



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, April 20, 2015

Electricity

Storms, High Winds Knock Out Power to Over 100,000 Customers in Texas April 18

Strong storms producing high winds and lightning knocked out power to 89,156 Oncor and 11,000 Austin Energy customers in North Texas on Saturday. Wind gusts of up to 65 mph were reported, knocking down trees and power lines. Austin Energy said crews worked overnight to restore power and most customers were back online by noon local time Sunday. As of 4 p.m. EDT Monday, 1,908 Oncor customers remained without power.

<https://www.facebook.com/austinenenergy>

<http://stormcenter.oncor.com/default.html>

<https://twitter.com/oncor>

<http://www.star-telegram.com/news/local/article18899205.html>

<http://kxan.com/2015/04/19/nearly-350-austin-energy-customers-still-without-power/>

Heavy Rain, Winds Knock Out Power to Over 38,000 Hydro One Customers in Ontario April 20

Heavy rain and wind knocked out power to over 38,000 Hydro One customers in Georgian Bay and central Ontario on Monday morning. Hydro One said crews were assessing damage and starting repairs. As of 4 p.m. EDT, 11,112 customers remained without power.

<http://hydroone.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=2429&item=122704>

<https://twitter.com/HydroOne>

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

Thunderstorms Knock Out Power to Over 18,000 Your Own Utilities Customers in Florida April 20

Severe thunderstorms moved through north Florida Monday morning knocking out power to 18,233 Your Own Utilities customers. There were reports of downed trees and blocked roads throughout the service area. As of 2:10 p.m. EDT, 12,000 customers remained without power.

<https://www.facebook.com/COTutilities>

<http://www.tallahassee.com/story/news/2015/04/20/power-outages-impacting-thousands-of-customers/26068299/>

Lightning Strike on Substation Knocks Out Power to Over 14,000 Ozarks Electric Cooperative Customers in Arkansas April 17

Ozarks Electric Cooperative reported 14,771 customers lost power on Friday morning due to a large lightning strike in western Fayetteville, Arkansas, that disabled several substations. Officials said power was restored as of 10:30 a.m. local time on Friday.

<http://www.nwaonline.com/news/2015/apr/17/thousands-without-power-washington-county/>

DTE Energy Reports 13,000 Customers Lose Power Due to Substation Equipment Problem in Michigan April 18

DTE Energy said about 13,000 people were without power Saturday afternoon due to an equipment problem at the Royal Oak and Hazel Park substations in Michigan. The DTE outage map said power was scheduled to be restored by 7:15 p.m. local time Saturday.

<http://www.wxyz.com/news/region/oakland-county/13000-without-power-in-southern-oakland-county>

Dominion's 810 MW Surry Nuclear Unit 1 in Virginia Shut by April 19

On the morning of April 18 the unit was operating at 86 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

Update: Dynegy's 264 MW El Segundo Gas-fired Units 7 and 8 in California Return to Service by April 19

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began by April 16.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201504191515.html>

PG&E's 563 MW Gateway Generating Station Gas-fired Unit in California Reduced by April 17

The unit entered a planned and unplanned curtailment of 292 MW.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201504171515.html>

Dominion Virginia Power to Close All Coal Ash Ponds in Virginia

Dominion Virginia Power will close all of the ash ponds at its Virginia power stations in compliance with standards established by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Coal Combustion Residuals rules. The company will close ponds at Bremo Power Station in Fluvanna County, Chesapeake Energy Center in Chesapeake, Chesterfield Power Station in Chesterfield County, and Possum Point Power Station in Prince William County. The company no longer uses coal as a fuel at its Bremo, Chesapeake and Possum Point power stations. Once Dominion has obtained the needed permits from DEQ, other agencies and local jurisdictions, the company will begin the actual closure work. In general, the ponds that are being closed will be drained and covered by a rugged, impermeable liner, then topped with 24 inches of soil. Either grass or sod will be planted on top of the soil. The specifics of the closure plan will be determined by DEQ.

