



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, April 18, 2013

Electricity

Loss of Offsite Power Due to Lightning Strike Shuts Exelon's 1,111 MW La Salle Nuclear Unit 1 and 1,111 MW Nuclear Unit 2 in Illinois April 17

Exelon Generation on Wednesday declared an Unusual Event at its LaSalle County Nuclear Generating Station after both units at the station automatically shut down when power from the switchyard into the site was interrupted by an apparent lightning strike. Both units had been operating at 100 percent power when the interruption occurred. All five of the station's backup diesel generators immediately started up and were continuing to provide electricity to the site. All safety systems responded as expected. Operators had by Thursday reenergized power to the switchyard, where heavy damage was noted on the insulators on two of three phases on a line lightning arrestor. Operators later reported that LaSalle Unit 2 received a high drywell pressure signal due to the loss of containment cooling from the loss of power, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The 2C residual heat removal (RHR) pump tripped when the signal was received. There was no evidence of reactor coolant leakage. The 2C RHR pump trip is under investigation. The NRC said its Commission Region III staff mobilized an Incident Response Center that was monitoring the events along with the resident inspector onsite. An Exelon spokeswoman said Thursday that the company could not estimate when the units will return to service. The company did not expect the shutdown to impact electrical service to its customers, as other power plants in the area were providing enough electricity to meet customer needs.

Reuters 09:18 April 18, 2013

http://www.exeloncorp.com/Newsroom/20130417_nuclear_LaSalleUnitsAutomaticallyShutDown.aspx

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130418en.html>

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2013/13-013.iii.pdf>

Severe Thunderstorms Cut Power to About 70,000 DTE Energy Customers in Michigan April 18; More Than 41,000 Remain without Power

Severe thunderstorms in southeast Michigan today cut power to about 70,000 DTE Energy customers, according to news reports. As of 4:30 p.m. EST today, DTE reported 41,496 customers remained without power. More storms are expected Thursday night, and a flood watch is in effect for southeast Michigan, including the metro Detroit area, through Friday morning.

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

<http://detroit.cbslocal.com/2013/04/18/heavy-rain-thunderstorms-expected-thursday/>

Breaker Malfunction at Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro's Bay d'Espoir Hydroelectric Power Station Cuts Power to 25,000 Newfoundland Power Customers April 17

Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro reported a breaker malfunction caused six of seven units to shut at its 604 MW Bay d'Espoir Hydroelectric Power Station Wednesday morning, cutting power to approximately 25,000

Newfoundland Power customers across the island. An air leak on the breaker caused it to close unexpectedly, and the station's protection systems kicked in and isolated and shut six units at the plant, a spokesman said. Operators were forced to take some customers offline to bring the system back into balance. Newfoundland Power reported that power was restored for its affected customers later that morning.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/story/2013/04/18/nl-hydro-power-failure-breaker-418.html>

Update: FPL Connects Upgraded Turkey Point Nuclear Unit 4 to Electrical Grid April 17

Florida Power & Light Company today announced the successful completion of a 5-year project to upgrade its Turkey Point and St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plants, adding more than 500 MW of capacity. Turkey Point Unit 4, the final unit to undergo an upgrade as part of the project, was connected to Florida's electrical grid yesterday afternoon. The upgrades of Turkey Point Unit 3 and St. Lucie Units 1 and 2 were completed in 2012. The extended power uprates surpassed the initial projection of 399 MW for the entire investment at the end of 2012, and the project is estimated to deliver nearly 30 percent more capacity than originally projected.

<http://www.fpl.com/news/2013/041813.shtml>

Update: NRG Considering Proposal to Build Three New Power Plants in New York as Plan for Potential Closure of Entergy's Indian Power Nuclear Power Plant

