



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, April 19, 2016

Electricity

Update: Over 6,500 CenterPoint Customers Remain without Power in Texas April 19 after Strong Thunderstorms, Flooding Hit April 17–18

CenterPoint Energy on Tuesday reported restoration efforts were continuing to the more than 250,000 customers who had power knocked out on Sunday night into Monday as strong thunderstorms causing major flooding impacted the Houston, Texas area. As of 4:00 p.m. EDT Tuesday, 6,525 customers remained without power. CenterPoint Energy said flood waters, wind, and lightning caused significant damage to its equipment in some areas of Houston, which slowed restorations efforts. The company said it may take several days to complete repairs in the hardest hit areas.

<https://twitter.com/energyinsights/status/722243531767566336>

<http://gis.centerpointenergy.com/outagetracker/index.html>

<http://www.centerpointenergy.com/en-us/residential?sa=ho>

<https://twitter.com/energyinsights>

Hydro One Reports 10,000 Customers without Power in Ontario April 19; Cause Under Investigation

Hydro One on Tuesday morning reported a power failure affected 10,000 customers west of Ottawa. The utility said the cause of the outage was under investigation. As of 12:00 p.m. EDT Tuesday, 415 customers remained without power.

<http://www.hydroone.com/StormCenter3/>

<http://ottawacitizen.com/business/local-business/outage-leaves-10000-without-power-west-of-ottawa-hydro-one-says>

PSE&G's 1,092 MW Salem Nuclear Unit 2 in New Jersey Reduced to 90 Percent by April 19

On the morning of April 18 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2016/>

Update: DTE's 1,089 MW Fermi Nuclear Unit 2 in Michigan Reduced to 62 Percent to Investigate Leak April 18

DTE Energy Co. on Monday said Unit 2 at its Fermi nuclear power plant in Michigan was reduced to 62 percent from full power for testing in order to identify the location of a "fuel defect," or a pinhole-sized leak in a fuel rod. The company said the potential leak was discovered during routine monitoring and that the plant remains in a safe, stable condition, just temporarily at a lower power level.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2016/>

Reuters, 6:28 April 18, 2016

Update: Marathon Pipe Line Continues Investigating 1,150 Barrel Diesel Fuel Spill in Southeastern Illinois as It Spreads to Ohio River April 19

A spill in southeastern Illinois involving approximately 1,150 barrels of diesel fuel has spread to the Ohio River. Marathon Pipe Line LLC is investigating whether the fuel is from its network and on Sunday shut its Two Rivers refined products pipeline system as a precaution. The fuel sheen was first spotted Sunday near Mount Carmel, Illinois, along the Wabash River separating Illinois and Indiana. Marathon said that by Tuesday morning, the sheen had spread more than 100 miles to reach Smithland Lock and Dam on the Ohio River near Paducah, Kentucky. The company says there has been no impact to drinking water or wildlife so far. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other government agencies are responding to the spill.
Reuters, 12:47 April 19, 2016

LyondellBasell's 263,766 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery Reports All Clear after Spill Alert Due to Flooding April 19 – Community Information Line

LyondellBasell Industries' Houston, Texas refinery on Tuesday reported an "all clear" after an Alert 1 spill to the Houston Ship Channel was activated due to the high water level in its impound basin, according to a community information line. The company said the facilities impound basin overflowed and approximately 1 gallon of oil was captured from secondary booms in the Houston Ship Channel. Heavy rains on Sunday and Monday have caused localized flooding in the Houston area.
Reuters, 3:07 April 19, 2016

ExxonMobil Reports Unplanned Shutdown of FCCU Boiler at Its 560,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery April 18

ExxonMobil Corp reported emissions and an unplanned shutdown of the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) B-Boiler at its Baytown, Texas refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environment Quality.
Reuters, 10:03 April 18, 2016

Shell Shuts FCCU Due to Expander Failure at Its 316,600 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery April 19; Repairs Could Take Up to 6 Weeks – Sources

