



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

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, April 26, 2010

## *Electricity*

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### **Tornado, Storms Knock Out Power to More than 60,000 Customers in Mississippi, Arkansas and Alabama over Weekend**

A tornado tore through Mississippi on April 24, killing 10 people and cutting power to thousands, multiple sources reported. The tornado and storms knocked out electricity to more than 18,000 Electric Power Associations of Mississippi customers, 15,000 Marshall-DeKalb Electric Cooperative customers, 14,000 Entergy customers in Mississippi, 7,500 Entergy customers in Arkansas, and about 6,000 Albertville Municipal Utilities Board customers in Alabama. The utilities had restored service to most affected customers, as of latest reports.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/26/us/26tornado.html?ref=us>

<http://www.gadsdentimes.com/article/20100425/NEWS/100429894/1017/NEWS>

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703441404575206400321106166.html?mod=WSJ\\_hpp\\_MIDDLE\\_NexttoWhatsNewsSecond](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703441404575206400321106166.html?mod=WSJ_hpp_MIDDLE_NexttoWhatsNewsSecond)

<http://www.sandmountainreporter.com/story.lasso?ewcd=8c0116560762c2d2>

<http://www.wlbt.com/Global/story.asp?S=12372932>

<http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2010/apr/26/entergy-crew-arkansas-sent-tornado-ravaged-area/>

### **After Weekend Trip, Luminant to Restart 793 MW Monticello Coal-Fired Unit 3 in Texas**

The unit shut "due to loss of boiler temperature" by April 25, Luminant said in a filing with state regulators. The company expected to restart the unit on April 25, according to a separate filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=138848>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=138846>

### **TMPA to Restart 454 MW Gibbons Creek Coal-Fired Unit 1 in Texas**

The unit tripped by April 25 after "a problem with a boiler feed water pump led to a problem in waterwall differential pressure," the Texas Municipal Power Authority (TMPA) said in a filing with state regulators. The company expected to restart the unit on April 25, according to a separate filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=138578>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=138575>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=138857>

### **Update: Xcel to Restart 346 MW Harrington Coal-Fired Unit 1 in Texas April 25-30**

Xcel planned to restart the unit "on or after April 25," it said in a filing with state regulators. The company had expected to shut the unit "for minor maintenance items" on April 22, according to a previous filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=138336>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=138487>

### **Entergy's 903 MW Arkansas Nuclear Unit 1 in Arkansas Shuts April 25**

The unit shut automatically due to shutdowns of "2 of 4 Reactor Protection System (RPS) Channels," Entergy said in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20100426en.html>

### **Update: PPL's 1,105 MW Susquehanna Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Ramped Up to 29 Percent by April 26**

The unit shut automatically “during equipment testing” on April 22, the company said in a previous press release. Operators returned the unit from a refueling outage on April 21. The testing was part of that restart. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 25 the unit was operating at 16 percent.

<http://www.pplweb.com/newsroom/newsroom+quick+links/news+releases/Unit+1+at+Susquehanna+nuclear+plant+shuts+down+safely+042210.htm>

<http://www.pplweb.com/newsroom/newsroom+quick+links/news+releases/Unit+1+at+Susquehanna+nuclear+plant+returns+to+service+042510.htm>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Update: PPL's 1,111 MW Susquehanna Nuclear Unit 2 in Pennsylvania Ramped Up to 15 Percent by April 26**

PPL shut the unit “to repair a heat exchanger tube in a heating system” on April 23, it said in a previous press release. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 25 the unit was operating at 1 percent.

<http://www.pplweb.com/newsroom/newsroom+quick+links/news+releases/Susquehanna+Unit+2+shut+down+safely+for+planned+repairs+042310.htm>

<http://www.pplweb.com/newsroom/newsroom+quick+links/news+releases/Unit+2+at+PPL+Susquehanna+nuclear+power+plant+returns+to+service+042610.htm>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Update: Southern's 856 MW Hatch Nuclear Unit 1 in Georgia Ramped Up to 95 Percent by April 24**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 23 the unit was operating at 50 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

### **Martinez Cogen's 115 MW Martinez Cogen Gas-Fired Unit in California Shuts and Restarts over Weekend**

The unit shut for unplanned reasons by April 24 and restarted by April 25, according to the California Independent System Operator.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201004251515.html>

