



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

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, April 29, 2011

## Major Developments

### Update: TVA Works to Repair Damaged Transmission Lines as More than 770,000 Customers Remain without Power across Southern/Midwestern/Eastern United States – Storms Knocked Out Power to More than 2 Million Customers on April 25-28

More than 770,000 customers remained without power across a wide swath of the United States on April 29 – including more than 617,000 in Alabama – as the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) worked to repair storm-damaged infrastructure throughout its service territory, multiple news, official, and company sources reported. Storms and tornadoes cut electricity to nearly 2.2 million customers from Texas to New York on April 25-28, according to sources. The TVA, which sells electricity to 155 utilities and cooperatives, said it had restarted 14 high-voltage transmission lines by April 29; it said previously that the storms had damaged more than 90 power lines. The company was expected to restore most of its connection points with Huntsville Utilities by next Monday evening, but it could be several days until Huntsville Utilities restores power to all of its affected customers. Alabama Power, similarly, said "severe damage" meant that some of its customers would "experience prolonged outages." Multiple states reported power outages, but the following table lists only those states where 10,000 or more customers lost electricity, based on available data.

Southern/Midwestern/Eastern U.S. Customer Power Outages			
April 25 – 28, 2011			
Electric Utility	State	Peak	Latest Reported
Alabama Power	AL	412,229	212,000
Alabama Electric Cooperatives	AL	232,000	207,912
Huntsville Utilities	AL	165,000	165,000
Decatur Utilities	AL	27,000	10,000
Athens Utilities	AL	16,000	16,000
Albertville Municipal Utilities Board	AL	8,000	6,500
FirstEnergy	OH/PA	240,000	4,500*
AEP Ohio	OH	28,900	240
Dayton Power & Light	OH	2,000	7
Georgia Power	GA	193,000	20,000
Georgia EMC	GA	26,000	6,454
EPB	TN	119,000	55,000
Memphis Light, Gas, and Water	TN	45,000	1,662
Knoxville Utilities Board	TN	44,231	688
Clarksville Department of Electricity	TN	30,000	600
Murfreesboro Electric Department	TN	21,500	300
Duck River EMC	TN	21,000	3,100
Fort Loudoun Electric Cooperative	TN	19,033	15,876
Southwest Tennessee Electric	TN	12,240	97
Jackson Energy Authority	TN	12,000	700
Gibson Electric Membership Corporation	TN	10,000	70
Paris Board of Public Utilities	TN	10,000	5,000
Cumberland Electric	TN	4,800	0
Entergy	AR	88,020	6,830
First Electric Cooperative	AR	28,000	166
Carroll Electric	AR	7,000	0
Craighead Electric	AR	1,000	250

Entergy	LA	55,000	2,614
SWEPCO	LA/AR/TX	33,300	433
Beauregard Electric	LA	7,800	0
Electric Power Associations of Mississippi	MS	50,000	11,000
Entergy	MS	36,000	2,137
National Grid	NY	39,919	5,213
NYSEG	NY	14,409	316
RG&E	NY	3,901	6
LIPA	NY	2,107	14
Appalachian Power	VA/WV/TN	33,000	7,275
Dominion	VA	13,000	1,232
Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative	VA	3,000	46
Progress Energy	NC	21,753	139
Duke Energy	NC	19,642	132
DTE Energy	MI	12,000	700
Oncor	TX	10,000	1,980
Progress Energy	SC	7,470	6
Duke Energy	SC	6,144	13
<b>TOTAL **</b>		<b>2,191,398</b>	<b>772,208</b>

\*Estimate based on data from company's website

\*\*Total outages only represent electric utilities listed in this table.

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### **Update: After Storms, TVA's 3,440 MW Browns Ferry Nuclear Power Plant in Alabama Could Remain Offline for Weeks**

The Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Browns Ferry nuclear power plant in Alabama could remain offline for weeks, Reuters reported, as the company works to fix its damaged transmission grid. The plant's three units shut automatically on April 27 after severe weather and winds caused a loss of offsite power, TVA said previously in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). All three units had achieved cold shutdown, the company said by April 29. The plant's onsite diesel generators and one 161 kV transmission line were providing power to the facility, as of latest reports. "When the system is ready for the plant, we can begin the process of restarting it," a TVA official said. "But we have to get the transmission system ready."

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/04/29/us-weather-idUSTRE73P2PK20110429>

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<http://www.tva.gov/sites/brownsferry.htm>

### **Power Outages Lead to Gasoline Shortages in North Alabama by April 29**

Power outages were preventing multiple gas stations in northern Alabama from pumping gasoline, AAA-Alabama said by April 29, and at least one local news source reported that several still-operating stations ran out of gasoline on April 28. Customers were said to have waited as long as two or three hours.

