



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

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, April 04, 2012

## *Electricity*

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### **Update: More Than 3,000 Oncor Customers Remain without Power in North Texas April 4 after Tornadoes April 3**

Oncor Electric Delivery reported as of 2:42 PM CDT this afternoon 3,303 of its customers affected by yesterday's severe storms and tornadoes were without power, primarily in south Arlington/Kennedale and Lancaster, Texas, according to reports. An Oncor spokeswoman said the utility called in dozens of crews from unaffected parts of its service area in central and west Texas to help restore power and expected full restoration by Wednesday afternoon.  
[http://blogs.star-telegram.com/storm\\_troopers/2012/04/about-40000-in-north-texas-without-power.html](http://blogs.star-telegram.com/storm_troopers/2012/04/about-40000-in-north-texas-without-power.html)  
<http://stormcenter.oncor.com/default.html>

### **AEP, Great Plains Energy Form New Transmission Company, Transource; First Projects to Include 200 Miles of 345-kV Transmission in Missouri**

American Electric Power (AEP) and Great Plains Energy have formed a new company to develop and invest in transmission, the companies announced in a press release today. Through Transource Energy LLC (Transource), AEP and Great Plains Energy initially plan to pursue competitive transmission projects in the PJM Interconnection, Southwest Power Pool (SPP), and Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO) transmission regions. Great Plains Energy will seek regulatory approval to transfer two SPP-approved regional transmission projects, located in Missouri, to Transource. The Sibley-Nebraska City line is a 175-mile, 345-kV line linking the Nebraska City, Nebraska substation (owned by Omaha Public Power District, or OPPD) with the Sibley, Missouri substation. Transource would partner with OPPD to construct and jointly own the project. The Iatan-Nashua line is a 30-mile, 345-kV line from the Iatan substation near Weston, Missouri to the Nashua substation near Smithville, Missouri. Transource expects to place the line into service by 2015.  
<http://www.aep.com/newsroom/newsreleases/?id=1756>

### **Update: Entergy's 813 MW FitzPatrick Nuclear Unit in New York Ramped Up to 99 Percent by April 4**

Entergy Corp. was operating the unit at reduced power on Monday to perform repairs on one of the reactor's water recirculation pump motors, according to previous reports.  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

### **Update: PG&E's 1,087 MW Diablo Canyon Nuclear Unit 1 in California at Full Power by April 4**

On the morning of April 3 the unit was operating at 82 percent.  
<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

### **AES's 506 MW Redondo Gas-Fired Unit 7 in California Shut by April 3**

The unit entered an unplanned outage.  
<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201204031515.html>

### **Dynegy's 335 MW El Segundo Gas-Fired Unit 4 in California Shut by April 3**

The unit entered an unplanned outage.  
<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201204031515.html>

### **Cabrillo Power's 330 MW Encina Gas-Fired Unit 5 in California Shut by April 3**

The unit entered an unplanned outage.  
<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201204031515.html>

## **Update: AES's 336 MW Alamitos Gas-fired Unit 4 in California Returns to Service by April 3**

The unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201204031515.html>

## **Petroleum**

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### **Sunoco Starts Deliveries on 40,000 b/d West Texas-Houston Pipeline to Deliver West Texas Sour to U.S. Gulf Coast**

Sunoco Logistics Partners LP reported it was starting deliveries this week on a new West Texas-to-Houston crude oil pipeline link that will deliver up to 40,000 b/d of West Texas Sour to the U.S. Gulf Coast, a company source said by email on Wednesday. Sunoco announced in mid-February binding open seasons for this project, called West Texas – Houston Access, and another project, West Texas – Longview Access, to deliver crude oil from West Texas to the Mid-Valley Pipeline at Longview and to the Houston market, the company said in a release. The 30,000 b/d Longview Access project is scheduled for operation by January 2013.