<https://www.dom.com/residential/dominion-virginia-power/news/news-releases/137003>

NPPD to Replace Coal-Fired Boiler with Hydrogen Fuel at Its 125 MW Sheldon Station Plant in Nebraska

Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) plans to replace an existing coal-fired boiler at its Sheldon Station plant in Hallam, Nebraska with one that uses clean-burning hydrogen fuel. The hydrogen will be produced by Monolith Materials as a co-product from its production of carbon black using natural gas as a feedstock. NPPD is expected to reduce CO₂ emissions at Sheldon Station by 1.1 million tons per year. The Sheldon Station boiler using hydrogen as a fuel will continue to be capable of generating 125 MW of electricity for NPPD's customers. Construction is due to begin in 2016, with an expected completion date of 2019.

<http://www.nppd.com/2015/nebraska-public-power-district-implement-innovative-solution-curbs-carbon-emissions-growing-economy/>

Georgia Power Begins Construction on 30 MW Fort Benning, Georgia Solar Project April 17

Georgia Power, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Army Office of Energy Initiatives (OEI), and the General Services Administration marked the beginning of construction of a new 30 MW solar project at Fort Benning, Georgia. The Fort Benning solar facility is the first of three separate Georgia Power solar projects currently in development on Georgia Army bases. Each project will be 30 MW in size and use photovoltaic panels to produce energy for the state's electric grid. The projects are scheduled to be completed by the end of 2016.

<http://www.georgiapower.com/about-us/media-resources/newsroom.cshtml>

Petroleum

Coast Guard Reopens Mississippi River April 18 after 30,000 Gallon Diesel Fuel Spill from Phillips 66 Pipeline in Illinois April 17

The Coast Guard reopened the Mississippi River from mile marker 160 to 195 on Saturday after it was closed on Friday following a 30,000 gallon diesel fuel spill from a pipeline belonging to Phillips 66. Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi River watchstanders were notified that an underwater pipeline ruptured at the Phillips 66-operated terminal near mile marker 194 at 9:15 a.m. local time on Friday. Phillips 66 said the pipeline, which runs between the company's Hartford, Illinois, terminal and the terminal's barge dock, was shut following the spill. Personnel from the Coast Guard, Phillips 66 and oil spill response organizations are on scene doing shoreline assessments and recovery efforts. The pipeline was secured and the incident was under investigation.

<http://www.uscgnews.com/go/doc/4007/2493982/>

Reuters, 19:36 April 17, 2015

Marathon Reports Diesel Sheen at Its 522,000 b/d Garyville, Louisiana Refinery April 18

Marathon Petroleum Corp reported a diesel sheen escaped the containment area due to heavy rain at its Garyville, Louisiana refinery on April 18, according to a filing with the National Response Center.

Reuters, 9:59 April 20, 2015

Citgo Reports Release of Diesel Fuel at Its 427,800 b/d Lake Charles, Louisiana Refinery April 18

Citgo Petroleum Corp reported a release of diesel fuel into the Calcasieu River from its Lake Charles, Louisiana refinery on April 18, according to a filing with the National Response Center.

Reuters, 9:49 April 20, 2015

Flint Hills Reports Flaring at Its 293,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery April 17

Reuters, 10:06 April 20, 2015

ExxonMobil Reports Compressor Trip, Flaring at Its 560,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery April 17

Reuters, 9:40 April 20, 2015

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

Reuters, 22:08 April 19, 2015

Shell Reports Its 327,000 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery Operating at Planned Rates after Weather-Related Power Loss April 17

Shell said its Deer Park refinery was operating at planned rates after a weather-related power loss on April 17.

Reuters, 12:28 April 20, 2015

HollyFrontier Reports Pinhole Leak in Refinery Valve at Its 105,000 b/d Artesia, New Mexico Refinery April 17

Reuters, 9:51 April 20, 2015

Tesoro Says Its 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery Operating at Planned Rates after Fire April 17

Tesoro Corp said its Martinez, California refinery was operating at planned unspecified rates and there was no impact to its ability to fulfill product supply commitments as a result of a shutdown of a gas oil hydrotreater due to fire at the refinery on Friday.

Reuters, 12:04 April 20, 2015

ExxonMobil Reports Unit Offline for Repairs at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery April 17

ExxonMobil Corp reported an unspecified unit was being taken offline for repairs at its refinery in Torrance, California on Friday, according to a filing with state pollution regulators over the weekend.

Reuters, 21:58 April 19, 2015

Tesoro Puts Out Minor Fire at Its 104,500 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery April 17

Tesoro Corp said it extinguished a minor fire Friday at its Wilmington, California, refinery and said there was no impact to operations. There were no injuries and no offsite impacts due to the fire, Tesoro said.

