



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday, April 24, 2006

Electricity

Update: PacificCorp's Gas-fired Currant Creek Plant Adds 245 MW in Utah

The Currant Creek plant, which came online last year, initially produced 280 MW of electricity from two gas-fired turbines. Utah Power (a subsidiary of PacificCorp) recently completed the second phase of the plant's construction by installing combined-cycle technology boosting output by 245 MW.

http://www.sltrib.com/business/ci_3737617

Update: NRC Okays Vermont Yankee's 2.5 Percent Power Increase

The nuclear power plant began a segmented 20 percent increase in generation capacity from 540 MW to 650 MW in early March, but the process has twice been halted due to worries that the increase may be straining plant components. On April 21, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission gave the go-ahead for the latest increase from 112.5 percent to 115 percent of its original output.

http://www.boston.com/news/local/new_hampshire/articles/2006/04/22/nuclear_plant_cleared_for_next_step_in_power_increase/

Santee Cooper Wants to Build 600 MW Coal-fired Plant in South Carolina

The company will submit an application to open the plant next month and hopes to begin operating the plant in 2014. If approved by regulators, the plant will be built along the Pee Dee River and will supply power to the Grand Strand region of South Carolina.

<http://www.islandpacket.com/news/state/regional/story/5683763p-5094913c.html>

Update: Energy's 844 MW FitzPatrick Nuclear Plant Returns to Full Power in New York

According to the daily report of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the 844 MW FitzPatrick nuclear generating station of Entergy Corp was operating at full power by early morning on April 24. The unit had been operating at 55 percent of capacity on April 21 so that repairs could be undertaken on a feedwater pump.

Reuters, 07:34 April 24, 2006.

Update: Southern's 1,152 MW Vogtle Nuclear Plant Exiting Outage in Georgia

By early morning on April 24, the 1,152 MW Vogtle nuclear generating station in Georgia had ramped up to 14 percent of capacity as it began to exit an outage that began on April 17, when the unit was shut down to repair a main feed regulating valve. During the outage, the company also performed other maintenance work and inspections.

Reuters, 08:00 April 24, 2006.

Bloomberg News, 10:41 April 24, 2006

FPL's 562 MW Duane Arnold Nuclear Plant at 96 Percent of Capacity as it Exits Outage in Iowa

The 562 MW Duane Arnold nuclear generating station of the FPL Group had ramped up to 96 percent of capacity by early morning on April 24 following completion of repairs to a feed water pump.

Reuters, 08:09 April 24, 2006.

Bloomberg News, 10:47 April 24, 2006

SCE's 1,070 MW Unit 2 at its San Onofre Nuclear Plant Ramps up to 40 Percent in California

The 1,070 MW unit 2 at Southern California Edison's San Onofre nuclear generating station in California exited a refueling outage and ramped up to 40 percent power by early Monday. Although the unit had been shut for refueling, the restart of the unit had been delayed from late March when operators discovered a problem with a safety injunction tank cover.

Reuters, 08:19 April 24, 2006.

SCE's 758 MW Big Creek Hydro Plant in California Shut April 21

Reuters, 18:50 April 21, 2006.

OPG's 490 MW Coal-fired Unit 4 Nanticoke Plant in Ontario Shut April 21

Reuters, 18:50 April 21, 2006.

CDWR's 317 MW Edward C. Hyatt Hydro Plant in California Shut April 21

Reuters, 18:50 April 21, 2006.

AES' 335 MW Gas-fired Unit 4 at its Alamosa Plant in California Shut April 22

Reuters, 21:34 April 22, 2006.

La Paloma's 260 MW Gas-fired Plant in California Shut April 23

Reuters, 21:34 April 22, 2006.

OPG's 515 MW Unit 7 at its Pickering Nuclear Plant in Ontario Shut April 21

Reuters, 13:30 April 24, 2006.

OPG's 490 MW Coal-fired Unit 6 at its Nanticoke Coal-fired Plant in Ontario Shut April 21

Reuters, 13:30 April 24, 2006.

OPG's 494 MW Coal-fired Unit 2 at its Lambton Plant in Ontario Shut April 24

Reuters, 13:30 April 24, 2006.

AES' 332 MW Gas-fired Unit 3 at its Alamosa Plant in California Shut April 23

Reuters, 13:30 April 24, 2006.

SCE's 285 MW Gas-fired Unit 3 at its Mountainview Plant in California Shut April 23

Reuters, 13:30 April 24, 2006.

TXU's 570 MW Coal-fired Unit 1 at its Big Brown Plant in Texas Shut April 20

Reuters, 13:30 April 24, 2006.

AEP's 528 MW Coal-fired Unit 2 at its Welsh Plant in Texas Shut April 20

Reuters, 13:30 April 24, 2006.

Topaz Power Group's 632 MW Coal-fired Coletto Creek Plant in Texas Shut April 21

Reuters, 13:30 April 24, 2006.