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201004241515.html>

### **Canada Orders Power Producers to Phase Out Coal-Fired Power Plants**

Canada's Environment Minister ordered the nation's major power producers to gradually phase out their existing coal-fired power fleet and replace those units with cleaner-burning energy sources, the Globe and Mail said on April 26. The government's proposal would require companies to shut most coal-fired power plants over the next 10 to 15 years. The nation would not allow companies to refurbish the plants or construct new coal-fired units, unless those units included carbon capture-and-storage systems.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/ottawa-wants-coal-fired-power-plants-to-close/article1546314/>

### **Update: Sheen Widens as Coast Guard, BP, and Transocean Work to Stop Leaking Well Pipe from Sunken Deep Horizon Oil Rig in Gulf of Mexico April 26**

A well pipe from Transocean's sunken Deep Horizon oil rig was leaking up to 1,000 b/d of oil approximately 5,000 feet below the surface, the U.S. Coast Guard said on April 25. The news came some six days after an explosion onboard injured at least 17 and left another 11 missing. The U.S. Coast Guard suspended its search for the 11 missing workers on April 23. Responders were employing – or considering – three measures to stop or control the leaks. Under the first plan, workers would use remote-controlled vehicles to activate the blowout preventer; that, in theory, could seal the well. The second plan would involve drilling relief wells. That, however, would not stop the leak for two or three months. In the interim, responders would place a large dome over the leaking area to capture and re-route any spills. BP and Transocean were working to activate the blowout preventer on April 25 and BP had mobilized two drilling rigs by April 26 to prepare for relief well drilling operations. The sheen had widened to 48 miles by 39 miles, and was 30 miles offshore Venice, Louisiana, as of latest reports. Workers have used 14,654 gallons of dispersant and collected 1,152 barrels of oily water.

<http://www.d8externalaffairs.com/go/doc/2931/529595/>

<http://www.d8externalaffairs.com/go/doc/2931/530631/>

<http://www.d8externalaffairs.com/go/doc/2931/529595/>

<http://www.d8externalaffairs.com/go/doc/2931/529003/>

<http://www.piersystem.com/go/doc/2931/529883/>

<http://www.bp.com/genericarticle.do?categoryId=2012968&contentId=7061518>

<http://www.bp.com/genericarticle.do?categoryId=2012968&contentId=7061537>

<http://deepwater.com/fw/main/News-748.html?c=113031&p=irol-news&nvo=0>

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=91648](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=91648)

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=91649](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=91649)

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE63O27L20100425?feedType=RSS&feedName=domesticNews>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/26/us/26rig.html>

### **Update: Rig Explosion and Sinking Unlikely to Hamper BP's Oil Production**

The Deepwater Horizon oil rig was operating in a relatively small deposit – the affected reservoir was thought to hold less than 100 million barrels – and its explosion and subsequent sinking is not likely to impact BP's oil production, a source familiar with the situation told Bloomberg News.

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-04-23/bp-s-gulf-of-mexico-plans-unlikely-to-be-set-back-by-rig-blast.html>

### **BP to Perform FCC Vessel Maintenance at 467,720 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery April 23-24**

BP expected to “perform maintenance associated with a vessel,” the company said in a filing with state regulators. The vessel was related to a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC), according to the filing. It was not clear if the work would have any impact to production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=138807>

### **Coke Drum Crack Triggers Flaring at 348,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery April 24**

ExxonMobil de-pressured the coke drum and ended the flaring event, it said in a filing with state regulators. The incident caused only “minimal” impact to production, according to a company spokesman.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=138847>

Bloomberg News, 11:24 April 26, 2010

Reuters, 11:10 April 26, 2010

### **Motiva Shuts Hydrocracker after Weekend Fire at 236,400 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery**

The fire took place in an exchanger on April 25, according to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality. Motiva shut the hydrocracker and reported flaring, but the fire was extinguished by April 26, a state police source said.

Bloomberg News, 11:11 April 26, 2010

## **Coker Upset Causes Small Impact to Production at Valero's 199,500 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery April 25**

The incident was brief and the coker remained online, a Valero spokesman said. Reuters, citing Valero, said the incident had caused a small impact to production. In the same source, however, the Valero spokesman said "this should not result in a material impact to production."

Reuters, 11:29 April 26, 2010

## **Valero to Bypass SCOT Unit at 170,000 b/d McKee, Texas Refinery April 26**

Valero planned to bypass the Shell Claus Offgas Treatment (SCOT) unit "for a maintenance procedure" after the "accumulation of sulfur in a process line" led to "increased backpressure" on a sulfur recovery unit (SRU), the company said in a filing with state regulators. It was not clear if the work would have any impact to production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=138551>

## **Barge Explodes at LBC Tank Terminals along Mississippi River in Louisiana April 24**

A barge explosion injured two people at the LBC Tank Terminals along the Mississippi River near Sunshine, Louisiana on April 24, the U.S. Coast Guard said in a release. The barge was loading benzene at the time of the incident. There were no reports of water pollution and the river remained open. The subsequent fire had been extinguished, according to the local Iberville Parish Fire Department.