[http://blog.al.com/businessnews/2011/04/alabama\\_tornadoes\\_power\\_outage.html](http://blog.al.com/businessnews/2011/04/alabama_tornadoes_power_outage.html)

<http://enewscourier.com/local/x976269024/Power-outages-create-fuel-panic>

### **Tornado Damage Forces Cliffs Natural Resources to Halt Production at 900,000-to-1.4 Million Tons/Year Oak Grove Coal Mine in Alabama April 28-29**

A tornado severely damaged above-ground facilities at Cliffs Natural Resources' Oak Grove coal mine near Birmingham, Alabama on April 28, forcing the company to shut production, a spokeswoman said on April 29. The mine remained without electricity, as of latest reports. There were no injuries and it was not clear when the company expected to resume operations.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/04/29/usa-weather-mine-idUSN2929815520110429>

<http://www.cliffsnaturalresources.com/Operations/NAC/Pages/OakGrove.aspx>

## ***Electricity***

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### **Storms Cut Power to More than 175,000 Hydro One Customers, 46,000 Hydro Ottawa Customers in Ontario, Canada April 28**

Some 91,604xx Hydro One customers and 2,120 Hydro Ottawa customers remained without power, as of latest reports. Hydro One said yesterday that it would take several days to restore service to all affected customers.

[http://www.hydroone.com/OurCompany/MediaCentre/Documents/NewsReleases2011/04\\_28\\_2011\\_Wind\\_Storm\\_5pm.pdf](http://www.hydroone.com/OurCompany/MediaCentre/Documents/NewsReleases2011/04_28_2011_Wind_Storm_5pm.pdf)

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[https://www.hydroottawa.com/newsevents/map.cfm?LANG=E&template\\_id=555](https://www.hydroottawa.com/newsevents/map.cfm?LANG=E&template_id=555)

### **Update: PSE&G's 1,096 MW Salem Nuclear Unit 1 in New Jersey Ramped Up to 75 Percent by April 29**

PSE&G shut the unit on April 21 "due to a loss of circulating water pumps from heavy grassing at the circulating water intake," according to an earlier filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The company returned the unit to 63 percent power by early on April 24, but shut the unit later that day due to "grassing," according to the NRC and a company spokesman. The NRC reported that on the morning of April 28 the unit was operating at 8 percent.

[http://www.nj.com/salem/index.ssf/2011/04/salem\\_1\\_reactor\\_taken\\_offline.html](http://www.nj.com/salem/index.ssf/2011/04/salem_1_reactor_taken_offline.html)

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2011/20110422en.html>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2011/>

### **Update: AES's 506 MW Redondo Gas-Fired Unit 7 in California Returns to Service by April 28**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage.  
<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201104281515.html>

### **AES's 225 MW Huntington Beach Gas-Fired Unit 3 in California Shut by April 28**

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported an unplanned outage by April 28.  
<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201104281515.html>

## ***Petroleum***

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### **Update: After Power Outage, BP to Restart Multiple Units at 475,000 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery April 28 – May 11**

BP expected to restart multiple units – including a coker unit and alkylation unit – on April 28 – May 11, the company said in multiple filings with state regulators, after a power outage forced shut the facility on April 25-26. The company restarted the crude unit overnight "and the rest of the restart" was "well under way," a source familiar with the situation said on April 29. Valero, meanwhile, said it continued to restart units at its 214,000 b/d Texas City refinery. A power outage disrupted operations at that facility early on April 26. The company said by April 29 that it would take a couple of days to resume planned rates.

<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/bp-texas-city-restart-well-under-way-source-2011-04-29>

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110428-728237.html>

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Reuters, 10:46 April 29, 2011

### **Update: Chevron to Break Ground in May 2011 on Proposed 25,000 b/d Base Oil Project at 330,000 b/d Pascagoula, Mississippi Refinery**

Chevron awarded KBR a contract to execute a Base Oil expansion project at Chevron's Pascagoula, Mississippi refinery, KBR said on April 27. The project includes a new lubes hydrocracker and a lube dewaxing/hydrofinishing unit. KBR expects to begin work in May 2011. Chevron said previously that it expected to finish the 25,000 b/d project by the end of 2013.

<http://www.kbr.com/Newsroom/Press-Releases/2011/04/27/KBR-Awarded-Construction-Contract-for-Chevrons-Base-Oil-Project-in-Pascagoula-MS/>

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### **U.S. Crude Oil Imports Slide 1.056 Million b/d from January to February 2011: EIA**

The United States imported an average 8.013 million b/d of crude oil in February 2011, down 667,000 b/d from February 2010 and 1.056 million b/d from January 2011, the Energy Information Administration said on April 28. Canada accounted for the largest share of imports – 2.193 million b/d – of the 8.013 million b/d total.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/cameroonNews/idAFN2828575320110428>

### **Petrobras Discovers Estimated 350 Million Barrels of Recoverable Oil Offshore Brazil**

Petrobras discovered an estimated 350 million barrels of recoverable oil in the Campos Basin offshore Brazil, the company said on April 28.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/04/28/petrobras-crude-idUSN2829567920110428>



### Natural Gas Well Blowout Prompts Local Evacuations in Rural Louisiana April 27

A CEL Properties-owned natural gas well blew out in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana on April 27, spewing an unspecified quantity of natural gas and forcing residents to evacuate from more than 100 homes. Precision Drilling owned the affected rig. Some of the residents were authorized to return home, but about 40 homes remained evacuated on the evening of April 27. It was not clear what caused the blowout.

