



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, April 29, 2013

Electricity

Severe Storms Cut Power to 128,000 CenterPoint Energy Customers in Houston April 27

Storms in the Houston area on Saturday dumped several inches of rain, causing pooling water to short out transformers on the ground and high winds pulling down limbs onto power lines, cut power to thousands of customers. CenterPoint Energy reported nearly 35,000 of its customers lost electricity at the peak of the storm on Saturday night. Entergy said that storm left 128,000 customers without power at different times during the storm. By Sunday afternoon, crews had restored power to all but 6,900 affected customers. As of 12:31 p.m. CT today, the utility reported 921 customers remained without power.

<http://gis.centerpointenergy.com/outagetracker/index.html>

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/local-news/20130428-thousands-without-power-in-houston-after-storms.ece>

<http://www.chron.com/news/Storms-briefly-leave-thousands-without-power-4470732.php?cmpid=houtexheat>

Severe Storms Cut Power to 30,390 Entergy Customers Across New Orleans Metro Area April 24

Severe storms raced across the New Orleans metro area Wednesday, causing widespread street flooding and knocking out power to about 12,220 Entergy New Orleans customers and about 18,170 Entergy Louisiana customers at the peak of the storms that afternoon. The National Weather Service confirmed later Wednesday that a tornado had touched down in Kenner, just outside New Orleans, with winds estimated near 90 mph. An Entergy official said the storm downed 14 feeder lines across Jefferson Parish, but the utility expected to restore power across the area by 7:00 p.m. Wednesday.

http://www.nola.com/weather/index.ssf/2013/04/27000_in_jefferson_parish_with.html

http://www.nola.com/business/index.ssf/2013/04/more_than_30000_without_power.html

FPL Begins Company-wide, Weeklong Hurricane Drill in Florida

Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) on Monday began its annual, weeklong hurricane drill in Palm Beach County. Employees began responding to Virtual Hurricane Sheryl—a Category 3 Storm—to test FPL's hurricane readiness, restoration, and recovery. Thousands of employees from across FPL are participating in the annual emergency response and restoration drill, which continues through Friday, May 3. The company-wide drill is centered at FPL's Physical Distribution Center and Category 5 Command Center located in Riviera Beach, Florida and taking place at FPL service centers and other facilities throughout the state.

<http://www.fpl.com/news/2013/042913.shtml>

PJM Seeks Power Transmission Proposals for Southern New Jersey

U.S. Mid-Atlantic and Midwest electric grid operator PJM Interconnection on Monday opened a new process to allow utility and non-utility competitors to propose solutions for power system needs in specific areas. In the past, development solutions were typically sought only from existing utilities. PJM said the new approach was prompted by the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Order 1000, which seeks the build-out of new power transmission lines to maintain electric reliability and integrate large renewable energy projects, among other things. PJM said for its first project it would accept proposals through June 28 related to the needs of the transmission system in southern New Jersey.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/29/utilities-pjm-southjersey-idUSL2N0DG0TU20130429>

Update: Exelon Briefly Restarts 1,111 MW LaSalle Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois Before Shutting It Again Due Pressure Boundary Leakage April 27

Exelon Corp. reported that on Saturday night, LaSalle Unit 1 commenced a Technical Specification-required plant shutdown after operators identified pressure boundary leakage, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. A through-wall leak was identified in the body of a Reactor Core Isolation Cooling system steam supply inboard isolation bypass warm-up valve. This qualifies as pressure boundary leakage, which requires a shutdown. This leak was occurring at a rate significantly less than 10 gallons per minute and therefore does not meet the threshold for entry into the Emergency Action Plan. At the time of discovery, Unit 1 was in startup mode at 6 percent power following a forced outage that began April 17, when both units at the LaSalle nuclear station automatically shut down after power from the switchyard into the site was interrupted by an apparent lightning strike. Operators restarted Unit 2 on April 25 and had ramped it up to 20 percent power, but had to manually scram the reactor later that day after the condenser circulating water pumps tripped due to high level in the turbine building condenser pit. Both units remained shut the morning of April 29.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130429en.html>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