<http://www.d8externalaffairs.com/go/doc/425/529887/>

## **ConocoPhillips Faces Early-May Deadline to Prove It Has Met Air Quality Standards at Rodeo, California Refinery – Company May Have to Shut Hydrocracker Unit**

ConocoPhillips has until May 5 to prove that it has met air-quality requirements at its Rodeo, California refinery, and the company may have to shut a hydrocracker if it fails to meet that deadline. The company is completing a hydrocracking expansion project that will boost Rodeo's capacity by 20,000 b/d. The project, however, includes work to reduce pollution and the company – according to a county official – has not proven its compliance with those plans.

Bloomberg News, 20:51

## **Fire Shuts 104,000 b/d Cat Cracker at PdVSA's 300,000 b/d Cardon, Venezuela Refinery April 24**

PdVSA said stockpiles to prevent any impact to exports or domestic supplies.

Reuters, 19:43 April 24, 2010

April 23, 2010

## **North Dakota's Oil Delivery Capacity on Pace with Production for First Time in More than One Year**

North Dakota's capacity to deliver oil – about 400,000 b/d - is on pace with its capacity to produce oil for the first time in more than one year, the Associated Press reports. The state produced more than 261,000 b/d in February 2010, according to an official with the state's Department of Mineral Resources.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hXF9IRLgG82rM3TmzN763mOFLKwD9F8U5HG0>

## **Update: Iraq-to-Turkey Oil Pipeline Reopens April 25 – Bomb Attack Forced Shut Line by April 22**

Operators re-opened the Kirkuk, Iraq-to-Ceyhan, Turkey oil pipeline over the weekend, officials said. Assaultants bombed and forced shut the line by April 22. The line can deliver up to 1.6 million b/d of oil, but throughput was far less – about 450,000 b/d – over the first three months of 2010, according to Reuters.

[http://www.upi.com/Science\\_News/Resource-Wars/2010/04/26/Iraq-oil-pipeline-to-Turkey-reopens/UPI-37211272295256/](http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/04/26/Iraq-oil-pipeline-to-Turkey-reopens/UPI-37211272295256/)

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-04-22/iraq-oil-pipeline-explodes-north-of-mosul-police-say-update1-.html>

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKLDE63L0WJ20100422>

<http://www1.voanews.com/english/news/middle-east/Bomb-Damages-Iraqi-Oil-Pipeline--91814604.html>

## **Japanese Oil Tanker Thwarts Pirate Attack Offshore Somalia over Weekend**

Pirates attacked a Japanese very large crude carrier (VLCC) on April 25, but the tanker escaped the assault, the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) said.

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics/nation/Somali-pirates-attack-large-Japanese-oil-tanker-IMB/articleshow/5859473.cms>

## **Natural Gas**

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### **Equipment Malfunction Causes Explosion and Fire at Bay State Gas's LNG Plant in Massachusetts April 24**

A process-heater snag caused an explosion and fire, but a fire official said there were no injuries and that "it was not a major explosion." The incident forced shut LNG processing, according to a Bay State Gas spokeswoman. The company, however, only taps the affected facility's supplies when it needs additional gas, she said. She said the fire was controlled in less than two hours. The Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities was investigating the incident, as of latest reports.

<http://www.masslive.com/hampfrank/republican/index.ssf?/base/news-26/1272179820256400.xml&coll=1>

### **Companies Depend More on Natural Gas amid New Supplies and Resource Nationalism**

Shell, Total, BP, and ExxonMobil are depending more on natural gas, Bloomberg News reports, as oil-rich nations hamper access to oilfields and natural gas deposits become easier to develop. Shell expects natural gas to account for 52 percent of its overall production in 2012. Total relies on natural gas for 40 percent of its overall production, up from 37 percent about three or four years ago.

[http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=a4DZRPhi\\_rDs](http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=newsarchive&sid=a4DZRPhi_rDs)

## **Other News**

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### **Secretary Chu Announces more than \$200 Million for Solar and Water Power Technologies April 22**

U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced that the Department will invest more than \$200 million over five years to expand and accelerate the development, commercialization, and use of solar and water power technologies throughout the United States. To read more about the investments, click on the link below.

