



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, April 08, 2011

Electricity

Update: Duke Energy's 1,100 MW McGuire Nuclear Unit 2 in North Carolina Ramped Up to 97 Percent by April 8

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 7 the unit was operating at 77 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

FirstEnergy's 821 MW Beaver Valley Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Reduced to 82 Percent by April 8

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 7 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/>

Update: Reliant's 215 MW Mandalay Gas-Fired Unit 2 in California Returns to Service by April 7

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201104071515.html>

Update: Citing Japanese Disaster, TVA Postpones Plans to Seek Internal Authorization to Complete Unfinished Reactor at Bellefonte Nuclear Power Plant in Alabama

Citing the disaster in Japan, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) said it would not ask its board for authorization to complete an unfinished nuclear reactor at the Bellefonte nuclear power plant in Alabama, TVA's president and CEO Tom Kilgore said on April 6. Despite the delay, Kilgore said the company was "not stopping" the project, and still tentatively planned to launch operations in the 2018-2019 timeframe.

http://blog.al.com/wire/2011/04/tva_delays_bellefonte_decision.html

U.S. Wind Power Industry Adds 5,116 MW of New Capacity in 2010: AWEA

The U.S. wind power industry installed 5,116 MW of new capacity in 2010, boosting the nation's wind power capacity to 40,181 MW, the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) said on April 7. The 5,116 MW total accounted for 26 percent of all new electric generating capacity in the United States. The industry also brought online 14 new manufacturing facilities. The U.S. wind market entered 2011 with 5,600 MW under construction – more than twice the amount under construction at the start of 2010.

http://www.awea.org/newsroom/pressreleases/release_07APR11_.cfm

Petroleum

Update: Sunoco Restarting FCC at 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery April 7

Sunoco was restarting a gasoline-making fluid catalytic cracking (FCC) unit at the Girard Point section of the refinery on April 7, a source familiar with the facility's operations said. The company shut the FCC for unscheduled work in early March. It restarted the unit on April 1, but an operational problem forced it to shut the unit again on April 5. Sunoco also expected to restart a crude distillation unit (CDU) at the facility over the weekend, according to the same source. The company shut the CDU in early-March for planned work. It had expected to restart the unit on April 5, but the FCC problem postponed that plan.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/04/07/refinery-operations-sunoco-philadelphia-idUSN0718947920110407>

Update: After Late-March Power Failure, Sunoco Restarts FCC at 194,000 b/d Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania Refinery by April 7

Sunoco fixed and restarted the gasoline-producing fluid catalytic cracking (FCC) unit after a March 28 power failure, a source familiar with the facility's operations said by April 7. The unit was returning to planned rates, according to the source. The site's other main processing units remained offline, pending the FCC restart.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-04-07/sunoco-said-to-restart-marcus-hook-refinery-catalytic-cracker.html?cmpid=yahoo>

Small Fire Forces Shut Crude Unit at Valero's 287,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery April 7

A flange leak and a small fire forced shut a crude unit on April 7, but the incident was not expected to impact production, a Valero spokesman said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-04-07/valero-reports-small-fire-at-crude-unit-tower-unit-shutdown.html>
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=153081>

Update: Alon Finishes Restarting FCC at 80,000 b/d Krotz Springs, Louisiana Refinery by April 8

Alon shut the gasoline-producing fluid catalytic cracking (FCC) unit for unidentified reasons by early on April 6, according to an earlier regulatory filing.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-04-06/alon-s-krotz-springs-plant-shut-cat-cracker-filing-shows-1-.html>

DJN, 10:48 April 6, 2011

Reuters, 01:18 April 8, 2011

Nationwide Blackouts to Blame for Temporary Shutdown at PdVSA's 146,000 b/d El Palito, Venezuela Refinery April 7

Blackouts struck the majority of Venezuela yesterday, temporarily forcing offline PdVSA's 146,000 b/d El Palito refinery, Reuters reported. The company restarted the facility. It said no other refineries were affected.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/world/venezuela-hit-by-massive-blackouts-1.1053919?showComments=true>

High Oil Prices Prompt Chevron to Boost Oil Activity in Permian Basin, Texas – Company to Drill 350 Wells in Basin during 2011, Double 2010 Total

Chevron operates 11,000 wells and produces approximately 53,000 b/d of oil, at present, in the Permian Basin.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=105924

Despite Libyan Shutdowns, Global Oil Supply Surges by 275,000 b/d from February to March 2011: Petroleum Intelligence Weekly

Global oil supply rose from 90.381 million b/d in February 2011 to a record 90.656 million b/d in March 2011, according to preliminary results from Petroleum Intelligence Weekly, as OPEC and non-OPEC nations raised production by enough to more than compensate for more than 1 million b/d of lost output in Libya.

