



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

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday, May 01, 2006

## *Electricity*

---

### **Update: Entergy's 510 MW Vermont Yankee Nuke's Power Increase on Hold Again in Vermont**

Entergy's Vermont Yankee nuclear plant experienced problems on April 28, causing the plant to hold at 117.5 percent on the way to increasing the capacity by 20 percent. A plant spokesman cited the problems as being, "acoustic signals from gauges that are picking up what may be new strains on the plant's steam dryer."

[http://www.boston.com/news/local/new\\_hampshire/articles/2006/04/28/vermont\\_yankee\\_power\\_boost\\_stopped\\_again/](http://www.boston.com/news/local/new_hampshire/articles/2006/04/28/vermont_yankee_power_boost_stopped_again/)

### **PGE's Boardman Power Plant in Oregon to Remain Offline**

The company said the plant would remain offline for most of May due to a damaged generator rotor. The plant had been out of service since October of last year for repairs and was schedule to return in April.

Reuters, 05:47 May 1, 2006.

[http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news\\_view&newsId=20060501005359&newsLang=en](http://home.businesswire.com/portal/site/google/index.jsp?ndmViewId=news_view&newsId=20060501005359&newsLang=en)

### **State Regulators Approve 120 MW Wind Farm in Oklahoma**

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission approved the construction of a 120 megawatt wind farm in northwestern Oklahoma. OG&E Electric Services' will install the 80 turbines capable of generating 1.5 megawatts each.

[http://finanzen.net/news/news\\_detail.asp?NewsNr=393647](http://finanzen.net/news/news_detail.asp?NewsNr=393647)

### **PSEG's 1,220 MW Gas-fired Linden Plant in New Jersey Enters Commercial Service**

The new facility, which uses combined cycle technology, replaces 430 MW of oil-fired steam capacity at the site.

<http://www.prnewswire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/05-01-2006/0004351171&EDATE=>

### **SCE's 1,050 MW Mountainview Power Station in California Shut April 28**

Reuters, 9:17 May 1, 2006.

### **Update: Duke's 739 MW Gas-fired Moss Landing 6 in California Returns April 30**

The unit was shut on April 27 to work on a condenser.

Reuters, 09:12 May 1, 2006.

### **PPL's 1,140 MW Susquehanna 2 Nuke in Pennsylvania Shut April 29**

The unit shut to repair a water leak.

Reuters 08:47 May 1, 2006.

## Petroleum

---

### **ConocoPhillips' 73,200 b/d Rodeo Refinery in California Shut Briefly May 1**

According to ConocoPhillips, a power outage at its 73,200 b/d Rodeo Refinery in California shut down production for less than an hour on Monday and caused black smoke to rise from the facility. The plant resumed operation after the incident.

Reuters, 14:06 May 1, 2006.

### **Update: Shell Repairing Units at its 100,000 b/d Wilmington Refinery in California**

The refinery experienced malfunctions that affected hydrocracking, hydrotreating and coking operations on April 26.

Reuters, 19:11 April 28, 2006.

### **Citgo's 156,000 b/d Corpus Christi Refinery in Texas has FCC Problem April 29**

On Saturday Citgo cut back gasoline-production from fluidic catalytic cracking unit No. 1 at its 156,000 b/d Corpus Christi refinery in Texas after a switch in the equipment providing feedstock to the FCC led to a malfunction.

Reuters 16:43 April 30, 2006.

### **Traders Expect U.S. Gasoline Imports from Venezuela to Slow to a Trickle as Refinery Problems Continue**

According to traders, gasoline shipments from Venezuela to the United States are expected to slow significantly in the coming months if problems at refineries in Venezuela persist. Experts have already expected the Venezuelan import flow to slow due to stricter U.S. fuels standards. Shipments are down to 3 to 4 cargos per month from 10 cargoes per month (about 100,000 b/d) before refinery problems began last year.

Reuters, 16:17 April 28, 2006.

### **Fire at ExxonMobil's Beaumont Refinery in Texas Reduced MEK Production on April 30**

ExxonMobil's 348,500 b/d Beaumont refinery in Texas experienced a fire in the wax slurry pump room of its Keton 1 Unit on Sunday, April 30. The fire caused a reduction in Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK) production. Company officials say the incident is under investigation.

