



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday Evening, April 11, 2012

Electricity

Power4Georgians Cancels 850 MW Ben Hill Coal-Fired Power Plant Project Due to Environmental Concerns; Moving Forward with Proposed 850 MW Plant Washington Coal-Fired Plant in Georgia

On Monday Power4Georgians, a consortium of four electric membership cooperatives in Georgia, struck a deal with environmental groups to cancel its proposal to build an 850 MW coal-fired power plant in Ben Hill County, Georgia, according to reports. In exchange, the environmental groups will not pursue their objections to Power4Georgians's proposed 850 MW Plant Washington in Washington County. The settlement is pending approval by each of the groups involved, and the utility consortium must still obtain final design, construction, and operating permits for Plant Washington. The proposed plant must also comply with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposed carbon emissions standard for new coal-fired plants, which is expected to be finalized later this month. Power4Georgians has previously estimated it will take at least 4 years to build Plant Washington.

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/apr2012/2012-04-10-091.html>

Update: Entergy Shuts 979 MW Indian Point Nuclear Unit 3 in New York to Reconnect Auxiliary Transformer after Repairs April 10

Entergy Corp. shut Indian Point Unit 3 Tuesday night to reconnect the nuclear reactor to an auxiliary transformer that was repaired over the past month. Entergy disconnected Unit 3 from the power grid February 29 after operators observed an increase in gases within the transformer oil during routine sampling, which is an indicator of potential transformer degradation. From March 1 until April 10, Unit 3 operated using a separate source of onsite power while the transformer was being repaired. Workers repaired a tap changer, a part of the transformer that regulates its voltage output, Entergy said in a statement. Entergy expects the current outage to be brief, the statement said.

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

<http://www.thedailybronxville.com/news/indian-point-unit-3-shut-down-transformer-fix>

Update: NRC to Issue Restart Guidelines to OPPD's 482 MW Fort Calhoun Nuclear Plant in Nebraska by End of April

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is expected to issue restart guidelines by the end of April that the Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) must complete before it can restart the Fort Calhoun nuclear power plant, an OPPD spokesman said on Tuesday. OPPD shut the plant for refueling in April 2011, and the plant has remained shut since then due to spring and summer flooding along the Missouri River last year and numerous other problems revealed during subsequent NRC inspections. The NRC on Tuesday also confirmed it issued a "red" safety violation, its most serious classification, to OPPD for a June 2011 fire that briefly knocked out the cooling system for used fuel at the idled plant. OPPD has completed much of the work to address the NRC's concerns stemming from the fire, according to an OPPD spokesman, who also said that operators will more accurately estimate a restart date after they receive the NRC's restart checklist.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/10/utilities-oppd-fortcalhoun-idUSL2E8FA94320120410>

Update: Entergy Reports Condenser Issues at Its 510 MW Vermont Yankee Nuclear Unit April 11

Entergy Corp. reported it reduced the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant to 32 percent by early Tuesday to work on a thermal efficiency issue with a condenser, a spokesperson said in an email. The unit was scheduled to return to full power on Wednesday, the spokesperson said. On the morning of April 11 the unit was operating at 34 percent, according to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Reuters, 11:04 April 10, 2012

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

Update: Cabrillo Power's 330 MW Encina Gas-Fired Unit 5 in California Returns to Service by April 10

The unit returned from an unplanned outage.

<http://content.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201204101515.html>

Petroleum

Flint Hill to Shut Crude Unit No. 1 at Its 219,500 b/d North Pole, Alaska Refinery Due to Poor Economics

Flint Hill Resources announced it would start shutting the No. 1 crude unit at its North Pole refinery due to the economy and rising crude prices, according to local news reports. The refinery will continue to operate its No. 2 crude unit, which should be able to compensate for the idled unit enough to fulfill the refinery's contractual commitments, according to a spokesman. Flint Hills had previously idled the refinery's No. 3 crude unit.

Reuters, 21:07 April 10, 2012

http://newsminer.com/view/full_story/18192199/article-Flint-Hills-to-shut-down-processing-unit-at-North-Pole-refinery?instance=home_news_window_left_top_1

Valero Restarts Production Units at Its 125,000 b/d Meraux, Louisiana Refinery April 11 after Power Outage April 10

Valero Energy Corp. reported it was restarting unspecified production units at its Meraux refinery following a Tuesday power outage, according to a spokesman on Wednesday. The refinery expected to return to planned rates in a couple of days, the spokesman said.

Reuters, 09:46 April 11, 2012

ConocoPhillips Reports CCU Malfunction, Flaring at Its 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery April 10

ConocoPhillips reported a catalytic cracking unit (CCU) wet gas compressor tripped and triggered flaring Tuesday morning at its joint-venture Wood River refinery, according to a filing with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. The filing on Wednesday reported operators had resolved the problem.

Reuters, 04:00 April 11, 2012

Western Refining Shuts Cooling Tower Due to Benzene Release at Its 122,000 b/d El Paso, Texas Refinery April 10

Western Refining Inc. reported it discovered a benzene release from cooling tower No. 9 at its El Paso refinery Tuesday afternoon, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were shutting the unit and blocking off the area at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1008300

Sunoco Logistics Announces Open Season for 40,000 b/d West Texas-Nederland Access Project April 11

Sunoco Logistics Partners LP today announced a binding open season for its West Texas-Nederland Access project, a new pipeline the company is developing with West Texas Gulf Pipe Line Co. and Mobil Pipeline Co. to deliver crude oil from West Texas to SXL's Nederland Terminal in Texas. The project is anticipated to have an initial capacity to transport approximately 40,000 b/d to Nederland and is scheduled to be operational in the first quarter of 2013.

Reuters, 08:10 April 11, 2012

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

Natural Gas

Nothing to report

Other News

GreenHunter Water Receives New Commercial Salt Water Disposal Permit from Texas Railroad Commission

GreenHunter Water, LLC has received approval from the Railroad Commission of Texas to inject non-hazardous oil and gas waste into an Underground Injection Control permitted salt water disposal (SWD) well to be located in Karnes County, Texas. The disposal well is scheduled to be drilled during the second quarter of 2012 with commercial operations targeted for the third quarter of 2012. The Class II Helena SWD well is permitted to accept up to 10,000 b/d of oilfield production brine and frac flowback fluid.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=219127&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1681842&highlight>

International News

Update: Iran Stops Crude Oil Exports to Germany, May Halt Sales to Italy ahead of Nuclear Talks This Week – Reports

Iranian news broadcasters Al-Alam and Press TV reported Iran has stopped all crude oil exports to Germany and could soon likewise stop sales to Italy—a decision that may be a strategy to strengthen Iran's position ahead of talks with six world powers over its nuclear program scheduled in Isanbul later this week. The Iranian news broadcasters did not identify their sources. On Tuesday Iranian news reports indicated the country was no longer making crude oil deliveries to Greece or Spain. Iran's Oil Minister has confirmed only that the country is no longer supplying oil to Greece.

DJN, 10:42 April 11, 2012

South Sudan Accuses Sudan of New Attacks on Oil-Producing Border Region April 9–10

Reuters, 15:46 April 10, 2012

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices April 11, 2012			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	102.68	101.74	109.75
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	1.99	1.94	4.05

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 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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