Exelon Shuts 1,022 MW Clinton Nuclear Unit in Illinois Due to Decreasing Level in EHC Oil Reservoir April 26; Restarts Unit by April 28, Ramps Up to 18 Percent by April 29

The Clinton nuclear unit is returning from an outage that began April 26, when operators initiated a manual reactor scram due to rapidly decreasing level in the main Electro Hydraulic Control (EHC) oil reservoir, according to a filing with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. All systems responded as expected with no complications. The cause of the main EHC decrease in level is under investigation. Operators restarted the unit by April 28.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2013/20130429en.html>

Update: NRC Begins Special Inspection at Exelon's LaSalle Nuclear Power Plant in Illinois

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) on Friday announced it has started a Special Inspection to review the circumstances around the loss of offsite power to both Units 1 and 2 at Exelon's LaSalle nuclear power plant on April 17. The issue involved a lightning strike that resulted in the loss of external power to Unit 1 and 2. Both units automatically shut down and all control rods were inserted. The emergency diesel generators started and powered the safety-related systems as planned. Both the Region III staff and the resident inspectors at the plant closely followed the event. On Monday, a three-member NRC inspection team began work and will investigate the circumstances surrounding the loss of external power. The team will also assess equipment performance, a drywell pressure signal, and review the plant's radiological monitoring throughout the event. The NRC will issue a report on the Special Inspection within 45 days of its completion.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2013/13-014.iii.pdf>

Update: Entergy's 858 MW Arkansas Nuclear Unit 2 in Arkansas Restarts, Ramps Up to 29 Percent by April 29

Arkansas Unit 2 is returning from an outage that began March 31, when a heavy load fell onto the Unit 1 turbine deck, causing a loss of offsite power to Unit 1 and an automatic shutdown of Unit 2. Workers were moving a massive generator stator out of the plant's turbine building during maintenance activity when a lifting rig collapses, killing one person and injuring eight others. Entergy Corp. said last week that it was too early to know when Unit 1 might be repaired and restarted.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

Wolf Creek Nuclear's 1,165 MW Wolf Creek Nuclear Unit 1 in Kansas Reduced to 70 Percent by April 29

On the morning of April 28 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

DTE's 1,089 MW Fermi Nuclear Unit 2 in Michigan Shut by April 27

On the morning of April 26 the unit was operating at 64 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

Update: FPL's 510 MW Point Beach Nuclear Unit 1 in Wisconsin at Full Power by April 27

Point Beach 1 returned to full power Saturday after a reduction to 55 percent the day before. Operators reduced power to perform maintenance on a pump on the non-nuclear side of the station, a spokeswoman said.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2013/>

Entergy's 1,075 MW Waterford Nuclear Unit 3 in Louisiana Shut 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/2013/>

Update: GenOn's 741 MW Ormond Beach Natural Gas-Fired Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by April 28

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began by April 25.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201304281515.html>

La Paloma Generating Company's 260 MW La Paloma Natural Gas-Fired Unit 2 in California Shut by April 28

The unit entered an outage that was due to planned and unplanned causes.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201304281515.html>

First Solar's 290 MW Agua Caliente Solar Unit in California Returns to Service by April 27

The unit returned from a curtailment of 190 MW that began by April 22 and was due to planned and unplanned causes.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201304271515.html>

First Solar's 130 MW Topaz Solar Unit in California Returns to Service by April 27

The unit returned from an outage that began by April 20 and was due to planned and unplanned causes.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201304271515.html>

Ace's 118 MW Ace Cogeneration Coal-Fired Unit in California Shut by April 26

The unit entered an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201304261515.html>

