



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, April 19, 2012

Electricity

Exelon's 855 MW Quad Cities Nuclear Unit 2 in Illinois Shuts April 18 on High Reactor Pressure

Exelon reported an automatic scram occurred on high reactor pressure at the Quad Cities nuclear Unit 2 Wednesday afternoon, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The pressure increase occurred during post-modification testing on the main generator automatic voltage regulator, which had been upgraded during the recent refueling outage. All systems responded properly to the event, and on the morning of April 19 Unit 2 remained shut. The cause of the event is still under investigation. Unit 1 was unaffected by the event and remains at 100 percent power.

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

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2012/20120419en.html>

Update: Duke Energy's 1,129 MW Catawba Nuclear Unit 1 in South Carolina Ramped Up to 97 Percent by April 19

Catawba Unit 1 is returning from an unplanned outage that occurred April 4 when the plant lost offsite power.

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

Update: Colorado PUC Denies Black Hills Energy's Plan to Build 88 MW Gas-fired Unit at Pueblo Airport Generating Station in Colorado

Black Hills Energy on Monday announced today that the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (PUC) denied the settlement agreement it reached with customers in October 2011, which would have allowed the utility to build and operate an 88 MW natural gas-fired turbine at the company's Pueblo Airport Generating Station. The Colorado PUC in December 2010 approved Black Hills' plan to retire its 42 MW W.N. Clark coal-fired power plant in Cañon City, Colorado on or before December 31, 2013, and granted the company a "presumption of need" to replace the lost capacity with a new gas-fired turbine at the Pueblo Airport Generation Station. A Black Hills' executive said the company would continue to work with the Colorado PUC regarding its generation needs to find the best replacement for the W.N. Clark plant.

<http://www.blackhillscorp.com/news12/041612b.pdf>

Petroleum

ExxonMobil Reports Unspecified Unit Problem, Flaring at Its 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery April 18

ExxonMobil Corp. reported an unspecified unit problem resulted in flaring at its Beaumont refinery Wednesday afternoon, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators relit the burners but had not secured the release at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1009039

Flint Hills Shuts Unspecified Unit after Upset Leads to Emissions at Its 288,468 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery April 18

Flint Hills Resources reported it shut down an unspecified unit at its Corpus Christi refinery after an upset Wednesday afternoon led to the release of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, hydrogen sulfide, benzene, and unspecified vulgar organic compounds into the atmosphere, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1009027

Operational Upset Causes Flaring at Citgo's 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery April 19

Citgo Petroleum Corp. reported an operational upset triggered flaring at its Lemont refinery Thursday, according to a filing with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

Reuters, 04:00 April 19, 2012

Update: TransCanada Proposes a New Route through Nebraska for Its Keystone XL Crude Oil Pipeline

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality said Wednesday that TransCanada has proposed a new route for its proposed 830,000 b/d Keystone XL pipeline, which is intended to ship crude oil from Alberta to the U.S. Gulf Coast. The new route would fall east of the initially proposed route, which went over the environmentally sensitive Ogallala Aquifer in the Nebraska Sandhills region. In January, President Obama denied a permit to construct the pipeline, citing environmental concerns. The U.S. House of Representatives on Wednesday approved a bill to fast-track the Keystone XL project, as part of another 90-day extension of federal transportation funding.

<http://www.ktvq.com/news/keystone-pipeline-builder-proposes-new-route/>

Natural Gas

Turbine Shuts on High Discharge Pressure, Leads to Flaring at DCP Midstream's 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas April 17

DCP Midstream reported the Goldsmith B-Turbine went offline Tuesday due to second-stage high discharge pressure caused by a raw gas trim cooler bypass valve being closed. Operators had isolated the cooler for cleaning, during which two bypass valves were supposed to remain open.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=167361>

Other News

USGS Releases Global Estimate for Undiscovered, Technically Recoverable Conventional Oil and Gas Resources

A new assessment released yesterday by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) indicates that, excluding the United States, the world holds an estimated 565 billion barrels of undiscovered, technically recoverable conventional oil; 5,606 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered, technically recoverable conventional natural gas; and 167 billion barrels of undiscovered, technically recoverable natural gas liquids.

<http://energy.usgs.gov/>

<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/USGS-Releases-Global-Estimate-for-Undiscovered-Technically-Recoverable-Conventional-Oil-and-Gas-Resources.cfm>

International News

Iraq Excludes ExxonMobil from May Energy Auction over Its Deals with Kurdish Regional Government – Oil Ministry Official

Iraq's Oil Ministry said Thursday that ExxonMobil Corp. will not be allowed to bid in the May 30–31 auction for 12 exploration blocs nationwide because it has refused to relinquish oil deals with the Kurdish Regional Government, according to a Ministry official. Last October ExxonMobil signed contracts with the Kurds to search for oil in six northern areas, bypassing the central government in Baghdad, which maintains that it must ratify all deals.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/iraq-excludes-exxon-may-energy-084221908.html>

Update: Sudan Oil Official Says Sudan Losing about 40,000 b/d of Crude Output since South Sudan Captured 60,000 b/d Heglig Oil Field Last Week

A Sudanese oil official reported Wednesday his country has lost about 40,000 b/d of crude output since South Sudan forces captured Sudan's 60,000 b/d Heglig oil field last week and vowed not to leave without international assistance to help prevent future attacks. The official said some production from the field had been rerouted, but he did not elaborate. The country's remaining output is now about 75,000 b/d.

Reuters, 14:02 April 18, 2012

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices April 19, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	102.71	104.12	107.74
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	1.87	1.91	4.23

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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