



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Monday Evening, April 04, 2011

Electricity

At Least 49,558 Oncor Customers Lose Power in Texas Following Thunderstorms April 4

Most of the outages were centered in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. As of latest reports, 29,475 Oncor Electric Delivery customers were still without power.

<https://maps.oncor.com/summary.asp>

<http://www.oncor.com/community/outages/#>

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/local-news/20110404-strong-storms-heavy-rain-moving-east-of-dallas-fort-worth.ece>

Rocky Mountain Power Reports Peak of 28,984 Customers Lose Power in Utah after Snow Storms Knock out Substations April 3

A majority of the outages were caused by four substations blowing out in the Millcreek area. As of latest reports, only 206 customers remain without power.

<http://www.rockymountainpower.net/ed/po/uo.html>

http://www.abc4.com/content/news/top_stories/story/Storm-causes-accidents-and-power-outages/41kqhGhtmE-rfhKGmyOe7g.csp

Update: TVA's 1,125 MW Watts Bar Nuclear Unit 1 in Tennessee Shut by April 4

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 3 the unit was operating at 81 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Exelon's 1,022 MW Clinton Nuclear Unit in Illinois Reduced to 58 Percent by April 2, Ramped Up to 97 Percent by April 3

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 1 the unit was operating at 97 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Exelon's 855 MW Quad Cities Nuclear Unit 1 in Illinois Reduced to 64 Percent by April 2, Ramped Up to 99 Percent by April 4

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 1 the unit was operating at full power. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Luminant's 1,150 MW Comanche Peak Nuclear Unit 2 in Texas Shut by April 3

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 2 the unit was operating at full power. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

STP's 1,251 MW South Texas Nuclear Unit 1 in Texas Shut by April 3

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 2 the unit was operating at full power. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Dominion's 871 MW Millstone Nuclear Unit 2 in Connecticut Shut by April 3

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 2 the unit was operating at full power. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Southern's 1,152 MW Vogtle Nuclear Unit 1 in Georgia Ramped Up to 80 Percent by April 4

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 1 the unit was operating at 2 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

FPL's 839 MW Saint Lucie Nuclear Unit 1 in Florida Reduced to 80 Percent by April 4

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 3 the unit was operating at full power. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

FirstEnergy's 1,235 MW Perry Nuclear Unit 1 in Ohio Reduced to 80 Percent by April 4

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 3 the unit was operating at 89 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Duke Energy's 846 MW Oconee Nuclear Unit 1 in South Carolina Shut by April 2

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 1 the unit was operating at full power. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

APS's 1,243 MW Palo Verde Nuclear Unit 2 in Arizona Shut by April 2

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 1 the unit was operating at 90 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: PG&E's 1,150 MW Diablo Canyon Nuclear Unit 2 in California at Full Power by April 2

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) shut the unit on March 26 after the "loss of the 2-1 main feedwater pump," the company said previously in a filing with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that the unit was still shut on the morning of March 31. The unit ramped up to 35 percent by the morning of April 1 and 70 percent by the morning of April 2. The unit was at full power by about 2:30 PM on April 2 according to PG&E.

<http://diablocanyonpge.com/home/media-center/announcements/diablo-canyon-power-plants-unit-2-returns-to-full-power>

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201104021515.html>

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

OPG's 750 MW Bruce Nuclear Unit 3 in Ontario Shut by April 3

Reuters, 06:17 April 4, 2011

Update: Duke's 325 MW Morro Bay Unit 3 Gas-Fired Unit in California Returns to Service by April 1

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned curtailment of 180 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201104011515.html>

Luminant to Shut 793 MW Monticello Coal-Fired Unit 3 in Texas for Repairs April 4

According to a filing with state regulators, the unit will be shutdown to repair a control valve electrohydraulic fluid leak. The company plans to restart the unit later in the day.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152722>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152726>

Luminant's 617 MW Big Brown Unit 1 and 575 MW Big Brown Unit 2 in Texas Shut April 1-2

At Unit 1, the 1-2 Inlet West electrostatic precipitator (ESP) tripped due to a control program malfunction on April 1. Unit 2 tripped due to a failure of the 2B Booster fan on April 2. Operators expected to start up unit 2 later in the day.

Reuters, 06:17 April 4, 2011

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152770>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152776>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152773>

TR Set Trips at Xcel's 347 MW Harrington Coal-Fired Unit in Texas April 2

Repairs were begun on April 2.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152769>

Operators Find Two Small Openings in Wall at OPPD's 478 MW Fort Calhoun Nuclear Unit in Nebraska March 31

Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) officials informed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that they found two conduits, each about four inches, uncovered in the wall of an auxiliary building at OPPD's Fort Calhoun nuclear plant. The openings are high enough that flooding from the Missouri River is not likely to pose a problem.

