



# ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday Evening, April 10, 2012

## *Electricity*

---

### **Update: NRC Begins Special Inspection at Duke Energy's Catawba Nuclear Power Plant in South Carolina to Investigate April 4 Loss of Offsite Power**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is beginning a special inspection this week at Duke Energy's Catawba nuclear power plant to assess the circumstances surrounding an event April 4 that resulted in both of the plant's units losing offsite power. An NRC regional administrator said that although "there were no immediate safety implications, the loss of offsite power at a nuclear plant is always significant," and the NRC wants to make sure it completely understands what happened, according to a news release. Unit 1 has remained shut since it automatically tripped due to the power loss. Unit 2 has been shut for a refueling outage since March 10.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2012/12-016-ii.pdf>

### **NRC Cites FPL's 1,386 MW Turkey Point Nuclear Plant in Florida for Safety Violations**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has determined that Florida Power and Light Co.'s (FPL) failure to properly maintain the Turkey Point nuclear plant's onsite emergency response facility is a violation of low to moderate safety significance that may require additional NRC inspection and oversight. In addition, the utility's failure to report that the plant's Technical Support Center was not fully functional during a 7-month period in 2010–2011 represents a second violation resulting in a \$140,000 civil penalty.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2012/12-015-ii.pdf>

### **FPL Encounters Problems in Repeated Attempts to Restart 839 MW St. Lucie Nuclear Unit 1 in Florida after Outage to Refuel, Install New Equipment**

Florida Power and Light Co.'s St. Lucie Unit 1 reactor has entered a fifth month of its outage after attempts to restart the unit over the weekend failed, according to reports. FPL shut the unit November 28 to refuel and to install new equipment to increase the units output by 122 MW. Operators have encountered a number of problems in attempting to restart the unit over the last month, including a control rod issue on March 18 and a valve problem on March 31. The unit powered up to 2 percent Friday but shut again by Saturday, according to filings with the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. A spokesman said that testing the new equipment has required FPL to power the unit up and down. St. Lucie Unit 2 was operating at full power on Monday.

Reuters, 17:59 April 9, 2012

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

### **Entergy's 510 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Unit in Vermont Reduced to 32 Percent by April 10**

On the morning of April 9 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

### **APS's 1,243 MW Palo Verde Nuclear Unit 1 in Arizona Reduced to 80 Percent by April 10**

On the morning of April 9 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

### **Update: Energy Northwest's 1,107 MW Columbia Generating Station Nuclear Unit in Washington Ramped Up to 98 Percent by April 10**

On the morning of April 9 the unit was operating at 85 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2012/>

## ***Petroleum***

---

### **Valero Reports SRU Upset at Its 185,000 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery April 8**

Valero Energy Corp reported it lost operation in the 1600 sulfur recovery unit (SRU) at its Norco refinery Sunday morning, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The filing does not say what caused the loss of operation. While operators were trying to route the processed gas to a different unit, they were unable to restart the new unit, according to the filing. Valero reported also an ongoing release of hydrogen sulfide and sulfur dioxide. Operators were relighting the thermal oxidizing unit.

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1008105](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1008105)

### **Citgo Shuts Flare Gas Recovery Compressor for Planned Repairs, Leads to Flaring at Its 197,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery April 9**

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1008120](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1008120)

## ***Natural Gas***

---

### **Turbine Shuts on High Discharge Pressure at DCP Midstream's 160 MMcf/d Goldsmith Gas Plant in Texas April 9**

DCP Midstream reported its B Turbine went down on high second-stage discharge pressure, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators backed the gas out and restarted the unit.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eei/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=166954>

## ***Other News***

---

Nothing to report

## ***International News***

---

### **Iran Stops all Crude Oil Exports to Greece and Spain, May Halt Sales to Germany and Italy ahead of Nuclear Talks This Week**

