



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, April 08, 2015

Electricity

Constellation's 1,768 MW Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant in Maryland Shut Due to Offsite Grid Disturbance Caused by Transmission Outage at Ryceville Substation April 7

Both units at Constellation's Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant shut down automatically Tuesday at 12:40 p.m. EDT, as a result of a localized grid disturbance that caused power outages in the Washington, D.C./Maryland area. A small explosion and fire was reported on Tuesday at Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative's and Pepco's jointly owned Ryceville substation, causing a dip in voltage across both company's systems, which knocked out power to over 24,000 customers. Calvert Cliffs is designed to shut down automatically during significant electrical disturbances. The plant shut down safely and without incident. Both reactors will remain in "hot shut-down," which means the reactor remains ready to resume power production, until the offsite grid disturbance can be addressed.

http://www.exeloncorp.com/newsroom/pr_04072015_GenCo_CALVERT%20CLIFFS%20SHUTS%20DOWN%20AUTOMATICALLY.aspx

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20150408en.html#en50961>

Entergy's 1,207 MW Grand Gulf Nuclear Unit 1 in Mississippi Reduced to 46 Percent by April 8

On the morning of April 7 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

NMC's 522 MW Prairie Island Nuclear Unit 1 in Minnesota Shut April 7

The unit shut from full power due to an inadvertent emergency siren activation.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2015/20150408en.html>

Update: Exelon's 855 MW Quad Cities Nuclear Unit 2 in Illinois at Full Power by April 8

On the morning of April 7 the unit was operating at 85 percent, reduced from full power by April 6.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2015/>

Update: PG&E's 407 MW Helms Hydro Unit 2 in California Returns to Service by April 7

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began by April 6.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201504071515.html>

Update: Calpine's 120 MW Gilroy Gas-fired Unit in California Returns to Service by April 7

The unit returned from an unplanned outage that began by April 1.

<http://content.aiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201504071515.html>

AEP Will Close Seven Coal-Fired Power Plants, Convert Two to Natural Gas This Year to Comply with Federal Clean Air Rules

American Electric Power (AEP) will close seven coal-fired power plants and convert two others to run on natural gas in Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, and Indiana this year as part of plans announced in 2011, and required in part by federal clean air rules. Most of the 7 plants will be shut by the end of May. Plants to be converted to natural gas are the 1,078 MW Big Sandy plant in Kentucky and the 705 MW Clinch River plant in Virginia. Plants to be shut are 335 MW Glen Lyn plant in Virginia; the 630 MW Kammer, the 400 MW Kanawha River, and 300 MW Sporn plants in West Virginia; the 1,440 MW Muskingham River and 100 MW Picway plant in Ohio; and the 995 MW Tanners Creek plant in Indiana.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/business/2015/04/07/two-coal-plants-in-ohio-part-of-closings.html>

Canada Hopes to Finalize Tank Car Standards this Month – Transport Minister

The Canadian government would like to finalize specifications for a new version of the tank cars used to transport crude oil by rail by the end of this month, the Canadian Transport Minister said on Tuesday. Due to several high-profile accidents involving trains carrying crude oil, Canada and the U.S. are drafting tougher standards that will see the vast majority of tank cars currently in use retrofitted or replaced. Transport Canada last month released implementation deadlines that would keep some cars in service for another decade until 2025, even though accident investigators have said they perform poorly in crashes. On Monday, the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) said a 10-year deadline was “excessively long” and recommended a more aggressive schedule. The U.S. Department of Transportation has yet to announce its timeline.

Reuters, 23:58 April 7, 2015

BNSF Railway Sued by Native American Tribe over Oil Train Traffic in Washington

The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community in Washington State filed a federal lawsuit on Tuesday against BNSF Railway to prevent trains carrying crude oil from using tracks on reservation land, saying the transport violates a long-standing agreement. The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community says BNSF has been using tracks that cross reservation land in Skagit County, near the Canadian border, to transport crude oil since at least 2012 without seeking approval of the shipments from tribe officials. The complaint also alleges that BNSF has broken the terms of a 1991 easement agreement which limited the number of rail cars that can use the 130-year-old tracks each day. The Swinomish Indian Tribal Community said it repeatedly asked BNSF to disclose how much crude was using the tracks, which run across the northern part of the reservation, and to adhere to the 1991 agreement that limited crossings to one 25-car train in each direction daily. The lawsuit seeks a permanent injunction against BNSF preventing the movement of crude oil on the tracks and limiting the number of trains using the reservation to two per day. The tribe also seeks a judgment of breach of contract and trespass.