<http://www.platts.com/Petrochemicals/News/7424541.xml?p=Petrochemicals/News&sub=Petrochemicals>

### **U.S. Report: Iraqi Oil Corruption Could Devastate Rebuilding**

A report by the U.S. special inspector general for Iraqi reconstruction says that corruption in Iraq's oil sector could have "devastating effects" on efforts to stabilize the country. Crude oil production in Iraq averaged 2.18 million b/d in March, 400,000 b/d below the pre-war level in March 2003. Additional reasons for the drop in production include sabotage and attacks on maintenance crews, theft of oil, widespread mismanagement, and determining which entity (central government or provinces) will control the oil. Iraq supplies 3.5% of U.S. crude imports.

Reuters, 16:47 April 30, 2006.

Report: [http://www.sigir.mil/reports/QuarterlyReports/Apr06/pdf/SIGIR\\_April\\_06\\_Complete.pdf](http://www.sigir.mil/reports/QuarterlyReports/Apr06/pdf/SIGIR_April_06_Complete.pdf)

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/print?id=1902718>

### **Nigerian Militants Say They Detonated Bomb**

A remote-controlled car bomb detonated near an oil refinery in Nigeria. The militant group, Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, has attacked the oil infrastructure in the southern Niger Delta region. The attacks have led to a reduction of 20 percent in oil production.

<http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-nigeria-oil-unrest.0.3907383.story>

## Natural Gas

---

### FERC Issues Favorable Reviews for Three LNG Projects

On April 28, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued favorable final environmental reviews for three LNG projects: 1) Expansion of Dominion Cove Point LP's LNG terminal in Maryland; construction of a 1.2 Bcf/d terminal in Logan Township, NJ, by BP Energy affiliate Crown Landing LLC; and construction of Sempra Energy's Port Arthur LNG LP's LNG terminal and associated facilities in Port Arthur, TX.

<http://intelligencepress.com/>

### FERC Gives Boost to BP's Proposed LNG Terminal in Delaware

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's has recommended that BP's plan to build an LNG terminal in Gloucester County, Delaware move forward. FERC's final environmental impact statement said that the LNG terminal would have "limited adverse impacts" but the plan still requires full approval from the commission.

<http://www.philly.com/mld/inquirer/news/local/14456751.htm>

### Duke Energy to Conduct Open Season for Salt Cavern Storage Services

Duke Energy Gas Transmission (DEGT) will conduct a non-binding open season for salt cavern storage services. The storage facilities will include the storage facilities Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi.

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/060428/clf028.html?v=40>

### New Developments on El Paso's Continental Connector Pipeline Announced

El Paso Corporation announced a binding open season to finalize shipper commitments for the Continental Connector Pipeline, which will link supply areas in the Rockies, Mid-Continent, and north Texas, "with existing infrastructure at the Perryville, Louisiana, hub, accessing virtually every gas market in the Eastern and Southeastern United States."

<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/conws/3827832.html>

## Other News

---

### Companies Propose Largest Ethanol Plant in Southeast

Ergon Ethanol and Bunge North America, Inc. have signed a letter of intent to form a joint venture to build a 60-million-gallon per year ethanol plant in Mississippi. When complete, the plant will be the largest such facility in the Southeast. The new plant will require 21-million bushels of corn each year.

Reuters, 12:00 May 1, 2006.

## Energy Prices

---

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
May 1, 2006			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b>			
<b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b>	73.75	70.33	49.20
\$/Barrel			
<b>NATURAL GAS</b>			
<b>Henry Hub</b>	6.53	7.33	6.64
\$/Million Btu			

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

---

### Storms Caused 15,000 Entergy Customers to Lose Power in Louisiana April 29

<http://www.2theadvocate.com/news/2720766.html>

### Caterpillar and Secure Energy Sign Non-binding LOI for Possible Coal Gasification Plant in Decatur, Illinois

<http://www.platts.com/Coal/News/7424528.xml?p=Coal/News&sub=Coal>

### CEC Recommends Continued Moratorium on Construction of Nuclear Plants in California

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/mld/sanluisobispo/news/14456029.htm>

## 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

---

*Energy Assurance Daily* provides a summary of public information concerning current energy issues. Published Monday through Friday to inform stakeholders of developments affecting energy systems, flows, and markets, it provides highlights of energy issues rather than a comprehensive coverage. *Energy Assurance Daily* is updated online Monday through Friday after 5:00 p.m. EST. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at: <http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/index.aspx>.

Please direct comments and questions to: [ead@oe.netl.doe.gov](mailto:ead@oe.netl.doe.gov)