Iranian Oil Minister Rostam Qassemi was quoted in semiofficial Fars News Agency reports Tuesday as saying that Iran is no longer making crude oil deliveries to Greece because of issues over payment. He specified Iran has barred Hellenic Petroleum and Motor Oil Hellas from purchasing Iranian crude oil, according to the Fars News Agency report. Meanwhile Iran's English-language state television reported also on Tuesday that Iran would cut oil exports to Spain and may halt sales to Germany and Italy, as well. The decision to stop exports to certain countries may be a strategy to strengthen Iran's position ahead of talks with six world powers over its nuclear program scheduled in Istanbul later this week. Earlier on Tuesday, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Iran could withstand a total embargo on its oil sales for several years. A Foreign Ministry spokesman told reporters in Bosnia, however, that Iran has "decided to revise its relations with France and Great Britain when it comes to oil exports," but it has made no such decisions about other countries.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/10/us-iran-spain-oil-idUSBRE83913Y20120410>

[http://www.upi.com/Business\\_News/Energy-Resources/2012/04/10/Iran-ends-oil-ties-with-Greece/UPI-17861334059989/](http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Energy-Resources/2012/04/10/Iran-ends-oil-ties-with-Greece/UPI-17861334059989/)

### **Chevron Discovers Oil Seep in Petrobras' Roncador Field Offshore Brazil April 7, Adjacent to Chevron's Frade Field, Site of November Leak**

Chevron reported an oil seep in Petrobras' Roncador field offshore Brazil when it discovered droplets of oil leaking from the seabed on Saturday. The seep is located 500 meters away from the site of a November leak in Chevron's adjacent Frade field, according to reports confirmed by Brazilian regulator ANP. Chevron suspended drilling operations in the area after a November accident at a well in the Frade field caused a spill of about 3,000 barrels and led to lawsuits and criminal charges against Chevron and its drilling contractor Transocean. The Campos basin, which includes Roncador and Frade fields, and the neighboring Santos basin contain an estimated 100 billion barrels of oil.

Reuters, 00:15 April 10, 2012

### **Kuwait Stops Tanker Arrivals at Its Main Oil Port April 10 Due to Thick Dust Storm**

Kuwait's main oil export port stopped allowing tankers to dock early Tuesday morning as a thick dust storm reduced visibility, according to a Kuwait Oil Tanker Co. spokesman. Tankers that were already loading at the terminal, however, would be allowed to leave the port. Traffic at the nearby commercial port of Shuwaikh was also disrupted, reports said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/10/kuwait-port-idUSL6E8FA2T420120410>

### **South Sudan Accuses Sudan of Building Oil Pipeline across the Border Toward the South's Oil Fields April 5**

South Sudan accused Sudan of trying to build a 25-km oil pipeline crossing the border and in the direction of the South's oil fields, a military spokesman said Thursday. Photographs seen by Reuters showed what appears to be a 10-inch diameter pipe lying on the ground next to a shallow trench, but it's unclear when the pipeline was built. South Sudan previously accused Sudan of building a different tie-in pipeline to refineries in Khartoum.

[http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=24840:s-sudan-says-sudan-tried-to-build-qillegal-oil-pipeline&catid=54:Governance&Itemid=118](http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=24840:s-sudan-says-sudan-tried-to-build-qillegal-oil-pipeline&catid=54:Governance&Itemid=118)

### **Somali Pirates Have Held Nigeria-Bound "MT Royal Grace" Oil Tanker off Coast of Oman Since March 4 – Recent Reports**

[http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a\\_id=35965](http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=35965)

### **Update: Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. to Import More Fuel Oil, Gasoil for Power Generation after Attacks on Egyptian Pipeline Disrupt Natural Gas Supply**

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/10/fueloil-jordan-idUSL3E8FA3DW20120410>

## **Energy Prices**

---

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 10, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
<b>CRUDE OIL</b>			
<b>West Texas Intermediate U.S.</b>	101.57	104.68	111.47
\$/Barrel			
<b>NATURAL GAS</b>			
<b>Henry Hub</b>	1.99	1.88	4.12
\$/Million Btu			

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](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

*Energy Assurance Daily* provides a summary of public information concerning current energy issues. Published Monday through Friday to inform stakeholders of developments affecting energy systems, flows, and markets, it provides highlights of energy issues rather than a comprehensive coverage. *Energy Assurance Daily* is updated online Monday through Friday after 5:00 PM Eastern Time. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at:

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

Please direct comments and questions to: [ead@oe.netl.doe.gov](mailto:ead@oe.netl.doe.gov)