



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, April 25, 2016

Electricity

PG&E Reports Over 46,000 Customers without Power in Northern California April 25

PG&E on Monday morning reported 46,029 customers were without power in Berkeley, Albany, El Cerrito, and Richmond, California. Shortly before the power outage, a transformer at a PG&E substation blew up, sending smoke into the air, according to a fire administrator at the El Cerrito Fire Department. While no official cause for the outage has been determined at this time, the explosion may have contributed to it, the fire administrator said. As of 4:30 p.m. EDT Monday, 1,946 customers remained without power.

<https://twitter.com/pge4me>

<https://m.pge.com/#outages>

<http://www.berkeleyside.com/2016/04/25/berkeley-experiences-power-outages-across-city/>

Entergy Reports Power Restored to Over 12,000 Customers in Louisiana April 22

Entergy reported over 12,000 customers briefly lost power Friday evening due to an equipment failure at a substation in Kenner, Louisiana. Power was fully restored within three hours.

http://www.etrviewoutage.com/external/la.aspx?_ga=1.106427335.519872238.1461601336

<http://www.theneworleansadvocate.com/news/15568553-176/more-than-12000-without-power-in-kenner>

Update: Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuclear Unit 1 in Mississippi Ramps Up to 97 Percent by April 24

On the morning of April 23 the unit was operating at 75 percent, reduced from full power on April 21.

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

Update: Southern's 856 MW Hatch Nuclear Unit 1 in Georgia Ramps Up to 89 Percent by April 23

On the morning of April 22 the unit had restarted and was operating at 20 percent. The unit was shut on April 20 from 91 percent power.

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

Update: Exelon's 1,022 MW Clinton Nuclear Unit in Illinois Ramps Up to 91 Percent by April 23

On the morning of April 22 the unit was operating at 58 percent, reduced from 85 percent on April 21.

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

RRI Energy's 215 MW Mandalay Gas-fired Unit 2 in California Shut by April 22

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201604221515.html>

NRC Says Exelon's 1,116 MW Peach Bottom Nuclear Plant in Pennsylvania Must Upgrade Safety Equipment April 21

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reported April 21 that Exelon must upgrade safety equipment at its Peach Bottom nuclear power plant in York County, Pennsylvania after degraded panels and spent fuel pools were found. Peach Bottom has 210 days to tell the NRC what it has done to address the issue, a company spokesperson said.

<http://www.ydr.com/story/news/2016/04/21/nrc-peach-bottom-must-fixnuclear-fuel-pool/83344280/>

PPL Completes Northeast-Pocono Transmission Project in Pennsylvania April 20

PPL Electric Utilities on April 20 completed the Northeast-Pocono Reliability Project, a \$350 million investment in new substations and power lines to boost regional reliability. The work included three new substations, nearly 60 miles of new 230 kV power lines, and other system improvements.

<http://pplweb.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=12270&item=137248>

New York Considers Aid for Struggling Nuclear Plants – Associated Press

According to press reports, New York Governor Andrew Cuomo is crafting a plan that would direct millions of dollars a year extra to keep the state's four ailing nuclear plants operating. New York's four nuclear power plants—Entergy's 882 MW FitzPatrick and 2,311 MW Indian Point sites, and Exelon's 614 MW Ginna and 1,901 MW Nine Mile Point sites—have been operating since the 1970s and are struggling amid slumping power prices as well as increased operations and maintenance costs. Entergy announced plans to shut down its FitzPatrick plant by January 27, 2017 due to low natural gas prices and high operational costs, citing a “flawed” market, which doesn't adequately compensate nuclear generators. Following recent emergency shutdowns at Indian Point, Governor Cuomo has also called for the closure of that site due to emergency evacuation concerns for more than 17 million people living within 50 miles of the plant. Federal regulators have permitted the two Indian Point reactors to operate as Entergy seeks 20-year license renewals. Meanwhile, Exelon's Ginna plant has been operating under a surcharge that could expire in March 2017. Exelon said it would most likely recommend retirement for the Ginna site without state help. Earlier this year, the New York Independent System Operator reported that the loss of Entergy's FitzPatrick site, combined with other scheduled retirements of non-nuclear plants, could cause energy reliability problems in the system by 2019, though they are reassessing that conclusion. The funding plan, which would exclude Indian Point because of its operating license has not been fully renewed, is expected to be considered by the New York Public Service Commission this summer.

Reuters, 10:01 April 23, 2016

Petroleum

Update: Delta's Monroe Energy Restarts FCCU at Its 185,000 b/d Trainer, Pennsylvania Refinery April 22 – Sources

Delta's Monroe Energy restarted its 52,000 b/d fluid catalytic cracker unit (FCCU) on Friday night after it shut expectantly on April 13. A failed restart on April 21 uncovered leaks in the unit and a small fire broke out, according to a source.

Reuters, 20:42 April 24, 2016

Chevron Reports Process Unit Shutdown, Flaring at Its 330,000 b/d Pascagoula, Louisiana Refinery April 24

Chevron reported a process unit tripped resulting in a shutdown and flaring event at its Pascagoula, Louisiana refinery.