Petroleum

Update: Colonial Will Continue Shipping MTBE-Blended Gasoline this Spring

According to a filing made public by FERC and seen by Reuters, the Colonial Pipeline Company has withdrawn a request to limit shipments of gasoline containing MTBE on its 2.4 million barrel per day pipeline. The Company gave no reason for the decision but said it would delay a plan to phase-out MTBE from its system and continue shipping reformulated gasoline blended with the fuel additive on a case-by-case basis this Spring.

Reuters 17:41 April 24, 2006.

Update: Valero's 255,000 b/d Port Arthur Refinery in Texas Restarts Catalytic Reformer April 23

The unit was shut for repairs.

Reuters, 12:52 April 24, 2006.

Update: Conoco's 229,000 b/d Sweeny Refinery in Texas Restarts Units April 22-23

The units shut due to a power outage caused by a thunderstorm on April 21.

Reuters, 12:52 April 24, 2006.

Update: Conoco's 146,000 b/d Borger Refinery in Texas Restarts Equipment April 22-23

The equipment was shut for repairs.

Reuters, 12:52 April 24, 2006.

ConocoPhillips Resumes Production at Belle Chasse, Louisiana Refinery

Bloomberg News, 09:38 April 24, 2006

Chevron's 243,000 b/d Richmond Refinery in California Restarts Hydrogen Unit April 21

Reuters, 12:52 April 24, 2006.

Delek's 55,000 b/d Tyler Refinery in Texas Shut Briefly April 21

The refinery was shut due to a thunderstorm.

Reuters, 12:52 April 24, 2006.

Lundberg Survey Shows Sharp Increase in U.S. Average Gasoline Price

Reuters reports that according to a nationwide Lundberg survey of about 7,000 gas stations, the average U.S. retail price of self-serve unleaded gasoline has risen to \$2.91 per gallon; a surge of about 9 percent over the past two weeks. Lundberg cites record crude oil prices and the phase-out of MTBE as the chief reasons for the sharp increase. Lundberg also noted that ethanol delivery problems have resulted in "spotty outages" in some East Coast and Texas cities.

http://biz.yahoo.com/rb/060423/energy_gasoline_retail.html?v=1

Pennsylvania Governor Requests RFG Waiver from EPA; Extends Trucking Hours

According to OPIS, Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell has asked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to temporarily waive reformulated gasoline requirements to ease gasoline supply shortages in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. In a letter to the EPA seen by OPIS, the Governor writes that a major gasoline supplier is reporting "more than 160 'delivery-needed' alarms," and that other fuel outlets are reporting that "supplies are nearly exhausted." Other areas along the East Coast have also reported a tight gasoline market due to the phase-out of MTBE by refiners, but Pennsylvania is the first state to ask for a federal waiver. The Governor has also enacted a temporary waiver to allow gasoline tanker truck drivers to remain on the road a few extra hours before taking required breaks.

<http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=local&id=4108076>

OPIS Alert, 11:19 April 24, 2006.

Virginia Waives Trucking Limits to Boost Ethanol Supply, Ease Shortages

A Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy official has said that the state has waived hours of service limits for truck drivers delivering fuel and raised weight limitations on fuel trucks in order to ensure that reformulated gasoline (RFG) supplies are more readily available to areas that are experiencing shortages due to the phase-out of MTBE and the switch to ethanol. Despite sharp price increases of 40 cents per gallon in some areas of Virginia, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has not declared an emergency and will not issue a waiver on RFG requirements in the state.

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/7403919.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>

New 250,000 b/d Product Pipeline in Louisiana to Begin Operating in Mid-May

Shell Pipeline Company and Colonial Pipeline Company are nearing completion of the new 75-mile, 24-inch Bengal Pipeline, which will connect Garyville to East Feliciana Parish, north of Baton Rouge. The pipeline will connect an existing Shell pipeline, running from Norco to Garyville, to the Colonial Pipeline system, allowing Norco-area refineries to transport over 250,000 barrels per day of refined petroleum products. The Colonial Pipeline system can supply up to 2.4 million barrels per day of refined petroleum products to Southeastern, Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern states. The Bengal pipeline will begin operating in mid-May.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/atlanta/stories/2006/04/17/daily55.html>

Opis Alert, 03:32 April 21, 2006.

Bodman Calls for Greater International Energy Infrastructure Security

U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman has called for greater security at international oil facilities and has warned that the threat of new attacks against Saudi oil infrastructure remains high. Bodman also said that the U.S. was working with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States to increase security after the failed February attack on the Abqaiq oil facility, which can process up to 7 million barrels per day. The U.S. imported about 2.3 million barrels per day of crude oil and petroleum products from the Persian Gulf, approximately 17 percent of total U.S. imports.