NRG Energy Inc. could offer at least three new power plants in response to New York's request for proposals for units that could replace lost capacity if Entergy's 2,063 MW Indian Point nuclear power plant closes upon the expiration of its existing licenses by the end of 2015. Entergy has applied to renew for 20 more years the operating licenses for the two reactors at the plant, but New York Governor Andrew Cuomo wants to shut the reactors because of the plant's proximity to the New York metro area. The New York Power Authority is seeking proposals for about 1,350 MW of additional generation or transmission by June 2016. An NRG executive said Wednesday that the company could offer to build a combined-cycle, natural gas-fired unit to replace older oil- and gas-fired units at its 580 MW Astoria plant. The new Astoria unit could produce between 520 and 1,040 MW of power. NRG could also offer to build a 775 MW combined-cycle, natural gas-fired unit at its existing 1,139-MW Bowline oil- and gas-fired facility. The company is also considering an offer to build a new natural gas-fired plant at the shuttered Lovett coal-fired plant.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/17/utilities-nrg-indianpoint-idUSL2N0D42R520130417?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43>

Update: New York Approves Champlain Hudson Power Express Project to Build 1,000 MW Quebec-New York City Transmission Line

The New York Public Service Commission on Thursday approved the construction and operation of a 1,000 MW transmission line stretching 330 miles from the Canadian border in Quebec to Astoria, Queens, primarily through Lake Champlain and the Hudson River, with some segments on land, primarily in railroad or State highway rights-of-way. The line would terminate at a converter station located in Consolidated Edison's Astoria annex. From there, one high-voltage, alternating current (HVAC) circuit will connect, via underground conduit, to a nearby New York Power Authority substation. From there, another set of HVAC cables would be located under the streets for about 3 miles to Con Edison's Rainey substation. The transmission line would be built either underwater or underground along the entire length of the route. The project developers, Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc. and CHPE Properties, Inc., still need to obtain several Federal permits and secure private financing. Transmission Developers Inc., another company associated with the project, said it would take about 3 and a half years to build the power line at an estimated cost of \$2.2 billion.

Reuters, 13:42 April 18, 2013

[http://www3.dps.ny.gov/pscweb/WebFileRoom.nsf/ArticlesByCategory/B1F8B0F650F0066285257B510060784A/\\$File/pr13021.pdf?OpenElement](http://www3.dps.ny.gov/pscweb/WebFileRoom.nsf/ArticlesByCategory/B1F8B0F650F0066285257B510060784A/$File/pr13021.pdf?OpenElement)

<http://www.chpexpress.com/clippings.php>

West Penn Power Announces Planned Enhancements to Its Electric System in Pennsylvania

West Penn Power, a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp, announced today that it will spend approximately \$110 million in 2013 to enhance the electrical system and reliability in its service area. Major projects scheduled for this year include:

- Installing a 500-kV transformer at a substation near Mt. Morris;
- Constructing the remaining 8.5 miles of new 138-kV transmission line and adding breakers to the Whiteley Substation;
- Upgrading 138-kV substations to improve voltage support, including the Luxor, Guilford, and Grandpoint Substations;
- Upgrading equipment on 60 distribution circuits throughout the service territory;
- Upgrading the Byerly Crest Substation and the Clark Farm Substation; and
- Expanding the distribution system throughout the service area.

http://www.firstenergycorp.com/content/fecorp/newsroom/news_releases/west-penn-power-spend-of--110-million-in-2013-designed-to-enhanc.html

APS Completes First 17 MW of Foothills Solar Power Plant in Arizona; Remaining 18 MW to Come Online by Year-End

Arizona Public Service Co. on Monday announced the completion of the first 17 MW of the Foothills Solar Power Plant in Yuma. The plant is being built in two phases: the first 17 MW is now online, and the remaining 18 MW is scheduled to reach commercial operation by the end of the year.

<http://www.aps.com/en/ourcompany/news/latestnews/Pages/foothills%20solar%20power%20plant%20dedication.aspx>

Petroleum

Phillips 66 Resumes Normal Operations at Its 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery after Steam Loss Affects Several Units April 16

Phillips 66 reported that several units at its Sweeny refinery shut down Tuesday morning following a loss of most of the plant's steam supply, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The steam loss was caused by an interruption in the natural gas supply to the adjacent cogeneration unit, which resulted in the shutdown of all the cogeneration turbines operating at the time. Operators were investigating the cause of the natural gas supply disruption. Following the loss of most steam, the refinery followed established steam shedding procedures and shut certain units down in a safe and controlled manner, which resulted in flaring. A backup boiler provided sufficient steam to allow some units to continue to operate. The natural gas supply to the cogeneration turbines was restored, and refining units re-started in a sequence to minimize emissions. Operators reported the refinery had resumed normal operations by Wednesday morning.