Reuters, 14:41 April 25, 2016

Phillips 66 Reports Power Malfunction at Its 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery April 22

Phillips 66 reported that a power malfunction led to the shutdown of various process units on Friday at its Sweeny, Texas, refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The units were restarted and the event ended on Saturday morning. The filing listed a sulfur recovery unit, a coker flare, and a flare gas recovery unit as sources of emissions due to the incident.

Reuters, 21:49 April 24, 2016

Shell Reports Unit Restart at Its Scotford, Alberta Facility April 25

Royal Dutch Shell Plc reported a unit restart at its Scotford, Alberta facility and warned of intermittent flaring for the next 48 hours, according to a community information line. The Scotford facility houses a 100,000 b/d refinery and a 255,000 b/d oil sands upgrader.

Reuters, 1:49 April 25, 2016

TransCanada Agrees to Submit Its 1.1 Million b/d Energy East Pipeline Project for Quebec Environmental Review April 22

Quebec's Environment Minister on Friday said TransCanada Corp filed a project notice for its 2,860-mile Energy East crude oil pipeline, agreeing to an environmental impact study, which prompted the province to suspend efforts seeking a permanent injunction against the company. Quebec filed a motion seeking an injunction against the pipeline, which will carry crude from Alberta's oil sands to the country's Atlantic coast, in early March to ensure the project complied with provincial environmental law, saying it acted after TransCanada ignored two letters in 2014 requesting an evaluation. Quebec will completely withdraw its injunction application once the study is approved, the minister said.

<http://www.mddelcc.gouv.qc.ca/Infuseur/communiquer.asp?no=3417>

Reuters, 17:40 April 22, 2016

Natural Gas

ExxonMobil Reports Units Down Due to Power Failure at Its 65 MMcf/d Dollarhide Gas Plant in Texas April 24

ExxonMobil reported "units P-17, Cat-12, P-12, Cat-11, Cat-4, and FR-F1" were down due to a power failure at its Dollarhide gas plant. All available flowing wells were shut in and once power was re-established, the units were restarted.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=232014>

Southern Union Reports SRU Shut at Its Keystone Gas Plant in Texas April 24

Southern Union reported the loss of pressure from the hot oil thermalene system in the sulfur recovery unit (SRU). The SRU was shutdown to conduct pressure testing in order to locate and repair the leak. Low pressure inlet gas was backed out to curtail emissions while the leak was being stopped, and acid gas was being flared to minimize emissions.

<http://www2.tceq.texas.gov/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=232017>

Plains All American, Cheniere Energy Announce 8 Bcf Natural Gas Storage Agreement Beginning in 2018

Plains All American Pipeline (PAA) and Cheniere Energy Partners on Monday announced that PAA's subsidiary, Pine Prairie Energy Center, entered into a 10-year firm storage service agreement with Cheniere Energy Partners' subsidiary, Sabine Pass Liquefaction, LLC. Under the new agreement, Pine Prairie will provide 8 Bcf of firm natural gas storage capacity to Cheniere beginning in 2018 in order to serve the storage needs of the company's Sabine Pass Liquefaction export facility.

<http://ir.paalp.com/profiles/investor/ResLibraryView.asp?ResLibraryID=81459&GoTopage=1&Category=117&BzID=789&G=549>

New York DEC Denies Permit for Constitution's 124-Mile Natural Gas Pipeline from Pennsylvania to New York April 22

New York's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) on Friday rejected a critical permit needed for Constitution Pipeline's 30-inch natural gas pipeline project, saying the project fails to meet standards that protect hundreds of streams, wetlands and other water resources in its path. The DEC said the construction of the pipeline, which would run from Pennsylvania's shale gas fields to eastern New York, would affect 251 streams and 500 acres of valuable forest as well as extensive wetlands. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved the pipeline project in 2014 contingent on the state permit, which is required by the federal Clean Water Act. The project had all required permits for the Pennsylvania segment, which had already had trees cleared from its right-of-way in preparation for construction. Constitution Pipeline Company, a partnership formed by Cabot Oil & Gas, Williams Partners and Piedmont Natural Gas Company, can appeal the state decision to the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. A company spokesperson said the partners will decide whether to appeal after they finish analyzing the state's rationale for the denial.

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/105941.html>

Reuters, 22:01 April 22, 2016

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Iraq Signs Strategic Agreement with GE to Boost Power Grid – Oil Minister

Iraq's Oil Ministry said on Sunday it had signed a long-term "strategic framework agreement" with General Electric (GE) which comprised several projects to boost national power resources. The ministry said one of the projects would generate more than 400 MW for oil installations by summer. Other initiatives aim to maintain existing infrastructure and reduce gas flaring from oil fields to boost electricity production for use in the industrial and energy sectors. Peak demand for electricity during the summer is about 21,000 MW, exceeding the 13,000 MW the grid is currently providing.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-iraq-power-generalelectric-idUSKCN0XL0MO>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 25, 2016			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	41.62	39.69	55.88
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	1.90	1.72	2.55

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