



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Thursday Evening, April 16, 2009

Electricity

Update: Of the More than 50,000 PG&E Customers in California that Lost Power April 14 – All but 170 Customers Restored April 15

The National Weather Service reported winds of around 60 mph in parts of the San Francisco Bay area on April 14 that knocked out power to a peak of more than 50,000 Pacific Gas & Electric Co (PG&E) customers. As of the evening of April 15, PG&E said only about 170 customers remained without power.

<http://cbs5.com/local/bay.area.power.2.986080.html>

Luminant's 565 MW Monticello Coal-fired Unit 1 in Texas Shut April 15

According to a filing with state regulators, the unit tripped due to low pressure from pumps which were being worked on before the trip. The unit would be restarted late Wednesday and Thursday.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=122828>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=122829>

Reuters, 20:12 April 15, 2009

Update: TVA's 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuke Unit 3 in Alabama Ramped Up to 70 Percent by April 16

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 15 the unit was operating at 57 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Update: Ameren's 1,125 MW Callaway Nuke Unit in Missouri at Full Power by April 16

The unit was reduced last weekend due to a valve malfunction on the nonnuclear side of the plant. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 15 the unit was operating at 60 percent.

Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

<http://www.reuters.com/article/marketsNews/idUSN1632531020090416>

Portland General Electric Moves Forward with Smart Meter Installation within Service-Territory throughout Oregon

Portland General Electric (PGE) will begin installing more than 800,000 "smart meters" across its entire service area this week after successfully completing its smart metering systems testing program. The electrical meters will help the utility manage energy use, enhance customer service and reduce operating expenses, a PGE news release stated.

<http://investors.portlandgeneral.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=377447>

Construction Begins on PacifiCorp's 135-Mile High-Voltage Transmission 'Populus to Terminal' Line in Utah

The 135-mile project known as the "Populus to Terminal" transmission line is scheduled to be completed in 2010 and is part of a \$6 billion project adding approximately 2,000 miles of new transmission lines that PacifiCorp, plans to complete in Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and possibly Colorado by 2014.

http://www.sltrib.com/ci_12142501

<http://www.pacifiCorp.com/Article/Article79647.html>

Update: Great Basin Transmission Announces Second Open Season for Proposed 500-Mile, 500-Kv Idaho-to-Nevada Southwest Intertie Project

LS Power affiliate Great Basin Transmission has announced a second open season for the purchase of long-term point-to-point transmission rights on the Southwest Intertie Project (SWIP). A second open will be conducted in parallel with the Open Season 1. In Open Season 2, GBT will also be accepting proposals for the purchase of transmission rights on the Overland Intertie Project ("Overland Intertie"). The Overland Intertie is an above-ground 560 mile AC or DC transmission project between southern Idaho and eastern Wyoming that is being developed by GBT affiliate Jade Energy Associates, LLC ("JEA") to connect directly to transmission constrained wind generation facilities.

http://triangle.bizjournals.com/triangle/prnewswire/press_releases/national/Nevada/2009/04/15/NY99855

Push for Additional Renewable Power in U.S. Highlights Changes Needed in Traditional Electric Grid, NERC Report Says

A new report released by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) titled "Accommodating High Levels of Variable Generation" says the push to add more renewable generation capacity, such as wind, solar, ocean and hydro, to the U.S. electric mix will force changes in the way the power grid operates to ensure reliability. The report says over 145,000 MW of new variable resources are projected to be added to the North American power system in the next decade. The NERC study calls for reducing obstacles to build power lines, better wind forecasting and spreading variable resources across large geographic areas to lessen the impact of weather changes on output.

Full report available here: http://www.nerc.com/files/IVGTF_Report_041609.pdf

http://www.nerc.com/news_pr.php?npr=282

Reuters, 09:46 April 16, 2009

Petroleum

FCC Unit at Husky's 160,000 b/d Lima, Ohio Refinery Operates at 'Slightly' Reduced Rate

According to a company spokesperson, a fluid catalytic cracker at Husky's Lima refinery is operating at reduced rates as the result of a minor vibration. The snag slightly lowered the rates on the unit, which is expected to return to normal by April 21.

Bloomberg News, 10:04 April 16, 2009

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssEnergyNews/idUSN1626218720090416>

Plains All American Pipeline Receives Approval for New Crude Import Terminal at Port of Los Angeles in California

The Los Angeles City Council voted to allow construction of a crude oil import terminal at the Port of Los Angeles proposed by Plains All American Pipeline. The new terminal will have initial capacity to receive 350,000 b/d with the tanks will holding up to 4 MMbbls.

