



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, April 16, 2012

Electricity

Gusty Winds Cut Power to More Than 80,000 Utility Customers in Michigan April 16

High, gusty winds cut power to 50,000 DTE customers across Metro Detroit Monday afternoon, according to local reports. As of 3:00 PM EDT, approximately 40,000 customers remained without power. A DTE spokesman said that crews would work through the night to restore power, but some customers won't get their power back until Tuesday, depending on the severity of the winds, which were expected to continue gusting throughout the evening.

Consumers Energy reported this afternoon that roughly 28,500 of its customers were without power statewide due to the wind storm, a spokesman confirmed Monday. Another utility, Board of Water and Light, restored power to 1,972 of its customers near Lansing by 2:55 PM EDT, a spokesman said.

<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/article/20120416/NEWS01/304160038/Consumers-Energy-customers-still-without-power-BWL-power-restored?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

<http://www.dteenergy.com/map/outage.html>

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20120416/METRO/204160373/Gusty-winds-leave-40-000-homes-without-power-Metro-Detroit?odyssey=mod%7Cnewswell%7Ctext%7CFRONTPAGE%7Cs>

http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/04/strong_winds_knock_out_power_f_1.html

Severe Weather, Tornadoes Cut Power to Nearly 53,000 Utility Customers in U.S. Central Plains, Midwest over Weekend

A severe storm system brought tornados, lightning, large hail, and heavy downpours across the Central Plains and Midwest over the weekend, causing much damage and cutting power to tens of thousands of utility customers, according to reports. A tornado hit in and around the northwest Oklahoma town of Woodward, cutting power to about 8,000 Oklahoma Gas & Electric (OG&E) customers in the region, according to the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management. As of 4:00 PM CDT Monday, 410 OG&E customers were reported without power in Woodward. At least 10 tornadoes were reported in Kansas, mostly in rural western and central regions of the state. A tornado that struck Wichita knocked out power to a peak of 26,500 Westar Energy customers at 11:00 PM CDT Saturday night, according to a press release. As of 3:02 PM CDT Monday, 6,832 Westar customers were still without power, according to the utility's outage map. The utility expects to restore power to all customers affected by the storms by late Tuesday, the release said. Ameren Missouri reported 9,400 weather-related outages in several areas surrounding St. Louis Sunday night, but restored power quickly, according to local reports. We Energies reported about 9,000 of its customers in Southeastern Wisconsin lost power due to wind and storms that came through the Milwaukee area on Sunday and Monday. About 145 customers were still without power as of 7:30 AM CDT Monday.

http://public.oge.com/systemwatch/SystemWatch.List_1_content.html

<https://www-11.westarenergy.com/outagemaps/outagetable.asp>

[http://www.westarenergy.com/corp_com/corpcomm.nsf/unid/4DA9C0B0BBF104BB862579E100788AA7/\\$file/041512%20wichita%20tornado%20recovery.pdf](http://www.westarenergy.com/corp_com/corpcomm.nsf/unid/4DA9C0B0BBF104BB862579E100788AA7/$file/041512%20wichita%20tornado%20recovery.pdf)

<http://www.kmov.com/news/local/Ameren-Storms-leave-thousands-without-power-in-Missouri-147530285.html>

<http://www.todaystmj4.com/news/local/147550725.html>

http://seattletimes.nwsource.com/html/nationworld/2017978555_apussevereweather.html

http://www.safeguardproperties.com/News_and_Events/All_Client_Alerts/2012/04/Tornado_Strikes_Woodward_Oklahoma.aspx?ID=%7BA0E7B5E4-4F5D-4527-BA65-75EFF00B19AC%7D

Update: APS's 1,243 MW Palo Verde Nuclear Unit 1 in Arizona at Full Power by April 14

On the morning of April 13 the unit was operating at 80 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

APS Manually Trips 1,335 MW Palo Verde Nuclear Unit 3 in Arizona Due to Control Rod Deviation during Startup after Refueling Outage April 15

APS reported Palo Verde Unit 3 was manually tripped Sunday afternoon when a control rod deviated from its subgroup during low power physics testing following a refueling outage, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Unit 3 was in stable Mode 3 operation at the time of the filing. On the morning of April 16 the unit was not operating.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2012/20120416en.html>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Southern's 1,152 MW Vogtle Nuclear Unit 1 in Georgia Restarts, Ramps Up to 25 Percent by April 16 after Manual Reactor Trip Due to Low Main Feedwater Flow April 14

Southern Nuclear Operating Co. reported to Federal regulators that the Vogtle Unit 1 reactor was manually tripped from 100-percent power Saturday afternoon when the Main Feedwater Pump B discharge flow lowered unexpectedly, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Southern said in a statement Sunday that it would be restarting the unit following repairs to a water pump. All control systems responded to the manual shutdown as expected, and the plant was in stable Mode 3 while workers investigated the cause of the problem.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

http://www.southerncompany.com/news/iframe_pressroom.aspx

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2012/20120416en.html>

AES's 495 MW Alamosa Gas-Fired Unit 6 in California Returns to Service by April 13

The unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201204131515.html>

Luz Solar Partners's Aggregate 175 MW Solar Units 3–7 and Aggregate 184 MW Solar Units 8–9 in California Return to Service by April 15

The units returned from an unplanned outage that began by April 14.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201204141515.html>

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201204151515.html>

GenOn Energy's 245 MW Coolwater Gas-Fired Unit 3 in California Returns to Service by April 14

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began by April 13.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201204141515.html>

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201204131515.html>

Calpine's 135 MW Calpine American I Natural Gas-Fired Unit in California Shut by April 14

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201204141515.html>

Petroleum

Update: Enterprise, Enbridge Report Seaway Oil Pipeline Reversal Project ahead of Schedule; Could Reverse Flow by May 17

Enterprise Products Partners L.P. and Enbridge Inc. have said their joint project to reverse the Seaway crude oil pipeline is ahead of schedule and could begin pumping 150,000 b/d (its planned initial capacity) of crude south from Cushing, Oklahoma to the U.S. Gulf Coast by May 17, two weeks earlier than previously expected, according to a filing with Federal regulators and confirmed by an Enterprise spokesman. Regulatory approval of the revised plan by the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) could take as long as 30 days, a FERC source said. Late last month, Enbridge and Enterprise announced they had secured capacity commitments from shippers to proceed with an expansion of the Seaway pipeline that will more than double its capacity to 850,000 b/d by mid-2014, according to a press release.