<http://www.energy.gov/news/8874.htm>

### **Department of Energy Announces Closing of \$529 Million Loan to Fisker Automotive April 23**

The Department of Energy announced on April 23 the closing of a \$528.7 million loan with Fisker Automotive for the development and production of two lines of plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEV). The loan will support the Karma, a full-size, four-door sports sedan, and a line of family-oriented models being developed under the company's Project NINA program.

<http://www.energy.gov/news/8890.htm>

### **MSU Scientists Say It Is More Energy Efficient to Grow Crops for Food than Fuel**

It is 36 percent more efficient to produce crops for food than for fuel, Michigan State University scientists say. "The ideal is to grow corn for food, then leave half the leftover stalks and leaves on the field for soil conservation and produce cellulosic ethanol with the other half," according to a researcher.

<http://www.usnews.com/science/articles/2010/04/23/scientists-say-growing-grain-for-food-is-more-energy-efficient.html>

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices April 26, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	84.34	81.33	50.53
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	4.07	3.97	3.46

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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**Thunderstorms Knock Out Power to 22,000 Oncor Customers in Texas April 23 – Company Restores Power to Nearly all by April 25**

<http://www.kxxv.com/Global/story.asp?S=12374161>

**Tornado and Storms Knock Out Power to More than 19,000 Customers in Florida over Weekend**

[http://www.abccactionnews.com/content/news/local/pasco/story/Storm-damage-reported-in-Pasco-County/-cpL1qD8KkO08t\\_tJIvoIQ.cspX](http://www.abccactionnews.com/content/news/local/pasco/story/Storm-damage-reported-in-Pasco-County/-cpL1qD8KkO08t_tJIvoIQ.cspX)

<http://www2.tbo.com/content/2010/apr/25/252220/storms-today-tonight-could-be-severe-forecasters-s/>

**Storms Cut Power to More than 10,000 BGE Customers in Maryland over Weekend**

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-flooding-with-photo-20100426-7.0.3772380.story>

**Storms Knock Out Power to at Least 10,000 Customers in Missouri April 23-25**

<http://www.kmov.com/home/Storm-damage-causes-road-closure-in-west-St-Louis-Co-92055509.html>

<http://www.columbiamissourian.com/stories/2010/04/25/water-rescues-continue-through-morning/>

**Update: TVA to Decide in August if It Will Pursue Partly-Completed Reactor at Bellefonte Nuclear Power Station in Alabama**

<http://www.gadsdentimes.com/article/20100423/APN/1004232068>

**Update: Entergy Says its Workers Never Intentionally Misled State of Vermont Regarding Underground Pipes at Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant**

[http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2010/04/vermont\\_yankee\\_owner\\_entergy\\_c.html](http://www.masslive.com/news/index.ssf/2010/04/vermont_yankee_owner_entergy_c.html)

**Vibrant Solar to Install 30,000 Kwh/Year of Solar Panels in Fowler, Colorado - City Plans Multiple Projects that Could Make it Independent from Electric Grid**

<http://www.9news.com/rss/article.aspx?storyid=137546>

**Update: Seventh Worker Dies after April 2 Explosion at Tesoro's Anacortes, Washington Refinery**

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jYkAyfTB-gAvN27Vp6Uy-96rPlcgD9F9H71G1>

**Hess Sees No Impact to Ongoing FCC Work after "Minor Sheen" in Boom at 70,000 b/d Port Reading, New Jersey Refinery over Weekend**

Reuters, 10:21 April 26, 2010



**U.S. O&G Well and Dry Hole Completions Dip 24 Percent in First Quarter of 2010 Compared to Same Quarter in 2009: API**

<http://www.api.org/Newsroom/well-completionsdwn.cfm>

**Traders Increased Number of Floating Oil Storage Tankers by 75 Percent Last Week: Morgan Stanley**

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-04-26/traders-boost-oil-storage-on-tankers-75-morgan-stanley-says.html>

**Acid Gas Compressor Shuts Twice at Waha Gas Plant in Texas April 25**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=138862>

**Storm Cuts Power to Multiple Substations, Forcing Offline Compressors at Yates Gas Plant in Texas April 23**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=138836>

**Governments are Overstating Value of Carbon Capture and Storage, Houston University Report Says – It Would Require a Small-State-Sized Reservoir to Store the CO2 Generated by One Power Facility**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/apr/25/research-viability-carbon-capture-storage>

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## 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](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/data_publications/weekly_petroleum_status_report/wpsr.html)

Updated after 10:30 AM & 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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## ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

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