<http://www.labusinessjournal.com/article.asp?aID=8459878.2526714.1769898.2875601.1305869.195&aID2=136137>

Natural Gas

Economic Downturn to Blame for Dip in First Quarter 2009 U.S. Drilling Activity - API

New estimates from the American Petroleum Institute (API) report show first-quarter oil and natural gas drilling activity dipped to levels not seen since 2004. According to the report, an estimated 11,071 oil and natural gas wells and dry holes were completed in the first quarter of 2009, down 22 percent from 2008's first quarter and down 35 percent from 2008's fourth quarter.

http://www.api.org/Newsroom/drilling_q1_2009.cfm

FERC Grants In-Service Delay for Sempra Energy's 1.5 Bcf Cameron LNG Project in Louisiana

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) granted a request filed by Sempra Energy for a seven-month delay to complete and place into service its Cameron liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal that is under construction near Hackberry, Louisiana. The cause for the delay was not identified.

Natural Gas Intelligence, April 16, 2009 <http://intelligencepress.com/>

<http://www.energycurrent.com/index.php?id=3&storyid=17425>

Other News

Mascoma Corporation's Cellulosic Ethanol Pilot Plant in New York Now Operational

The demonstration facility located in Rome, New York recently commenced operations producing cellulosic ethanol from a variety of feedstocks such as wood chips, switchgrass, corn stover and sugarcane bagasse.

http://ethanolproducer.com/article.jsp?article_id=5577

<http://www.mascoma.com/news/pdf/Mascoma%20Moves%20Offices%20FINAL%2041409.pdf>

Update: Valero Plans to Restart 110 MMGal/Yr Albert City, Iowa Ethanol Production Facility

The Albert City facility had been temporarily shut by former owners, VeraSun, who filed for bankruptcy in March. Valero purchased the Albert City mill along with six other ethanol producing plants from VeraSun. A spokesperson for Valero says the Albert City plant will restart within one month.

Bloomberg News, 12:57 April 16, 2009

FERC Creates New Office of Policy, Innovation and Efficiency – Focus on Improving Efficiency of Energy Infrastructure

The new chairman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) announced today the creation of the Office of Policy, Innovation and Efficiency that will focus on improving the efficiency of energy infrastructure, both operationally and physically. The office also will focus on integrating demand-side and renewable energy resources, as well as smart-grid rules and regulations.

<http://www.ferc.gov/news/statements-speeches/wellinghoff/2009/04-16-09-wellinghoff.asp>

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/8496534.xml?p=Electric%20Power/News&sub=Electric%20Power>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 16, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	49.62	50.89	113.22
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.60	3.50	10.16

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

U.S. February 2009 Crude Imports down 649,000 b/d, Mainly from OPEC Countries, EIA Reports

<http://www.platts.com/Oil/News/8496323.xml?p=Oil/News&sub=Oil>

Update: Brazil's Petrobras to Pump First Oil from Tupi Deepwater Field in May, CEO Says

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20090416-710846.html>

Texas Railroad Commission Denies Retroactive Permission for Chesapeake Gas Well in Fort Worth, Texas

<http://www.star-telegram.com/business/story/1317333.html>

SRU Reported Shut at Eustace Gas Plant in Texas April 15

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=122830>

Fire at Grand River Dam Authority's Electrical Substation Causes 14,500 Customers to Lose Power in Florida April 16

http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/article.aspx?subjectid=298&articleid=20090416_298_0_MIAMIE481140

Substation Outage Causes Power Loss to Over 10,000 Progress Energy Customers in North Carolina April 16

<http://www.starnewsonline.com/article/20090416/ARTICLES/904169988?Title=Power-out-in-and-around-Carolina-Beach>

Department of Energy to Invest \$41.9 Million in Fuel Cell Technology

<http://www.energy.gov/news2009/7262.htm>

OPEC Sees Iran as Largest Output 'Cheater' on Output Targets, Produced 320,000 b/d Over Target Rate

<http://www.opec.org/home/monthly%20oil%20market%20reports/2009/mr042009.htm>

Update: EPA Seeks Comment on Increasing Ethanol Content In Gasoline from 10 Percent to 15 Percent – Will Make Decision by December 1

http://www.oregonlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2009/04/the_environmental_protection.html

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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