Reuters, 09:44 April 17, 2013

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=181782>

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1044113

Update: Valero Says All Units Restarted, Nearing Planned Rates at Its 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery by April 16 after Sunday's Power Loss

Valero Energy Corp. said all units at its Port Arthur refinery had returned to production and were nearing planned rates by Tuesday afternoon following an unexpected loss of power Sunday from its utility provider Entergy Corp. Operators had begun restarting units at the refinery after power was restored shortly after the interruption occurred Sunday morning.

Reuters, 12:13 April 16, 2013

Alon Cuts FCCU Feed to Minimize Emissions During Flue Gas Line Repairs at Its 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery April 17

Alon USA Holdings reported emissions at its Big Spring refinery Wednesday as operators repaired a flue gas line, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators reported emissions from the carbon dioxide (CO) boiler, the CO boiler stack, the electrostatic precipitator (ESP) regenerator, the ESP stack, and the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU). Operators cut charge on the FCCU to minimize emissions.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=181807>

Loose Flange Causes Hydrogen Fluoride Release from Alkylation Unit at Chalmette Refining's 192,500 b/d Chalmette, Louisiana Refinery April 17

Chalmette Refining LLC reported a loose flange at the top of a vessel caused a release of hydrogen fluoride from an alkylation unit at its Chalmette refinery Wednesday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1044183

Phillips 66 to Restart Hydrocracker after Pump Repairs at Its 120,000 b/d Rodeo, California Refinery by April 18 – Source

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-04-17/san-francisco-gasoline-slips-from-six-month-high-on-unit-starts.html?cmpid=yhoo>

Shell Reports Crude Oil Leak from a Pipe on a Platform in South Timbalier, Louisiana Area by April 18

Reuters, 04:11 April 18, 2013

Update: Kinder Morgan May Further Expand Its Condensate Processing Facility Under Construction on the Houston Ship Channel – CEO

Kinder Morgan Energy Partners may further expand an already expanded condensate splitter planned at its Galena Park terminal along the Houston Ship Channel, Chief Executive Rich Kinder told analysts on Wednesday. Kinder Morgan last month said it would increase the facility's processing capability by 40,000 b/d to 100,000 b/d, and add 700,000 barrels of storage capacity for a total of 1.9 million barrels. The first phase of the expansion will start up next year, followed by the second phase in 2015. The company said its 300,000 b/d crude/condensate pipeline that originates in the Eagle Ford shale oil play in Texas, which started up last June, is moving growing volumes of condensate.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/17/kindermorgan-condensate-idUSL2N0D42KW20130417?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43>

Update: Enbridge, Tundra Energy to Expand Rail Terminal Under Construction in Manitoba

Enbridge Inc. and Tundra Energy Marketing Ltd. on Tuesday announced they have signed a memorandum of understanding to construct and jointly own a 60,000 b/d crude oil railcar loading terminal near Cromer, Manitoba to bring growing light oil production from Saskatchewan, Manitoba and North Dakota to market by rail. The first, previously announced 30,000 b/d phase is scheduled to come online by July and will receive crude from trucks and Tundra's existing pipeline network. The second, 30,000 b/d phase will connect with Enbridge's pipeline network in the Bakken Shale in North Dakota and Saskatchewan, as well as Tundra's gathering system in Manitoba. Canadian National Railway Co. will provide the rail service, and Tundra will build and operate the terminal. Enbridge's participation will depend on whether it can get enough customers to commit to the project.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/story/2013/04/16/mb-tundra-expand-rail-line-oil.html>

Natural Gas

SRU and TGI Units Shut at DCP Midstream's 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas April 17

DCP Midstream reported the sulfur recovery unit (SRU) and tail gas incinerator (TGI) at its Goldsmith plant shut down on high temperature early Wednesday morning when a slug of liquid entered the plant, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The incident resulted in the flaring of acid gas. Operators were working to restart the SRU and replace the TGI temperature probe.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=181785>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 18, 2013			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	97.79	93.21	102.61
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.24	4.07	1.89

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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