In First, Electric Vehicle-to-Grid Technology Sells Power to PJM Power Grid

The University of Delaware and NRG Energy on April 26 announced its eV2g project becoming an official resource of PJM Interconnection and proving for the first time that electric vehicle-to-grid technology can sell electricity from electric vehicles (EVs) to the power grid. The technology provides a two-way interface between EVs and the power grid that enables vehicle owners to sell electricity back to the grid while they are charging their EVs. On February 27, the project became an official participant in the PJM's frequency regulation market. Frequency regulations is used to balance supply and demand on the grid second-by-second. Since then, the project has been selling power services from a fleet of EVs to PJM. The technology can aggregate power from multiple electric vehicles to create one larger power resource, rather than individual, smaller ones. For grid operators, the technology offers a new approach to energy storage. The technology is also expected to initially help managers of commercial EV fleets by providing revenue while the vehicles are parked, with individual EV owners to eventually follow. The system is currently in development with restricted test fleets and is not now a commercial offering.

http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=121544&p=irol-newsArticle_Print&ID=1811879

Petroleum

Fire Extinguished after Ignition in Sour Water Tank During Fueling at Marathon's 102,000 b/d Detroit, Michigan Refinery April 27

Marathon Petroleum Corp. reported that just before 6:00 p.m. EDT Saturday, a fire erupted in a sour water tank at its Detroit refinery while operators were fueling the tank, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The refinery's onsite emergency response team extinguished the blaze by about 8:00 p.m., according to a spokesman. Operators were investigating the cause of the fire, which also led to a release of ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and sulfur dioxide. During the fire, officials evacuated the eastern part of Melvindale, near the refinery, and closed two exits off of a nearby interstate highway.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1045314

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2013/04/27/Explosion-at-Detroit-oil-refinery-evacuation-ordered/UPI-26321367109646/?spt=hs&or=tn

Update: Chevron Resumes CDU Operations at Its 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery by April 26

Chevron Corp. on Friday reported it was restarting a crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Richmond refinery that had been shut since an August 2012 fire, according to a filing with the Contra Costa Health Department Hazardous Materials Program. Company officials said Friday the CDU is expected to be fully operational during the second quarter. Since the August 6 fire, the refinery has been producing motor fuels at about 50 percent of capacity during repairs.

Reuters, 16:41 April 26, 2013

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/chevron-resumes-operations-unit-closed-212000370.html>

Flange on Unspecified Unit Leaks Hydrogen Sulfide at Flint Hills' 280,500 b/d Saint Paul, Minnesota Refinery April 27

Flint Hills Resources reported hydrogen sulfide was leaking from a flange on an unspecified unit at its Saint Paul refinery Saturday morning, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators repaired and tightened the flange but had not yet secured the release at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1045303

Power Loss Shuts Unit, Causes Hydrogen Sulfide Emissions at HollyFrontier's 130,000 b/d El Dorado, Kansas Refinery April 28

HollyFrontier Corp. reported an unspecified unit at its El Dorado refinery shut down during a power loss Sunday morning, causing a release of hydrogen sulfide, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were investigating the cause of the power loss and working to restart the unit, but had not yet secured the release at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1045346

Marathon Reduces FCCU Feed During ESP Unit Repairs at Its 451,000 b/d Galveston Bay, Texas Refinery April 27

Marathon Petroleum Corp. reported it was reducing charge rates to a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Galveston Bay refinery Saturday morning to reduce emissions from the FCCU and the electrostatic precipitator (ESP) stack, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Opacity was exceeded during maintenance on the transformer rectifier on the ESP unit.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=182161>

ExxonMobil Reduces Rates on Catalytic Light Ends Unit at Its 572,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery Due to Vent Gas Leak from Pipe April 27

ExxonMobil Corp. reported it was cutting production on a catalytic light ends unit at its Baytown refinery on Saturday after operators discovered a refinery vent gas leak from a hole in a pipe, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators isolated the leak and depressured and reduced rates in applicable process units to minimize emissions, which were reported from the catalytic light ends Unit 3, Flare Stacks 3, 4, 6, and from the hole in the pipe.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=182162>

