



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, April 24, 2014

Major Developments

Explosion and Fire Shut Williams Partners' 1.5 Bcf/d Opal Gas Processing Plant in Wyoming April 23

Williams Partners L.P. and Williams reported an explosion and fire at approximately 2 p.m. Mountain Time, April 23, at their natural gas processing facility in Lincoln County, Wyoming, near the town of Opal. There were no reported injuries or damage to property outside the facility. The facility was immediately shut down and emergency procedures were activated. All personnel were safely evacuated from the facility. First-responders evacuated an area that includes the town of Opal and closed Highway 30 in proximity to the plant. Williams lifted the precautionary evacuation and Highway reopened on April 24. Natural-gas gathering from surrounding producing areas is temporarily suspended as a result of the incident. A limited number of company personnel entered the plant on April 24 but it is too early to determine the extent of damage to the facility or a timeline for return to service. The company is evaluating alternatives so that natural gas production can resume as soon as possible. The Opal facility processes natural gas gathered from wells in the area in preparation for interstate natural gas pipeline transport. It also produces natural gas liquids from the natural gas. The Opal plant has an inlet capacity of 1.5 Bcf/d. Recent daily volumes have been approximately 1 Bcf of natural gas. The incident is known to have affected TXP-3, one of the five cryogenic processing trains that comprise the Opal facility. TXP-3 has a processing capacity of 390 MMcf/d. According to Platts, prior to the incident, the Opal plant was delivering 51 percent of its volumes to Kern River Transmission, 38 percent to Ruby Pipeline, 8 percent to Overthrust, and 4 percent to Northwest Pipeline. Kern River Transmission, which transports gas from Wyoming to Southern California, said in an informational posting that it is working with suppliers to the extent possible to meet obligations.

<http://co.williams.com/williams/news-media/opal-wy-update/>

<http://co.williams.com/williams/operations/midstream/opal-gas-processing-plant/>

<http://services.kernrivergas.com/portal/BackDesktop.aspx?TabID=204&TabParentID=141>

<http://www.platts.com/latest-news/natural-gas/houston/western-us-spot-forward-gas-prices-rise-after-21528605?sf2695019=1>

Electricity

Power Restored to More Than 28,000 Entergy Customers in Baton Rouge, Louisiana after Sudden Outage Due to Equipment Failure April 23

Approximately 28,354 Entergy customers suddenly lost power Wednesday evening due to an equipment failure. By 1 a.m. EDT Thursday, all power was restored.

<http://www.bayoubuzz.com/louisiana-news/baton-rouge-news/item/654712-almost-30k-residents-suddenly-without-power-in-the-br-area>

<https://twitter.com/EntergyLA>

Exelon's 1,134 MW Limerick Nuclear Unit 2 in Pennsylvania Shut for Turbine Inspections April 24

Operators at Limerick Generating Station removed Unit 2 from service at approximately 7 a.m. EDT today to perform planned inspections of the main turbine. While the unit is offline, workers will perform additional inspections and maintenance activities that can only be completed while the unit is not generating electricity. Based on turbine blade monitoring data and information gathered during the unit 1 refueling outage earlier this month, technicians will be inspecting the low-pressure turbine blades on unit 2.

<http://www.exeloncorp.com/newsroom/LimerickUnit2OfflineforPlannedTurbineInspections.aspx>

Update: DTE's 1,089 MW Fermi Nuclear Unit 2 in Michigan Ramps Up to 86 Percent by April 24

On the morning of April 23 the unit was operating at 27 percent after restarting by April 22. Unit 2 was shut April 16 to replace one of the two main transformers that weren't working properly after the restart from a February refueling shutdown.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/>
<http://www.bnd.com/2014/04/16/3164740/fermi-2-nuclear-plant-shuts-for.html#storylink=cpy>

Entergy's 813 MW FitzPatrick Nuclear Unit in New York Reduced to 50 Percent by April 24

On the morning of April 23 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/>

Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuclear Unit 1 in Mississippi Reduced to 87 Percent by April 24