Reuters, 10:49 April 16, 2012

<http://www.enbridge.com/MediaCentre/News.aspx?yearTab=en2012&id=1589619>

Oiltanking Partners Announces 3.2 Million-Barrel Crude Storage Expansion Project at Its Houston Terminal

Oiltanking Partners, L.P. today announced an expansion project to construct approximately 3.2 million barrels of new crude oil storage capacity at its Houston terminal. The new capacity is expected to be placed into service in the fourth quarter of 2013. The project scope includes the purchase of 95 acres of nearby land, on which the new capacity will be located. The incremental land purchase can also accommodate the construction of an additional 3 million barrels of storage capacity to meet future needs.

<http://investors.oiltankingpartners.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=245478&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1683131>

Compressor Power Failure Shuts FCCU, Leads to Emissions at ExxonMobil's 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery April 13

ExxonMobil restarted a fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Beaumont refinery on Friday about 11 hours after a compressor power failure led to the release of 437.6 pounds of hydrogen sulfide and 21 pounds of butadiene, according to filings with state and national regulators. Operators anticipated only minimal impact to production, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=167178>

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1008634

Power Blip Shuts Coker Compressor at Valero's 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery April 16

Valero Energy Corp. reported a power blip shut a coker compressor at its Corpus Christi refinery Monday morning, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. A spokesman said the company was not expecting any material impact to production at the refinery from the incident, which may have been weather-related. Technicians were working to return the compressor to service as quickly as possible, the filing said.

Reuters, 11:33 April 16, 2012

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=167205>

Flint Hills Reports Flaring, Vapor Release at Its 288,468 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery April 16

Flint Hills Resources reported flaring and a vapor release at its Corpus Christi refinery, according to filings with the Corpus Christi Local Emergency Planning Committee. The vapor release was contained within the west plant, the notice said.

Reuters, 11:35 April 16, 2012

Unspecified Unit Upset Results in Emissions at ExxonMobil's 238,600 b/d Joliet, Illinois Refinery April 15

ExxonMobil Corp. reported an unspecified unit upset at its refinery in Joliet on Sunday resulted in nitrogen dioxide emissions, according to a filing with the National Response Center.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1008713

Valero Reports Sulfur Unit Malfunction, Flaring at Its 135,000 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery April 14

Valero Energy Corp. reported a sulfur unit malfunction triggered the refinery's safety flare system at its Wilmington refinery, according to a filing with California pollution regulators.

Reuters, 16:33 April 15, 2012

Natural Gas

Acid Gas Compressor Shuts on Low Discharge Pressure, Leads to Flaring at Targa's 150 MMcf/d Sand Hills Gas Plant in Texas April 14

Targa reported Acid Gas Compressor (C-14) shut down on low first-stage discharge pressure, resulting in flaring from the Acid Gas Flare F-4, according to a filing with Texas pollution regulators. Instrument technicians were immediately notified of the upset, and as soon as the problem was resolved, the Acid Gas Compressor was restarted and the flaring ceased.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=167183>

Southern Union Shuts SRU for Repairs at Its 140 MMcf/d Keystone Gas Plant in Texas April 14

Southern Union Gas Services reported it shut a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) to replace a broken nipple on the recycle blower discharge line, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=167186>

Enbridge Reports AGI Unit Shutdowns at Its Tilden Gas Plant in Texas April 15

Enbridge reported foaming in the No. 2 treating plant at its Tilden facility resulted in high pressure across the treater and flash tank and caused both acid gas injector (AGI) units to shut on a high DP alarm, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators reduced inlet volumes and added an anti-foaming agent to the treater, restoring acceptable pressures before resetting and restarting the AGIs.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=167185>

Other News

Nothing to report

International News

Update: Sudan Oil Output Cut Nearly in Half to 55,000 b/d after South Sudan Captures 60,000 b/d Heglig Oil Field Last Week

Ongoing conflict has forced Sudan to cut its oil production from 115,000 b/d to 55,000 b/d, according to a London-based spokesman for the country's government. Early last week, South Sudan forces captured Sudan's 60,000 b/d Heglig oil field and vowed not to leave without international assistance to help prevent future attacks. Fighting in the area has likely caused damage to central processing facilities in the field and other key infrastructure used to process oil both in the south and the north, reports said. The two countries have been involved in an escalating dispute about oil transport fees. In early February, South Sudan shut down its production of 350,000 b/d of oil, which it claims Sudan was illegally seizing.

DJN, 11:12 April 16, 2012

Iran Is Ready to Resolve Nuclear Issues, Make Concessions on Uranium Enrichment If the West Lifts Sanction – Iran Foreign Minister

Reuters 11:44 April 16, 2012

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices April 16, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	102.20	100.96	109.24
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	1.87	1.98	4.12

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 and 1:00 PM Eastern Time every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

<http://www.eia.gov/oog/info/ngw/ngupdate.asp>

Updated after 2:00 PM Eastern Time every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

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