



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

# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, April 10, 2009

## *Electricity*

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### **Tornado and Associated High Winds Knock out Power to Over 29,000 SWEPCO Customers in Arkansas, Louisiana April 9**

The National Weather Service reported just after 9 PM EST on April 9, a large tornado caused widespread damage across the city of Mena, Arkansas with associated winds striking nearby Shreveport, Louisiana. The Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO) reported almost 30,000 customers in Arkansas and Louisiana were without power during the evening of April 9. The utility estimates restoration for all customers who can receive power will be completed by midnight Sunday, April 12. As of most recent reports, 12,726 SWEPCO customers in Louisiana and 2,116 customers in Arkansas remain without power.

<http://www.swepco.com/news/outages/viewstorm.asp?stormName=Mena,%20Ark.,%20Tornado>

<http://www.swepco.com/news/outages/viewstorm.asp?stormName=Shreveport/Bossier%20City/Haughton,%20LA,%20Storms>

### **Update: Watson Cogeneration's 423 MW Gas-fired Unit in California Returns to Service April 9**

The California Independent System Operator reported the unit returned from an unplanned curtailment of 233 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200904091515.html>

### **CDWR's 210 MW Pine Flat Hydro Aggregate Hydro Unit in California Returns to Service April 9**

The California Independent System Operator reported the unit returned from an unplanned curtailment of 120 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200904091515.html>

### **PPL's 1,105 MW Susquehanna Nuke Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Ramped Up to 94 Percent by April 10**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 9 the unit was operating at 66 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2009/>

### **Entergy's 836 MW Arkansas Nuclear Unit 1 in Arkansas Reduced to 40 Percent by April 10**

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 9 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/2009/>

### **Westar Energy, Renewable Energy Systems America Complete 99 MW Central Plains Wind Farm in Kansas**

Westar Energy and Renewable Energy Systems Americas (RES America) will conduct an official dedication ceremony on April 14 for its recently completed Central Plains Wind Farm located near Wichita, Kansas.

[http://www.westarenergy.com/corp\\_com/contentmgt.nsf/resources/2009-4-9/\\$File/2009-4-9.pdf?openelement](http://www.westarenergy.com/corp_com/contentmgt.nsf/resources/2009-4-9/$File/2009-4-9.pdf?openelement)

## **Secretary Salazar, FERC Chairman Wellinghoff Sign Agreement to Spur Renewable Energy on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf**

Secretary of the Interior Salazar and FERC Chairman Wellinghoff signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to clarify jurisdictional responsibilities for leasing and licensing renewable energy projects on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The MOU clears the way for developing wind, solar, wave, tidal and ocean current energy sources.

<http://www.ferc.gov/news/news-releases/2009/2009-2/04-09-09.pdf>

## **Update: Riverbank Power Ends Negotiations with Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority Over Proposed 1,000 MW Aquabank Pumped-Storage Hydroelectric Power Plant in New York**

According to an official of Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority (OBPA), Riverbank Power has terminated negotiations for the proposed Aquabank hydroelectric plant. The plant had received preliminary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approval which gave the company three years to explore the feasibility of the project, including environmental impact, equipment operation, distribution and economics. The reason for the termination are not known at this time.

<http://watertowndailytimes.com/article/20090408/NEWS05/304089950>

## **Update: Southern Company Grants EPC Contract to Shaw and Westinghouse for Two New Nuclear Power Units at its Vogtle Nuclear Plant in Georgia**

The Shaw Group announced recently the Nuclear Division of its Power Group and Westinghouse Electric Company have received full notice from Southern Nuclear, to proceed on its engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract for two Westinghouse AP1000(TM) nuclear power units and related facilities at Southern Company's Georgia Power's Vogtle Nuclear plant located near Augusta, Georgia. The Georgia Public Service Commission certified Southern Company's subsidiary Georgia Power Company to build Units 3 and 4 at the existing Vogtle Electric Generating Plant site.

<http://ir.shawgrp.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=61066&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1274683&highlight=>

## **Update: Work Begins on Rocky Mountain Power's 345 kV Power Line Stretching from Idaho to Utah**

A Rocky Mountain Power Company representative said construction has commenced and the line is slated to enter service by 2010.

<http://www.standard.net/live/business/169156>

## ***Petroleum***

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### **World Oil Demand to Drop by 2.4 MMb/d in 2009, IEA's New Forecast Says**

The International Energy Agency released a new forecast for 2009 in which the agency predicts a decrease in world oil demand by 2.4 MMb/d versus its previous forecast of a 1.25 MMb/d drop in crude. The new forecast takes into consideration the drop in crude demand world-wide as well as the weak economy.

Reuters, 04:00 April 10, 2009

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123935107038208281.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB123935107038208281.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

### **Update: ConocoPhillips to Restart Fire-Damaged Crude Unit at its 232,000 b/d Bayway, New Jersey Refinery**

The crude unit was shut on April 5 when a small fire broke out at the unit and the refinery reports it will restart the unit on Monday, April 13.