Reuters, 15:43 April 17, 2015

Breached Mississippi Resources Limited Well Spills 100 Barrels of Oil in Mississippi April 16

A Mississippi Resources Limited-owned oil well was breached April 16, spilling approximately 100 barrels of oil into a 2-mile stretch of Oakey Woods Creek in Covington County, Mississippi. The oil well was shut off and crews deployed booms in the creek to help clean up the spill.

<http://www.myfoxal.com/story/28821215/covington-county-oil-spill-stretches-two-miles-down-creek>

U.S. Oil Rigs Drilling Declines to Lowest Since 2010 – Baker Hughes

The fall in the number of U.S. rigs drilling for oil slowed this week, data showed on Friday, although the number of active rigs has fallen for a record 19 weeks in a row to the lowest level since 2010, according to Baker Hughes data going back to 1987. The oil rig count fell by 26 this week to 734 after the loss of 42 and 11 rigs in the prior two weeks, respectively, Baker Hughes said.

Reuters, 13:19 April 17, 2016

Texas House of Representatives Approves Bill to Limit City Bans on Fracking

A bill that would stop Texas cities from enacting their own bans on fracking was approved on Friday in the state House of Representatives. The Texas Senate has yet to vote on a similar bill. The bill bars cities from overly regulating the industry, targeting a ban on fracking adopted by voters in Denton, Texas. Denton sits atop the gas-rich Barnett Shale formation that stretches across 24 North Texas counties. The industry's Texas Oil & Gas Association sued Denton hours after voters approved their ban. Opponents of the bill said it would transfer local control over operations to state oversight and jeopardize public safety by permitting oil and gas drilling closer to homes and schools. In some circumstances, cities would retain regulatory control over traffic, noise and emergency response under changes negotiated in committee. Environmentalists and Denton residents oppose the measure.

Reuters, 14:42 April 17, 2015

Natural Gas

PG&E Natural Gas Pipeline Accidentally Ruptures Causing Explosion in Fresno, California April 17

A 12-inch Pacific Gas & Electric Corp (PG&E) natural gas pipeline was accidentally ruptured at 2:30 PDT on Friday in Fresno, California, sparking an explosion and fire that injured up to 15 people, four of them critically, officials said. The utility had shut off the gas flow by 3:20 p.m. PDT, with the residual amount in the pipeline burning off just before 4 p.m., a PG&E spokesman said. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) was on-site conducting its investigation and PG&E was awaiting CPUC approval to remove the damaged pipeline section. Final repairs could take about two weeks. PG&E customers did not lose gas service due to Friday's incident, and PG&E does not expect any service interruptions as a result of ongoing repairs.

http://www.pge.com/en/about/newsroom/newsdetails/index.page?title=20150418_pge_coordinating_with_cpuc_for_removal_and_repair_of_damaged_pipeline_from_fresno_gas_line_incident_supporting_field_investigation

Reuters, 23:20 April 17, 2015

Rockies Express Pipeline Declares Force Majeure on Its Wamsutter Echo Springs Compressor Station in Wyoming Due to Damaged Crankshaft April 19

On Sunday, Rockies Express Pipeline LLC (REX) declared force majeure due to a damaged crankshaft on unit no. 2 at its Wamsutter Echo Springs Compressor Station in Wyoming. The force majeure required a capacity reduction at the Wamsutter Echo Springs receipt point until the repairs are completed. Effective for the ID 2 Cycle, gas day Sunday, April 19 and until further notice, REX scheduled down nominated quantities at the Wamsutter Echo Springs receipt point to 75,000 Dth/d.