Union Workers Threaten Strike at ExxonMobil's 572,200 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery over Health and Safety Language during Talks for New Contract

The United Steelworkers (USW) Local 13-2001 at ExxonMobil's Baytown refinery has threatened to strike if it cannot reach an agreement with ExxonMobil over a new contract, the USW announced Monday. During recent negotiations, Local 13-2001 proposed to include in the contract health and safety language drawn from the 2012 National Oil Bargaining agreement, which ExxonMobil has agreed to use for its facilities in Torrance, California, Billings, Montana, Chalmette, Louisiana, and Beaumont, Texas. The USW has raised concerns about safety at the plant since June 2011, after a worker suffered burns on 25 percent of his body because of a problem with a steam vent valve. The proposed health and safety language is intended to help operators detect safety risks before they result in fires, explosions, releases, and other incidents. Management at Baytown refused to accept the language in its last, best, and final offer given April 15. This refusal prompted Local 13-2001 to issue a required 60-day notice to terminate the contract and go out on strike. Shortly after Local 13-2001 issued its notice, ExxonMobil issued its required 60-day lockout notice to the local union. Since then, both sides met once on April 19 to negotiate the contract. Another bargaining session has been scheduled for May 3.

http://www.usw.org/media_center/releases_advisories?id=0697

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2013/04/29/union-workers-threaten-strike-at-exxon-baytown-refinery/>

ExxonMobil Announces Production Startup at 110,000 b/d Kearl Oil Sands Project in Alberta

ExxonMobil Corporation on Saturday announced the startup of the Kearl oil sands project in Alberta, Canada, which is expected to access 4.6 billion barrels of resource to meet energy needs for the next 40 years. Kearl is the first oil sands mining operation without an upgrader, making lifecycle carbon dioxide emissions for its output similar to those of many other crude oils processed in the United States. Kearl uses proprietary paraffinic froth treatment technology to produce bitumen, a process that does not require on-site upgrading. This means the bitumen is processed once, instead of twice, which reduces the amount of emissions generated overall. Production of mined diluted bitumen from the first of three froth treatment trains has begun. Startup of two additional bitumen froth trains will proceed in sequence as planned, bringing production from the initial development to an expected 110,000 b/d later in 2013. An expansion project has been fully funded and will bring on an additional 110,000 b/d of bitumen production by late 2015. ExxonMobil plans for Kearl to have a production capacity of approximately 345,000 b/d by about 2020.

<http://news.exxonmobil.com/press-release/exxonmobil-announces-production-startup-kearl-oil-sands-project>
http://www.imperialoil.ca/Canada-English/about_media_releases_20130427.aspx

Atlas Energy Pipeline Valve Leak Spews Natural Gas, Crude Residue, and Drip Gas Residue in Northwestern Pennsylvania April 27

A northwestern Pennsylvania highway had to be closed for about five hours when crude oil mixed with natural gas spewed about 60 feet into the air when a valve broke on an Atlas Energy pipeline, local media reported. The slick oil was being blown across U.S. Route 219 about noon Saturday in neighboring Bradford Township.

<http://www.myfoxphilly.com/story/22106654/nw-pa-highway-closed-by-spewing-oil-from-pipeline>
http://www.bradfordera.com/news/article_45596d42-b06d-11e2-874a-001a4bcf887a.html

Natural Gas

AGI Unit Shuts at Regency's 290 MMcf/d Waha Gas Plant in Texas April 29

Regency Energy Partners reported an acid gas injector (AGI) compressor at its Waha plant shut Monday morning on low first-stage suction pressure due to inlet flow/pressure issues in the amine system, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=182167>

Enbridge Reports AGI Unit Shutdowns at Its Tilden Gas Plant in Texas April 26

Enbridge reported acid gas injector (AGI) Units 1 and 2 shut down on low suction pressure at its Tilden plant Friday afternoon when gas processing faulted on high glycol flash tank level, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=182157>

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 29, 2013			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	93.60	88.50	104.37
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.16	4.38	2.10

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