



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, April 27, 2012

Electricity

GenOn Energy's 246 MW Coolwater Gas-Fired Unit 4 in California Shut by April 26

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201204261515.html>

Constellation's 835 MW Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Unit 2 in Maryland Reduced to 65 Percent by April 27

On the morning of April 26 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

Petroleum

Unspecified Equipment Malfunction Leads to Emissions at Chevron's 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery April 26

Chevron Corp. reported an equipment malfunction led to sulfur dioxide emissions at its Richmond, California refinery on Thursday, according to a filing with the California Emergency Management Agency. The release was contained, the filing said.

Reuters, 15:13 April 26, 2012

Update: Husky Shuts Compressor, Unspecified Units for Repairs after Leak at Its 146,200 b/d Lima, Ohio Refinery April 26

Husky Energy Inc. reported it was flaring material due to a leak in a line that caused the compressor to be taken down Thursday morning, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were bringing unspecified units down to make associated repairs, the filing said. Husky reported yesterday it was still processing about 120,000 b/d of crude oil at its Lima refinery after a leak shut a unit, according to an executive, and a spokeswoman from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency said black smoke on Wednesday began gushing from a stack in the aromatics heater after a malfunction in a fuel gas system.

Reuters, 11:05 April 26, 2012

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1009713

Valero Reports Flaring from FCC, Flue Gas Scrubber Stack at Its 87,400 b/d Ardmore, Oklahoma Refinery April 26

Valero Energy Corp. reported a release of hydrogen cyanide from a fluid catalytic cracker (FCC) flue gas scrubber stack at its Ardmore refinery on Thursday due to normal operations, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The release was ongoing at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1009779

Motiva Reports Ongoing Emissions Due to Unknown Cause at Its Norco, Louisiana Refinery April 26

Motiva Enterprises reported ongoing emissions at its Norco refinery on Thursday due to an unknown cause, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Workers were investigating the cause of the release, which was not secured at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1009767

Shell Restarts Unspecified Unit at Its 100,000 b/d Scotford, Alberta Oil Sands Facility April 26

Royal Dutch Shell Plc said it was restarting an unspecified unit at its Scotford upgrader facility near Edmonton, Alberta, according to a notice on a community information line on Thursday. Operators had reported maintenance activities at the facility on April 19. Shell said there will be no material impact due to the incident.
Reuters, 16:01 April 26, 2012

Natural Gas

Update: Dominion Signs Preliminary Agreement with Sumitomo to Export Up to 2.3 mpta of LNG to Japan from Cove Point LNG Terminal in Maryland

Dominion Resources Inc. announced Thursday that it is moving forward with its Cove Point Liquefaction project in Maryland, where it plans to build facilities to export 1 Bcf/d of liquefied natural gas (LNG), according to a first quarter earnings statement. Dominion reported it has signed binding precedent agreements with Sumitomo Corporation and one other, unnamed company, fully subscribing the planned project capacity. Sumitomo Corp. and Tokyo Gas Co Ltd said on Friday they were in discussions with Dominion to import up to 2.3 million tonnes per annum (mpta) of liquefied natural gas (LNG) per year for 20 years from 2017, according to reports.

<http://dom.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=26677&item=127412>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/27/us-tokyo-gas-lng-idUSBRE83Q0AY20120427?feedType=RSS&feedName=innovationNews&rpc=43>

ExxonMobil Cuts Rigs as Natural Gas Prices Fall

ExxonMobil reported it's shifting its U.S. rigs to liquids-rich areas due to dropping natural gas prices, according to reports. The company is focusing on the Bakken of North Dakota, the Permian of Texas, and the Ardmore of Oklahoma, and it's getting ready to drill in the Utica shale of Ohio. In total, ExxonMobil had about 64 rigs running in the first quarter in the United States, down from about 71 last year.

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/exxon-cuts-rigs-as-natural-gas-prices-sap-profit-2012-04-26?siteid=yhoof2>

Equipment Malfunction Shuts Turbine at DCP Midstream's 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas April 26

DCP Midstream reported its A Turbine went down Thursday morning when an amine treater suction valve failed to open, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators restarted the turbine as soon as possible.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=167823>

Other News

TransAlta Cancels Carbon-Capture Project at Its Keephills Power Plant in Alberta Due to Poor Economics

TransAlta Corp. on Thursday announced it was cancelling its plans to build a carbon capture and storage facility at an Alberta coal-fired power plant because it could find no buyers for the carbon dioxide and, as yet, there is no cap-and-trade system that would let the company and its partners sell emission-reduction credits. TransAlta's Project Pioneer, a carbon-capture demonstration plant it was planning to build with support from Enbridge Inc. and Capital Power Corp., would have captured and stored carbon-dioxide emissions from the 450 MW coal-fired Keephills Unit 3 power plant in Alberta, west of Edmonton.

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/04/26/transalta-idUKL3E8FQ8BG20120426>

TEPCO to Build Wells to Redirect Groundwater to Avoid Mixing with Radioactive Cooling Water at the Fukushima Dai'ichi Plant in Japan

Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) told government officials it will build wells to redirect groundwater away from the damaged Fukushima Dai'ichi nuclear plant in Japan. The groundwater is mixing with highly radioactive cooling water at the plant, which is increasing the amount of contaminated water at the complex, Kyodo News reported. TEPCO plans to redirect about half the groundwater in the Pacific Ocean before it goes into the reactor buildings and elsewhere. Creating a groundwater bypass will reduce the amount of water flowing into the reactor buildings by about 50 percent, according to a TEPCO progress report. A government official said the wells will likely become operational in September or October.

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2012/04/24/Wells-to-be-built-near-damaged-reactors/UPI-29881335292137/

Islamist Militants Blow Up Natural Gas Pipeline Connected to Balhaf LNG Terminal in Yemen; Second Strike on Pipeline in 1 Month

Islamist militants linked to al Qaeda blew up a gas pipeline on Thursday night in the eastern Yemeni province of Shabwa, a local official and residents said. It was the third attack against oil and gas facilities in Yemen within a month and the second against the same pipeline. The pipeline transports natural gas from Maarib to the Balhaf liquefied natural gas (LNG) export terminal.

Reuters, 17:41 April 26, 2012

Yemen Plans to Increase Oil Output by 36 Percent by Year-End – Oil Minister

Yemen plans to raise its crude oil production by more than one-third—to 300,000 b/d from 220,000 b/d—by developing new fields and refurbishing pipelines, the Yemeni oil minister told Reuters on Friday. The minister said by repairing the pipeline from the Maarib fields and carrying out plans to develop several fields and introduce new oil producing blocks in the next 5 years, production could rise to 300,000 b/d by the end of 2012 and as high as 400,000 b/d eventually. The report comes after another attack on a natural gas line in Yemeni province last night (see previous story). Yemen's oil and gas production has fallen during political unrest that began last year and has brought worker strikes and attacks by militants.

Reuters, 10:14 April 27, 2012

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 27, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	104.37	103.81	112.04
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.10	1.85	4.32

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 and 1:00 PM Eastern Time every Wednesday.

Natural Gas Weekly Update from EIA

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

Updated after 2:00 PM Eastern Time every Thursday.

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

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

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