Reuters, 11:30 April 4, 2012

<http://www.sunocologistics.com/Investors/News-Releases/44/>

### **Update: Magellan Considering Adding Capacity to Longhorn Pipeline Reversal Project in Texas to Meet Expected Production Growth in Permian Basin – CEO**

[http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/03/pipelines-magellan-](http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/03/pipelines-magellan-idUSL2E8F37RZ20120403?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43)

[idUSL2E8F37RZ20120403?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43](http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/03/pipelines-magellan-idUSL2E8F37RZ20120403?type=companyNews&feedType=RSS&feedName=companyNews&rpc=43)

### **Magellan Considering Reactivating Idle Pipeline to Carry Crude from Cushing to Gulf Coast Refineries – CEO**

[http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/article.aspx?subjectid=49&articleid=20120404\\_49\\_E1\\_Magell906787](http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/article.aspx?subjectid=49&articleid=20120404_49_E1_Magell906787)

### **Valero Resumes Planned Rates after Lightning Strike Shuts Hydrocracker at Its 120,000 b/d Meraux, Louisiana Refinery April 3**

Valero Energy Corp. reported its Meraux refinery had resumed planned rates Tuesday afternoon after an overnight lightning strike caused a power surge, causing a hydrocracking unit to trip, a company spokesman said. Local officials reported emissions of sulfur dioxide and hydrogen sulfide from flaring caused by the shutdown, but the lightning strike did not damage production equipment, and operators restarted the hydrocracker.

Reuters, 17:52 April 3, 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/04/refinery-operations-valero-meraux-idUSWNAB829020120404>

### **Chalmette Refining Reports Compressor Trip, Emissions at Its 192,500 b/d Chalmette, Louisiana Refinery April 3**

Chalmette Refining LLC reported a compressor failure at its Chalmette refinery Tuesday afternoon led to the release of an unknown amount of sulfur dioxide and hydrogen sulfide into the atmosphere, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were attempting to bring the compressor back online, the filing said.

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1007713](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1007713)

### **Motiva Reports FCCU Upset at Its 285,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery April 4**

Motiva Enterprises reported a process upset on the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) No. 3 caused emissions at its Port Arthur refinery Wednesday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators quickly corrected the upset, ending the emissions event.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=166765>

### **Valero Cuts FCCU Feed at Its 171,000 b/d McKee, Texas Refinery April 2**

Valero reported an excess opacity event 24 hours after feed was pulled from the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) to shut down the electrostatic precipitator (ESP), prior to shutting down the blower, according to a filing with state regulators. Operators shut the FCCU feed to avoid potential hydrocarbons from getting into the ESP, which could cause an explosion, but the filing doesn't state why operators were concerned about feed getting into the ESP.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=166762>

## **Enterprise's Cape Girardeau, Missouri Terminal Out of ULSD April 3, Likely to be Out of Sub-octane Gasoline April 4**

Enterprise Products Partners reported its Cape Girardeau terminal in Missouri ran out of ultra low sulfur diesel (ULSD) on Tuesday afternoon and expects resupplies to arrive on Monday. The company reported also that its sub-octane gasoline supply will likely run out on Wednesday; resupplies are expected on Saturday.  
Reuters, 11:12 April 4, 2012

## **Quebec Court Denies Montreal Pipe Line Request to Construct Pumping Station at Vermont Border; Could Delay Project to Reverse Montreal-Portland Oil Pipeline**

The Court of Quebec in February denied a request from Montreal Pipe Line Ltd., which is partially owned by Suncor Energy, to construct a pumping station near the Quebec-Vermont border, a decision that is likely to delay any attempt to reverse a 236-mile pipeline to carry Western Canadian oil sands crude oil from Montreal to South Portland. The court denied the request because the pumping station was to be built on land zoned for agricultural development. A spokesman for the Portland Pipe Line Corp., a subsidiary of the Montreal company that operates the U.S.-side of the pipeline, said the company has no active plans to move forward with the pipeline reversal project at this time, but the court case did provide a means of laying legal groundwork should the company ever decide to pursue that option.