Reuters, 18:12 April 7, 2015

California Crude by Rail Imports Fall to 2-Year Low in February – California Energy Commission

California imported 176,203 barrels of crude by rail in February, the lowest single-month level since January 2013, the California Energy Commission (CEC) said on Tuesday. The February total is nearly half of the January import total of 342,901 barrels, the CEC said. A senior fuels specialist with the CEC said the plunge in crude by rail shipments could be attributed to a shrinking in the price differential between North American crudes and international crudes like Brent North Sea.

Reuters, 20:03 April 7, 2015

http://energyalmanac.ca.gov/petroleum/statistics/2015_crude_by_rail.html

U.S. Crude Oil Stock Recorded Largest Build since 2001 – EIA

U.S. crude oil stocks recorded its largest weekly build in at least 14 years, data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) showed on Wednesday. U.S. crude stocks rose 10.9 million barrels to 482.4 million barrels in the week to April 3, data showed. Meanwhile, U.S. Gulf Coast crude stocks recorded its largest weekly build since July 2010, rising 7.8 million barrels to 236.4 million barrels.

Reuters, 10:55 April 8, 2015

Update: PES Restarts FCCU after Outage at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery –Source

Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES) restarted the fluid catalytic cracker unit (FCCU) at its Philadelphia, Pennsylvania refinery following a brief outage, according to source familiar with the plant’s operations. The 85,000 b/d FCCU was shut unexpectedly on Monday due to minor power issues, the source said, and the unit was up and running again by Tuesday.

Reuters 15:48 April 7, 2015

Update: FCCU Restart Attempt Fails at Marathon’s 451,000 b/d Galveston Bay Refinery April 6 – Sources

An attempt to restart the 120,000 b/d fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) 3 at Marathon Petroleum Corp’s Galveston Bay refinery failed on Monday, sources familiar with plant operations said. FCCU 3, which is the largest at the refinery, was shut by a power outage on Saturday night. The refinery’s 60,000 b/d FCCU 1 has been shut since a January 13 malfunction.

Reuters, 18:41 April 7, 2015

ExxonMobil Reports RHC Unit Shut at Its 560,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery April 8

ExxonMobil reported the unanticipated shutdown of the Raffinate Hydroconversion (RHC) unit during a safety critical instrument check resulted in the safe utilization of the flare system at its Baytown, Texas refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The company reported the unit feed rates were curtailed to reduce unit depressurization to the flare system and minimize emissions and the event ended. There was no impact to production.

Reuters, 9:25 April 8, 2015

Valero Says Small Leak Detected at Its 93,000 b/d Three Rivers, Texas Refinery April 7

Reuters, 11:33 April 8, 2015

Update: TransCanada Looking at Oil Port Sites outside Quebec – CEO

TransCanada Corp will widen its search for sites for an oil-pipeline export terminal outside Quebec after scrapping plans to build one in the province due to environmental concerns, the company's chief executive officer said on Wednesday. The CEO also said TransCanada may decide that its Energy East pipeline project, which would transport crude from the Alberta oil sands to Canada's east coast, may involve just one export terminal instead of the two that had been envisioned. TransCanada halted work on the Cacouna terminal, on the south shore of the St. Lawrence River in Quebec, in December after experts said it would harm endangered beluga whales. Last week the company called off the terminal project, a move that delays the Energy East pipeline.

Reuters, 10:41 April 8, 2015

Natural Gas

Nothing to report.

Other News

Nothing to report.

International News

Update: Pemex Restarts Production after Fire at Gulf of Mexico Platform, Sees Output at 80 Percent by Next Week

Pemex has restarted production at an oil processing platform after a fire last week on the Gulf of Mexico, and production levels there would be at 80 percent of pre-accident levels by next week, the company said on Tuesday. Pemex said at the weekend it expects to meet its 2015 output target of 646,000 b/d for the region where the fire occurred.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/oil_gas/a/138014/Mexicos_Pemex_Sees_Output_At_Blaze_Platform_At_80_Next_Week#sthash.4OH5f8q7.dpuf

Yemen LNG Shuts Production Train at Balhaf LNG Export Terminal Due to Security Concerns – Sources

Fighting in Yemen is forcing the country's liquefied natural gas (LNG) export plant to take one of its production plants, or trains, off line, three sources with knowledge of the matter said. One of the sources said the problem is due to the war in Yemen, not many ships are coming to take LNG and so only one train is running. The Grace Acacia LNG vessel is due to arrive at Yemen LNG's Balhaf terminal on April 10, ship-tracking data showed.

Reuters, 3:15 April 8, 2015

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 8, 2015			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	50.98	50.07	101.93
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	2.67	2.62	4.55

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>

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