<http://www.energyintel.com/#latest>

Update: After Two-Month Capture, Somali Pirates Release Greek-Owned Oil Tanker by April 8 – Ship Was Headed for United States, Prior to Attack

Somali pirates released the Greek-owned "Irene SL" oil tanker by April 8, the Greek coastguard said, approximately two months after hijacking the ship offshore Oman. The tanker had been carrying approximately 2 million barrels of Kuwaiti crude and was en route to the United States, prior to the attack. It was not clear if a ransom was paid.

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJOE7370DF20110408>

Natural Gas

Williams Plans 24-Inch, 33.5-Mile Natural Gas Pipeline Project in Pennsylvania

The Springville Gathering System would deliver gas from the Lathrop compressor station in Springville to a new compressor station near Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania. It would link to the Transco natural gas pipeline system through a new metering station in Dallas Township, Pennsylvania. The company expects to begin work on the project this spring. The system would serve natural gas producers in the Marcellus Shale.

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=26295

Other News

USDA Program to Provide Funding for Installation of Flexible Fuel Pumps - Obama Administration Aims to Install 10,000 Flexible Fuel Pumps across United States within Five Years

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) plans to provide fuel station owners with financial incentives to install flexible fuel pumps, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said on April 8, by issuing a rule that would make flexible fuel pumps eligible for funding under the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). The Obama administration aims to install 10,000 flexible fuel pumps nationwide within five years. Flexible fuel pumps let the consumer choose blends of up to 85% ethanol in the fuel that is dispensed out of the pump.

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda!/ut/p/c5/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os_gAC9-wMJ8QY0MDpxBDA09nXw9DFxcXQ-cAA_1wkA5kFaGuQBXeASbmnu4uBgbe5hB5AxxA0UDfzyM_N1W_IDS7zdFRUREAZXAYpA!!/dl3/d3/L2dJQSEvUUt3QS9ZQnZ3LzZfUDhNVIZMVDMxMEJUMTBJO01IMURERDFDUDA!/?contentidonly=true&contentid=2011%2f04%2f0158.xml

Update: Tokyo Electric Power Continues to Pump Nitrogen into Stricken Reactor at Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in Japan by April 8

Tokyo Electric Power continued to inject nitrogen into reactor No. 1 at its earthquake-and-tsunami-damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan, as of latest reports, in a bid to prevent hydrogen from accumulating inside the reactor. The facility had also run out of storage space for contaminated water, as of April 8. As a consequence, workers were expected to have to drain 11,500 tonnes of the water into the ocean. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), meanwhile, said radiation around the facility had dipped to “a level very close to background.” Radiation levels peaked in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami, according to the IAEA. The head of a U.N. scientific body, separately, citing iodine levels lower than those after the Chernobyl disaster, said the situation at Fukushima Daiichi was not forecast to seriously impact human health. Reuters, 02:46 April 8, 2011

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 8, 2011			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	111.47	106.80	85.60
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	4.12	4.32	4.09

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

BlueChip Plans 40 MW Solar Power Generating Facility in Lake County, Florida – Company to Open 10 MW Phase in 2012

<http://www.bizjournals.com/orlando/news/2011/04/07/progress-energy-bluechip-ink-power-pact.html?ana=yfcpc>

Update: Citing Costs, Excelsior Energy Proposes to Temporarily Abandon Clean Coal Portion of Proposed 600 MW Coal Gasification Power Plant in Minnesota – Newly-Conceived Mesaba Energy Project Would Run on Natural Gas

<http://www.startribune.com/business/119426469.html>

<http://www.excelsiorenergy.com/mesaba/>

NRG to Install 70 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in Dallas/Fort Worth and 50 in Houston, Texas by End of 2012

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/External.File?item=UGFyZW50SUQ9ODg5NTJ8Q2hpbGRJRD0tMXxUeXBIPtM=&t=1>

Valero Sees No Impact on Production after Power Blip at 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery April 8

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=153093>

Reuters, 11:08 April 8, 2011

Houston Refining Reports Benzene Release at 270,600 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery April 7

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=972300

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-04-08/houston-refining-reports-benzene-release-in-texas-filing-shows.html>

Update: Blowout Preventer Was Four Years Late for Maintenance (According to Transocean Guidelines) Prior to Fatal April 2010 Failure at Deepwater Horizon Oil Rig in U.S. Gulf of Mexico

http://articles.boston.com/2011-04-07/news/29393429_1_blowout-preventer-deepwater-horizon-rig-workers

Fuel Tanker Crashes into Truck and Explodes, Leaving One Driver Dead along Interstate 95 in Bryan County, Georgia April 7

<http://www2.wsav.com/news/2011/apr/07/15/fuel-truck-catches-fire-i-95-ar-1684215/>

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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