<http://www.krvn.com/news/index/fc272271-00ac-4e30-935f-14aed0b7c06e>

Update: Xcel Cancels Plans for 150 MW Merricourt Wind Farm in North Dakota over Threat to Birds

The Merricourt project was expected to begin operations this year. Xcel Energy intended to build the project in partnership with EnXco.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-04-01/xcel-cancels-north-dakota-150-megawatt-wind-farm-that-may-threaten-birds.html?cmpid=yhoo>

Xcel Seeks to Build 200-Mile, 345 kV Texas-to-Oklahoma Transmission Line

The proposed transmission line would connect Xcel Energy's TUCO Substation near Lubbock, Texas to a new interchange in Beckham County, Oklahoma. The line would move at least 500 MW of generating capacity.

<http://www.xcelenergy.com/Colorado/Company/Newsroom/Pages/2011-03-31-BuildanewelectricpowertransmissionlinetoOklahoma.aspx>

Up to One Million MWh of Electricity Could be Generated Annually by Adding Hydropower Capacity to 70 Existing Dam Facilities: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Report

To read the report, Hydropower Resource Assessment at Existing Reclamation Facilities, please click on the first link below.

<http://www.usbr.gov/power/AssessmentReport/USBRHydroAssessmentFinalReportMarch2011.pdf>

<http://www.waterpowermagazine.com/story.asp?sectioncode=130&storyCode=2059275>

Petroleum

Update: Labor Strike Shuts All 240,000 b/d of Crude Production in Gabon by April 2

According to a National Organization of Oil Employees (ONEP) union official, all production has been halted throughout the country since the strike began at midnight, March 31. Total and Shell confirmed on April 1 that they are shutting down their fields, while VAALCO confirmed it is in the process of shutting in a portion of the 23,500 b/d Etame Marin block offshore Gabon. Gabon produces an estimated total of 240,000 b/d.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/gabonNews/idAFLDE7310FW20110402>

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/vaalco-energy-provides-operations-update-following-gabon-industrial-action-119074109.html>

Update: Operators Restore Units at ExxonMobil's 150,000 b/d Torrance, California Refinery to Normal Operations Following April 1 Shutdown

The company said operators finished maintenance on a hydrocracker, a sat gas plant, and a hydrogen unit at the refinery. While unconfirmed by the company, trade sources also indicated that the refinery's alkylation unit was shut on Friday and restarted over the weekend.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-04-01/exxon-torrance-oil-refinery-completes-maintenance-1-.html>
<http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFWEN044820110404>

BLM Nearly Finished Clearing Two-Year Backlog of 1,501 Unissued O&G Leases in Wyoming

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has issued 1,109 leases to oil and gas companies and deferred issuing 222 leases. According to an agency spokeswoman, the BLM expects to decide on the remaining 170 leases within a week or two. The Western Energy Alliance, a regional oil and gas group, had previously sued the BLM over lease delays.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9MASC8G0.htm>

Oil Well Catches Fire in Shallowater, Texas April 1

According to a firefighter, a mechanical malfunction may have caused an explosion that led to a fire.

<http://www.myfoxlubbock.com/news/local/story/Oil-well-explosion-Shallowater/BuuNR8b68EOBu0gHwcZ9DA.csp?rss=2345>

Savage and KCS Agree to Construct a Unit Train Crude Oil Destination Terminal in Port Arthur, Texas April 1

Savage Companies plans to build the Port Arthur Crude Terminal (PACT) on property owned by Kansas City Southern (KCS). The terminal will be designed to bring unit train rail service of Bakken Shale crude oil to the Gulf Coast for distribution and refining.

<http://www.savageservices.com/press/index.php>

Naphtha Leak Leads to Distillation Unit Shutdown at Shell's 329,800 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery March 31

According to a government filing, operators shut the refinery's DU2 Unit Crude Column V-5102 distillation unit after discovering the leak. It was not clear if the incident had any impact on production.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/industries/2011/04/01/shell-reports-shutdown-deer-park-crude-distillation-unit/>

Update: Libyan Rebels Prepare to Export 1 Million Barrels of Crude Oil April 4

According to a representative of the newly established oil company, the Liberian-registered tanker "Equator" is due to arrive at the Marsa el-Hariga oil port near Tobruk today to load a cargo of 1 million barrels of Serir/Mesla blend crude oil. This is due to be the first sale of oil by the rebels. The tanker is owned by Greek-based Dynacom Tankers Management Ltd. It is not known who chartered the tanker, but last week Qatar offered to market oil exported from rebel-held territory.