Dow Jones Newswire, 08:30 April 10, 2009

### **More than 30 VLCC Supertankers Now Being Used for Crude Oil Storage, Shipbroker Reports**

Reuters, 16:52 April 9, 2009

### **U.S. Coast Guard Issues Letters of Recommendation for Eight LNG Terminals under Development along Gulf Coast**

The Coast Guard issued the letters for four proposed terminals in Texas, two in Louisiana and two in Mississippi. The facilities in Texas include Gulf Coast LNG Partners' Calhoun LNG; Semptra Energy's (SRE) Port Arthur LNG; Golden Pass LNG, owned by Qatar Petroleum, ExxonMobil (XOM) and ConocoPhillips (COP); and Freeport LNG, owned by companies including ConocoPhillips, Cheniere Energy (LNG) and Dow Chemical (DOW). The terminals in Louisiana include Cheniere Energy's Sabine Pass Phase II and Creole Trail LNG. In Mississippi, the terminals receiving letters of recommendation were Chevron Corp.'s (CVX) Casotte Landing LNG and Gulf LNG Clean Energy, owned by El Paso Corp. (EP), Angola state-owned oil company Sonangol and a group of private investors. Dow Jones Newswire, 11:04 April 10, 2009

### **Update: Rockies Express Natural Gas Pipeline 683-Mile East Segment Delayed Again**

A company website posting said initial service on a 683-mile eastern portion of the Rockies Express natural gas pipeline will be delayed until mid-May due to weather-related delays, including Wabash River flooding.

[http://www.rexpipeline.com/docs/rex\\_east\\_Const\\_Porgress\\_04092009.pdf](http://www.rexpipeline.com/docs/rex_east_Const_Porgress_04092009.pdf)

## **Other News**

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### **Department of Interior Secretary Salazar Stresses Need to Balance Environmental and Economic Considerations in Developing Outer Continental Shelf**

In an April 8 meeting on potential development of the Outer Continental Shelf held, Secretary Salazar stated his intention to find the right balance for advancing both renewable energy and traditional drilling addressing "the economic security, the national security and the environmental security issues that confront our country."

[http://www.salon.com/wires/ap/business/2009/04/08/D97EI49G0\\_offshore\\_development/index.html?source=rss&ai m=wires](http://www.salon.com/wires/ap/business/2009/04/08/D97EI49G0_offshore_development/index.html?source=rss&ai m=wires)

<http://www.doi.gov/ocs/>

### **Colorado State University Experts Predict Fewer Hurricanes for 2009**

Colorado State University's hurricane forecast team's most recent prediction calls for 12 named storms, including six hurricanes. Of those six, two are expected to be major hurricanes with maximum wind speeds of 111 mph or greater. The team forecasted the probability of a major hurricane making landfall along the U.S. coastline is 54 percent.

[http://www.usatoday.com/weather/hurricane/2009-04-07-hurricane\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/weather/hurricane/2009-04-07-hurricane_N.htm)

### **Ethanol Producer Aventine Files for Bankruptcy**

In a news release posted on the company's website, Aventine described its voluntary petition for Chapter 11 Protection by saying, "the ethanol industry currently suffers from poor operating margins as a result of supply exceeding existing demand, including the 2009 renewable fuels standard mandate. Ethanol demand has been negatively affected by low gasoline prices which has all but eliminated the discretionary consumption of ethanol.

<http://www.aventinerei.com/pdfs/Aventine%20Files%20for%20Reorganization.pdf>

### **Ethanol Contributed to 10 to 15 Percent Increase in Food Prices Between April 2007 – April 2008, the U.S. Congressional Budget Office Reports**

According to a study recently released by the U.S. Congressional Budget Office, the demand for corn ethanol and its increased usage along with the increase of corn prices accounted for some 10 to 15 percent of the increase in the price of food between April 2007 and April 2008 with other factors such as higher energy costs accounting for a much larger portion of the increase. The report also highlighted the role ethanol production has in green house gas emissions, noting that converting large amounts of forests and grasslands to new cropland could more than offset any reduction in emissions.

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/7789550.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>

Congressional Budget Office report available here: <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/100xx/doc10057/04-08-Ethanol.pdf>

## Energy Prices

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U.S. Oil and Gas Prices April 10, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b> <b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b> \$/Barrel	52.24	52.34	110.16
<b>NATURAL GAS</b> <b>Henry Hub</b> \$/Million Btu	3.59	3.69	9.88

Source: Reuters

## Energy Notes

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**SRU Leak Reported at Suncor's 70,000 b/d Sarnia, Ontario Refinery April 9, Plant Workers Forced to Briefly Evacuate – No Impact on Production Reported**

Reuters, 17:08 April 9, 2009

**Update: Coalition Calls On Department of Interior to Halt Review of Proposed 420 MW Cape Wind Project offshore Massachusetts**

<http://www.saveoursound.org/site/News2?page=NewsArticle&id=6377>

**Update: California Energy Commission Approves Construction of 96 MW Orange Grove Simple Cycle Power Energy AFC Power Plant to be Located in Rural San Diego**

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/orangegrovepeaker/>

**Russia's Gazprom and Shell Sign Contract to Deliver 46 Bcf/yr of Russian LNG until 2028 through Shell's LNG Terminal in Baja California, Mexico for Delivery to U.S. Markets**

<http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2009/04/09/ap6273772.html>

## Links

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***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

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<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/ead.aspx>

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