<http://pipeline.tallgrassenergylp.com/Pages/NoticeDetail.aspx?pipeline=501&type=CRIT>

<http://pipeline.tallgrassenergylp.com/Content/General/Tallgrass%20System%20Map.pdf>

DCP Midstream Reports Emissions after CBA Heater Failure at Its 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas April 19

DCP Midstream reported the CBA heater failed to light due to a damaged stack match causing sulfur dioxide emissions to exceed normal levels. Operations made adjustments to sulfur recovery unit and the damaged stack match was replaced. Once repairs were completed, the CBA heater was restarted.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=212843>

DCP Midstream Reports Loss of Inlet Compression at Its 70 MMcf/d Fullerton Gas Plant in Texas April 18

DCP Midstream reported due to loss of inlet compression, the low pressure field lines pressurized up and the low pressure flare exceeded its set point. The inlet compression was repaired and the pressures were brought down.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=212842>

Regency Reports Amine System Fluctuation at Its 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas April 18

Regency reported an amine system fluctuation and low inlet volume. The amine system was stabilized and the acid gas injector compressor was reset and restarted.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ear/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=212845>

Other News

Department of Environmental Protection Issues Order Requiring More Disclosure at Coal Prep Plants in West Virginia

The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection issued an order to approximately 90 coal preparation plants across the state to disclose potential pollutants that could be dumped into a waterway within 60 days, and make permit modifications with the updates within 90 days. Officials stated that the order aims to better protect the state's streams.

http://www.wchstv.com/template/inews_wire/wires.regional.wv/3c2f1fa4-www.wchstv.com.shtml#.VTUWFiFViko

International News

Update: U.S., Iraqi Forces Retake Baiji Oil Refinery from Islamic State April 19

Iraqi forces retook most of the Baiji refinery from Islamic State on Saturday, security officials said, reversing gains by the militants who seized parts of the complex last week. A spokesman for Iraq's counterterrorism forces said troops protecting the refinery had now retaken most facilities, although there were still small pockets of insurgents left on the site. Iraqi forces retook the Baiji refinery from militants once before last November, but lost control of it again.

Reuters, 12:30 April 18, 2015

Colombia's 80,000 b/d Cano Limon Oil Pipeline Shut Due to Bomb Attack April 20

A bomb attack shut the Cano Limon oil pipeline in Colombia operated by state-run Ecopetrol, the company said on Monday, the fourth such attack on the line this year. Ecopetrol activated a contingency plan to contain the resulting oil spill, some of which polluted a tributary of the Rio Arauca, which runs through northeastern Norte de Santander province, a company spokesman said. The Colombian army was securing the region to enable engineers to repair the 485-mile pipeline, which typically carries around 80,000 b/d.

Reuters, 10:38 April 20, 2015

Iraq Oil Exports Remain Near Record High despite Decline in April

Iraq's oil exports have declined so far in April to 2.92 million b/d, according to loading data and industry sources, although shipments remain close to a record high. If sustained, Iraq's exports this month will be just short of the record of 2.98 million b/d set in March. Exports from Iraq's southern terminals have averaged 2.50 million b/d in the first 19 days of April, according to shipping data, down from 2.71 million b/d in March. But exports from Iraq's north via Ceyhan in Turkey, comprising Iraq's Kirkuk crude and Kurdish oil, have averaged 420,000 b/d so far in the month, according to loading data and an industry source, up from March's 270,000 b/d. The southern oilfields, being developed with the help of foreign oil companies, produce the bulk of Iraq's oil and the terminals are its main outlet to world markets. Located far from the parts of the country controlled by Islamic State, they have kept pumping despite the unrest.

Reuters, 10:39 April 20, 2015

Tankers to Lift 1.3 Million Barrels of Oil from Eastern Libyan Ports – Officials

Two tankers will lift 1.3 million barrels of crude oil from east Libyan ports Hariga and Zueitina, oil officials said on Sunday. The Hariga port was expecting a tanker to lift 700,000 barrels of crude oil on Monday, an oil official said. A second tanker would dock in the next few days at the Zueitina port to lift 600,000 barrels, another official said. A third tanker was currently docked at Hariga to ship oil for local consumption. Libya has managed to boost output to almost 600,000 b/d by reopening two western fields and keeping eastern ports open despite militant attacks and fighting between rival factions.

Reuters, 10:53 April 19, 2015

Saudi Oil Production near Record High in April – Oil Minister

Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister said the country was producing near record levels of crude in April. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) had said its overall output surged to 30.79 million b/d in March, up 810,000 b/d from the previous month, with demand higher than expected due to lower prices. The Oil Minister said that oil production in Saudi Arabia was "around 10 million" b/d in April close to the 10.3 million b/d of crude oil it produced in March.

Reuters, 3:28 April 20, 2015

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices April 20, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	56.88	51.90	104.33
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.64	2.54	4.57

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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