The 70,000 b/d fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at Royal Dutch Shell Plc's Deer Park, Texas refinery could be shut for up to six weeks of repairs, sources familiar with plant operations said on Tuesday. The FCCU was shut due to a failure of the unit's expander. A Shell spokesman said on Monday a process unit was shut at the refinery but declined to discuss the specific unit.
Reuters, 12:03 April 19, 2016

Valero Reports Flaring at Its 200,000 b/d Corpus Christi West, Texas Refinery April 18

Valero Energy Corp reported operating conditions at its Corpus Christi West, Texas refinery made flaring necessary, according to community alerting system.
Reuters, 9:09 April 18, 2016

ExxonMobil Starts Production at Julia Offshore Oil Field in the Gulf of Mexico April 19

ExxonMobil on Tuesday said production started at its Julia oil field in the Gulf of Mexico. The first production well is now online and a second well will start production in the coming weeks. The Julia development is located approximately 265 miles southwest of New Orleans, Louisiana in water depths of more than 7,000 feet. The initial development phase uses subsea tie-backs to the Chevron-operated Jack/St. Malo production facility. The Maersk Viking drillship is currently drilling a third well, which is expected to come online in early 2017. ExxonMobil said the production results will assist in the evaluation of additional wells included in the initial development phase, which has a design capacity of 34,000 b/d of oil.

<http://news.exxonmobil.com/press-release/exxonmobil-starts-production-julia-oil-field-gulf-mexico>

Natural Gas

Nothing to report.

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Shell Says Theft from Its Nigerian Oil Pipeline Network Fell by Volume, Frequency in 2015

Theft of crude oil from the pipeline network of Shell's Nigerian subsidiary fell to 25,000 b/d in 2015, the company said on Monday, approximately 32 percent less than the previous year. The number of sabotage-related spills on the pipeline network also declined to 93 in 2015, compared with 139 the previous year, Shell said. It attributed the decrease to divestments in the Niger Delta and increased surveillance and security by the Nigerian government. http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=51805

Iran's Crude Oil Exports Rise to 1.75 Million b/d in April; Will Reach 4 Million b/d by June – Deputy Oil Minister

Iran has increased its crude oil exports so far in April to around 1.75 million b/d, according to an industry source and shipping data, as the country works to recover market share following the lifting of sanctions. That volume, if sustained for the rest of April, would be up from average March exports of about 1.60 million b/d. A deputy oil minister was quoted as saying on Tuesday that Iran's oil production will reach pre-sanctions levels of nearly 4 million b/d by June.

Reuters, 7:22 April 19, 2016

Reuters, 6:16 April 19, 2016

Update: Kuwait Oil Output Up to 1.5 Million b/d Despite Worker Strike April 19

Kuwait's crude oil production was 1.5 million b/d despite an open-ended strike by Kuwaiti oil workers, an oil spokesman said on Tuesday. Thousands of Kuwaiti oil and gas workers are on strike for a third day to protest planned public sector pay reforms. Unions have not said how long the walkout will last. Non-Kuwaiti oil workers are not on strike. Kuwait's crude output fell to 1.1 million b/d on Sunday, from 2.8 million b/d in March.

Reuters, 3:16 April 19, 2016

Update: Eni Lifts Force Majeure on Nigeria's Brass River Crude Oil – Traders

Eni lifted a force majeure on exports of Nigeria's Brass River crude oil, traders said on Tuesday. The company declared force majeure on April 15 after a pipeline fire. Exports of 117,000 b/d were scheduled for May, and sources said the June loading program would be issued later this week.

Reuters, 12:07 April 19, 2016

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 19, 2016			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL			
West Texas Intermediate U.S.	40.83	42.07	55.56
\$/Barrel			
NATURAL GAS			
Henry Hub	1.77	1.88	2.58
\$/Million Btu			

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>

Please direct comments and questions to: ead@oe.netl.doe.gov