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/Oil/8743434>

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/3370af26-5ec3-11e0-8e7d-00144feab49a.html?ftcamp=rss#axzz1IZRfpo4u>

Natural Gas

Secretary LaHood Announces Pipeline Safety Action Plan April 4

Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood announced on April 4 a series of initiatives aimed at increasing scrutiny of the country's oil and natural gas pipeline infrastructure following a series of deadly gas pipeline failures during the last year. Secretary LaHood said that he had asked Congress to increase the maximum civil penalties for pipeline safety violations and to boost the department's staff of inspectors. He also called on Congress to close regulatory loopholes and strengthen data reporting.

<http://www.dot.gov/affairs/2011/dot4111.html>

Update: Japanese Government Considering Regulatory Changes to Avoid Summer Electric Supply Shortage

Even though Tokyo Electric Power (Tepco) has already brought some mothballed and damaged thermal power plants back online following last month's earthquake and tsunami, it is estimated that supply will be nearly 10,000 MW short of peak demand this summer. To avoid blackouts, the Japanese government may allow industries to coordinate plant operating hours to prevent concentration of power use in peak periods. The government may also waive land use restrictions to allow power generators at various factory sites, while other rules may be eased in order to reduce air-conditioner use. The government hopes to finalize specific proposed regulatory changes by the end of April, with implementation set for July.

<http://m.economictimes.com/PDAET/articleshow/msid-7865450,curpg-2.cms>

Update: Tepco to Release Over 10,000 Tonnes of Radioactive Water from its Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant into the Ocean

According to the Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary, the water to be released is 100 times more radioactive than legal limits allow. However, the release will result in additional storage space for water with much higher levels of radioactivity. Separately, Tokyo Electric Power (Tepco) also announced it will build a silt barrier over the next few days to prevent the leak of radioactive water into the sea after operators were unable to fill a crack in a power-cable storage pit with a mix of sawdust, newspaper, and plastic.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/metalsNews/idAFL3E7F40YT20110404>

<http://news.businessweek.com/article.asp?documentKey=1377-aEVtEDK8Ij3s-7CRV43NRB20NI2OC3N4EJUVUOT>

Southeast Idaho Energy Puts Proposed 2,300 Tons/Day Coal-Gasification Plant in Idaho on Hold Due to Lack of Money

According to a company representative, the plant would use about 2,300 tons of coal and coal-petroleum coke blends per day to produce synthetic gas for fertilizer. Southeast Idaho Energy is a subsidiary of Refined Energy Holdings, LLC.

<http://www.greenfieldreporter.com/view/story/b12cd9114d16442baec9f54fddb75912/ID--Gasification-Plant/>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 4, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	107.65	104.01	85.06
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.32	4.13	3.72

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

SunPower Plans 20 MW Copper Crossing Solar Plant in Pinal County, Arizona in 2011 – Fluor Will Construct the Facility

<http://investor.fluor.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=124955&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1545629&highlight>

One Worker Killed after Hilcorp Energy Company Gas Wellhead Explodes in Maurice, Louisiana March 31

<http://www.theadvertiser.com/article/20110331/NEWS01/110331015/1046/-Wall-Street-dropped-steeply-/One-dead-after-wellhead-explosion-Maurice?odyssey=nav|head>

WVU Professor and Chesapeake Energy Officials Deny Link between Natural Gas Drilling and Earthquakes in Arkansas

<http://news-register.net/page/content.detail/id/553713/Proof-Not-There--Prof--Drilling--Earthquakes-Not-Connected.html?nav=515>

AccuWeather Predicts “Active” Hurricane Season in 2011 with 15 Named Tropical Storms and Eight Hurricanes

http://weblogs.marylandweather.com/2011/03/accuweathers_2011_hurricane_fo.html

Truck Crashes, Spilling 2,000 Gallons of Diesel and 5,000 Gallons of Gasoline in Colorado March 31

<http://www.newsfirst5.com/news/truck-crash-spills-7-000-gallons-of-fuel-in-creeks/>

NRC Finds No Environmental or Safety Reasons to Deny License Extensions for PSE&G’s Hope Creek and Salem 1 and 2 Nuclear Units in New Jersey April 1

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/Relicensing-of-Salem-Hope-apf-3015114721.html?x=0&.v=1>

Goldsmith Gas Plant Goes Offline, Restarts after Losing Third Party Electrical Power in Texas April 3

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152780>

Units #20 and #23 Shut, Restart at Keystone Gas Plant in Texas April 30 – Unit #23 Was Shut Due to Loss of Power to Panel

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152774>

Western Refining Reports an 8-Inch Suction Line from Tank 122 Pressured Up and Leaked Fuel at its 125,000 b/d El Paso, Texas Refinery April 1 – Recovered Material Was Returned for Reprocessing

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=152739>

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

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>

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