On the morning of April 23 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2014/>

Petroleum

Two Men Plead Guilty to Conspiring to Damage Oil Field Facilities in California

Two men pleaded guilty April 21 to conspiring to damage oil field facilities by stealing programmable logic controllers and other equipment from oil field facilities of Chevron, Occidental, Seneca Western Minerals Corporation, Aera Energy, and Berry Petroleum during 2011 and 2012. Programmable logic controllers are computers that control the opening and closing of valves in the oil fields. The theft of a programmable logic controller creates the risk of an oil spill or loss of production if not detected and remedied in time. The total loss of equipment by the oil companies exceeded \$200,000.

<http://www.turnto23.com/news/local-news/bakersfield-men-enter-guilty-plea-to-damaging-oilfield-facilities>

Natural Gas

Atlas Pipeline Announces Expansion of Pioneer Contract, New 200 MMcf/d Cryogenic Processing Facility in Permian Basin of West Texas

Atlas Pipeline Partners, L.P. (APL) on Thursday announced Atlas Pipeline and Pioneer Natural entered into an agreement to substantially expand Pioneer's commitment to APL in the burgeoning Permian Basin of West Texas. The amendment extends the contractual term for an additional 10 years (through 2032) and extends the area of mutual interest in Martin and Andrews Counties in the rapidly-developing northern part of the Basin. Responsive to the accelerating pace of activity in this portion of the play, APL will immediately begin construction of a new incremental 200 MMcf/d cryogenic processing facility in the northern part of the Permian, scheduled to enter service in the second half of 2015. This plant will be fully integrated with APL's WestTX gathering and processing system, which currently has 455 MMcf/d of processing capacity and over 3,600 miles of gathering infrastructure.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=113240&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1921846&highlight>

Regency Reports Power Blip at Its 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas April 23

Regency reported the loss of electrical power due to a power blip at its Waha gas plant. The blip caused the acid gas injector (AGI) to shut. Once power was restored and the plant lined out, the AGI compressor was restarted. The AGI flare and AGI volume meter were in service during the downtime of the compressor system.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ear/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=197302>

Enbridge Reports SRU, SCOT Shut at Its Pittsburg Gas Plant in Texas April 22

Enbridge reported its Pittsburg gas plant experienced a bearing failure on the sulfur recovery unit (SRU) blower which resulted in SRU and Shell Claus Off-gas Treating (SCOT) plant shutdowns. Inlet gas was shut-in and the blower was repaired. The plant was brought back into compliance and to mitigate emissions during the event, the thermal oxidizer was utilized.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ear/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=197254>

Southern Union's Keystone Gas Plant in Texas Reports Unit Shut April 22, Auxiliary Burner Down April 21

Southern Union on Tuesday reported it flared low pressure gas coming into its Keystone gas plant when unit no. 24 went down on second stage high scrubber level. The field unit and drain scrubbers on unit no. 24 were put back on and then unit no. 24 was put back online. On Monday, the auxiliary burner went down and the fire eye had to be changed out. Once the fire eye was changed out, the sulfur recovery unit was put back online

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ear/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=197247>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ear/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=197244>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Update: Shell Nigeria's 400,000 b/d Forcados Oil Terminal Remains Closed Due to Sabotaged Pipeline

Shell Nigeria's Forcados oil export terminal remains closed seven weeks after it was shut to repair a sabotaged undersea pipeline, a spokesman said Thursday. Shell closed the Forcados terminal in Delta state on March 4 to repair a leak caused by a "crude theft point" on a pipeline 26 feet below sea level. The force majeure declared March 25 remains in effect, according to a Shell spokesperson. The government estimates oil thefts averaged 300,000 b/d in 2013 and, along with losses during repairs, cost the country \$12 billion last year, the manager of Shell's Ogoni Restoration Project said.

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/nigeria-forcados-oil-terminal-closed-23451202>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 24, 2014			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	102.20	104.22	90.43
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.70	4.62	4.27

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