<http://www.dailyworld.com/article/20110428/NEWS01/104280316>

### ExxonMobil Produces 3.904 Bcf/d of Natural Gas in United States during First Quarter of 2011, Compared to 1.335 Bcf/d in First Quarter of 2010

The company produced 14.525 Bcf/d of natural gas worldwide during the first quarter of 2011, compared to 11.689 Bcf/d during the first quarter of 2010, the company said on April 28.

[http://www.exxonmobil.com/Corporate/Files/news\\_release\\_earnings1q11.pdf](http://www.exxonmobil.com/Corporate/Files/news_release_earnings1q11.pdf)

<http://www.dallasnews.com/business/energy/20110428-exxon-mobil-earnings-soar-69-percent-on-higher-gasoline-prices.ece>

### United States Held 1,898 Tcf of Natural Gas Resources at End of 2010: Potential Gas Committee

The United States possessed 1,898 Tcf of natural gas resources as of year-end 2010, the Potential Gas Committee said on April 27 as it released the latest results from its biennial assessment. The 1,898 Tcf total marked a 3 percent increase from the Committee's previous assessment: in 2008, it said the nation was home to 1,836.4 Tcf of natural gas. The Committee attributed most of the rise to re-evaluation of shale gas plays in the Gulf Coast, Mid-Continent and Rocky Mountain areas.

<http://www.potentialgas.org/>

## Other News

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### Benzene-Carrying Barge and Coal-Carrying Barge Break Loose from Tow along Ohio River in Pennsylvania April 27

Four barges – including one carrying coal and another hauling oil and benzene – broke loose from their tow along the Ohio River in Pennsylvania on April 27, and at least two of those barges (including the oil-and-benzene barge) collided with a CSX railroad bridge. A Coast Guard official said “high water” and “high flow” were “likely a factor.” He said there had been no leaks. The Coast Guard recovered the oil-and-benzene carrying barge, but the coal-hauling barge remained lodged against a back channel dam, as of latest reports.

[http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/s\\_734203.html](http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/s_734203.html)

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 29, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	112.86	111.72	84.91
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	4.38	4.33	4.19

Source: Reuters

### **Fire Forces Shut 698 MW Unit at DTE Energy's Belle River Coal-Fired Power Plant in Michigan April 28**

A leak in an oil line triggered a fire at the facility yesterday evening, but responders extinguished the blaze in approximately one hour and officials did not expect the incident to impact customers. There were no injuries and the site's other 698 MW unit remained online, as of latest reports.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-ap-mi-powerplant-fire,0,7308191.story>

### **Black hills Power Plans 20 MW Wind Farm near Belle Fourche, South Dakota – Company Expects to Open Project before End of 2012**

<http://www.blackhillscorp.com/news11/042811b.pdf>

### **Syncrude Plans \$5 Billion Project to Reconstruct, Relocate “Mine Trains” and Build New Composite Tailings Plant at Oil Sands Operations in Alberta, Canada**

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/business/Syncrude+inject+into+projects/4692433/story.html>

### **Petrobras Launches Extended Well Test in Northeastern Portion of Lula Field, Offshore Brazil by April 28 – Company Expects to Maintain Production at Approximately 14,000 b/d of Oil**

[http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a\\_id=106628](http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=106628)

### **ExxonMobil's XTO Energy Abandons Plans to Employ Hydraulic Fracturing, Drill for Natural Gas in Southlake, Texas by April 27 – Critics Had Challenged Plans, Citing Environmental Concerns**

<http://dfw.cbslocal.com/2011/04/27/xto-energy-drops-southlake-drilling-plans/>

### **Malfunction Triggers SCOTT Plant Shutdown, Emissions Event at Pittsburg Gas Plant in Texas April 28 – Plant Restarted within Hours**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=153883>

### **ExxonMobil Expects to Begin Oil Production in 2017 at Hebron Oilfield Offshore Newfoundland and Labrador**

The Hebron oilfield is comprised of three fields: Hebron, West Ben Nevis and Ben Nevis. The fields hold 700 million barrels of oil, combined.

[http://www.thetelegram.com/Business/Natural-resources/2011-04-27/article-2458265/Hebron-GBS-pegged--at-\\$8.3B-/1](http://www.thetelegram.com/Business/Natural-resources/2011-04-27/article-2458265/Hebron-GBS-pegged--at-$8.3B-/1)

### **Some 926 Rigs Drilling for Oil in United States, Compared to 882 Drilling for Natural Gas: Baker Hughes**

[http://www.ogj.com/index/article-display/4995989138/articles/oil-gas-journal/drilling-production-2/drilling-operations/20100/april-2011/us-rigs\\_drilling\\_for.html?cmpid=EnlDailyApril292011](http://www.ogj.com/index/article-display/4995989138/articles/oil-gas-journal/drilling-production-2/drilling-operations/20100/april-2011/us-rigs_drilling_for.html?cmpid=EnlDailyApril292011)

### **SaskEnergy Repairs Underground Natural Gas Leak in South Regina, Saskatchewan April 28**

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/story/2011/04/29/sk-gas-leak.html>

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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.

## 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](mailto:ead@oe.netl.doe.gov)