<http://www.mpbn.net/News/MaineNewsArchive/tabid/181/ctl/ViewItem/mid/3475/ItemId/21173/Default.aspx>  
<http://www.mainebiz.biz/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20120403/NEWS02/120409981/1088>

## **Department of Interior Announces Initiatives to Accelerate Drilling Permits and Leases on Federal Lands**

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar yesterday announced new initiatives to expedite development of domestic energy resources on U.S. public lands and Indian trust lands in the Dakotas, Montana, and states across the country. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will implement new automated tracking systems that could reduce the review period for drilling permits by two-thirds and expedite the sale and processing of federal oil and gas leases. Secretary Salazar also announced yesterday the launch of BLM's new National Oil and Gas Lease Sale System to provide a standardized format and electronic capabilities, improve workflow process, and streamline the phases of competitive oil and gas lease sales.

<http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/Secretary-Salazar-Visits-North-Dakotas-Oil-Boom-Unveils-Initiatives-to-Accelerate-Drilling-Permits-and-Leases-on-Federal-Lands.cfm>

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## **Natural Gas**

### **MarkWest's 12-Inch Natural Gas Pipeline Ruptures, Explodes near Carthage, Texas April 4**

MarkWest confirmed in a statement today that a 12-inch natural gas transmission line ruptured and exploded just before 6:00 AM CDT this morning, igniting a fire that was quickly extinguished by local emergency responders. The explosion took place south of Carthage, Texas, about one-quarter mile from the Gary Compressor Station. Operators capped the pipeline before 8:00 AM and immediately shut the compressor station. No structural damage to the compressor station equipment has been reported, and the cause of the rupture is under investigation.

<http://www.ksla.com/story/17329060/early-morning-pipeline-explosion-rocks-homes-in-carthage-area>

### **Williams Reports Pinhole Leak on 36-Inch Transco Natural Gas Pipeline in New Jersey; Expects No Impact on Supplies to Customers**

Williams Co. reported a tiny, pinhole leak was discovered in its 36-inch Transco natural gas pipeline in Bergen County, New Jersey during a routine inspection, a spokesman said in an email. Operators stopped flowing gas through the pipe and vented all the gas from that section of the line, the spokesman said. The company was diverting gas volumes to other delivery points and did not expect an impact on supplies to customers, but it gave no estimate for when repairs to the line will be completed.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-04-03/williams-says-no-supply-impact-from-new-jersey-gas-line-leak-1-.html?cmpid=yhoo>

## Other News

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### DOE Inspector General Audit Identifies Cyber Security Risks Related to Bonneville Power IT Program

The U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Inspector General (OIG) on March 26 released an audit report on the management of Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) information technology (IT) program. The BPA provides approximately 30 percent of wholesale electric power to regional utilities in the Pacific Northwest. According to the report, prior reviews had identified weaknesses related to BPA's IT program, which BPA subsequently took steps to address, but the OIG's latest audit identified new concerns in the areas of cyber security, project management, and procurement of IT resources. The report concludes that many of the security weaknesses the OIG identified could allow an individual with malicious intent, particularly an insider, to compromise systems and obtain unauthorized access to potentially sensitive information. BPA issued a response to the OIG report that "is in intended to correct several erroneous assertions" and provide "additional information regarding the effectiveness and efficiency of BPA's IT program."

<http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/IG-0861.pdf>

<http://www.bpa.gov/corporate/pubs/audits/12/Bonneville-Response-to-draft-IG-Report-Appendix.pdf>

### Utility Employee, Two Others Indicted in Theft of Copper Wire from Bangor Hydro-Electric Co. in Maine

<http://www.thenorthwestern.com/usatoday/article/38914623?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|s>

### More Than 2,500 Linear Feet of Copper Wire Stolen from Orange and Rockland Utilities Substation in West Nyack, New York February 22

<http://nanuet.patch.com/articles/stony-point-man-charged-in-50k-copper-wire-theft-from-o-r-in-west-nyack>

## International News

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### Update: Total Says Wind Hazard Delays Gas Leak Inspection at its North Sea Elgin Platform; Pushes Relief Efforts Back to Thursday or Friday

Reuters, 09:08 April 4, 2012

### Update: 4 Cargoes of April-Loading North Sea Forties Crude Now Cancelled, 8 Delayed Due to Elgin Gas Leak, Operational Problems

Reuters, 11:33 April 4, 2012

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 4, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	101.74	105.01	107.65
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	1.94	2.09	4.32

Source: Reuters

## Links

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***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](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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