<http://www.middle-east-online.com/english/?id=16295>

www.eia.doe.gov

Bloomberg News, 13:02 and 13:46 April 24, 2006

Bodman Urges Oil Producers to Invest to Increase Production

Bloomberg News, 13:02 and 13:46 April 24, 2006

OPEC Leaves Output Unchanged Despite Kuwaiti Plan to Increase

OPEC decided to leave its output unchanged until its meeting in Venezuela in five weeks. Kuwait wanted OPEC to offer its idle capacity to increase production now.

Bloomberg News, 13:02 April 24, 2006

Canada's White Rose Oil Field Output to Increase 35,000 b/d

According to Husky, crude production at its White Rose development off Canada's Atlantic Coast is expected to reach 100,000 b/d by the end of May, up from 65,000 b/d in the first quarter. The increase will come from the addition of two wells to the field, which began producing November 2005.

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/7403655.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>

Industry Experts, Saudi Oil Minister Say that Crude Supply Fundamentals are Sound

Despite record crude oil spot and futures prices driven by supply uncertainty, industry experts say that fundamentals indicate that a price correction is looming. Petroleum Intelligence Weekly reports that the petroleum industry is set to add some 1 million barrels per day to already high crude oil stocks in the second quarter and estimates that supply should "easily" outpace demand for the rest of the year. Platts quotes Saudi oil minister Ali Naimi as saying:

"Nobody is asking for additional crude. You know and I know that the reasons for the price being where it is is not a shortage of supply." U.S. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman has agreed that oil markets are well-supplied.

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/8397898.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>

http://today.reuters.com/news/articlenews.aspx?type=businessNews&storyid=2006-04-24T152833Z_01_N24297652_RTRUKOC_0_US-GROUP-OPEC-1.xml

Petroleum Intelligence Weekly, April 24, 2006.

Natural Gas Week, April 24, 2006.

U.S. DOE Issues Proposed Guidelines for Boosting SPR to 1 Billion Barrels

The U.S. Department of Energy has proposed procedures for the acquisition of petroleum for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), including acquisition by direct purchase and transfer of royalty oil from the Department of Interior. The proposed rule also has provisions concerning the deferral of scheduled deliveries of petroleum for the SPR.

<http://frwebgate6.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate.cgi?WAISdocID=910952373763+1+0+0&WAISaction=retrieve>
Reuters, 11:43 April 24, 2006.

Natural Gas

Nothing to report.

Other News

Aventine to Build New Ethanol Plant in Nebraska

Aventine will build the plant with Aurora Cooperative. The plant will initially produce 100 million gallons per year in 2009 and be expanded to produce 200 million gallons annually. There are currently 97 operating ethanol plants in the U.S. A total of 35 are under construction according to the Renewable Fuels Association.
Bloomberg News, 12:59 April 24, 2006

Response Crews May Not Be Ready for Hurricanes in Many States

The First Response Coalition reports that U.S. Atlantic and Gulf Coast states are still not interoperable in their communications systems.
Bloomberg News, 13:40 April 24, 2006

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 24, 2006			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL			
West Texas Intermediate U.S.	70.33	70.27	54.16
\$/Barrel			
NATURAL GAS			
Henry Hub	7.33	7.22	7.06
\$/Million Btu			

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Power Outage Halts Business in Wheeling, West Virginia

<http://www.news-register.net/community/articles.asp?articleID=5065>

Cielo to Break Ground on 70-Turbine Wildorado Wind Farm in Texas

http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=6588860

Bodman Says No Need to Use SPR to Lower Record Oil Prices

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/7404315.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>

OPEC Agrees Not to Change Production in Doha; Oil Price Drops

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/8398201.xml?sub=Oil&p=Oil/News>

Reuters, 12:07 April 24, 2006.

Qatar Plans Partial Oil Privatization, Which Will Help Boost Production by 1.1 Million b/d by 2010

<http://www.upi.com/Energy/view.php?StoryID=20060421-033015-6533r>

Bin Laden Tape Condemns ‘Crusader’ Campaign to ‘Plunder’ Muslim Natural Resources

http://www.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2006/04/24/bin_laden_tells_followers_to_prepare_for_long_war/

NRC to Investigate Pennsylvania Company Over Stolen Radioactive Device

<http://www.phillyburbs.com/pb-dyn/news/103-04192006-643863.html>

Ethiopian Rebels Warn Companies Against Oil and Gas Exploration in Eastern Ogaden Region

Reuters, 10:58 April 24, 2006.

Iraq Fighting Fire Domestic Oil Gathering Center in North

Reuters 6:46 April 24, 2006.

Links

This Week in Petroleum from the Energy Information Administration (EIA)

<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/oog/info/twip/twip.asp>

Updated every Wednesday.

Weekly Petroleum Status Report from EIA

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html

Updated after 1:00 PM EST every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

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

Updated after 2:00 PM EST every Thursday.

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