sempra.com/newsreleases/viewpr.cfm?PR\\_ID=2467&Co\\_Short\\_Nm=SE](http://public.sempra.com/newsreleases/viewpr.cfm?PR_ID=2467&Co_Short_Nm=SE)

**Update: Town Council Okays Power Energy One’s Fiscal Plan for Proposed Trash-to-Ethanol Plant in Schneider, Indiana**

[http://www.post-trib.com/news/lake/2149192.ethanol0409\\_article](http://www.post-trib.com/news/lake/2149192.ethanol0409_article)

## 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/ead.aspx>

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