



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, April 17, 2009

Electricity

Dominion's 511 MW Kewaunee Nuke Unit in Wisconsin Shut by April 17

Dominion placed the plant in hot shutdown mode late April 16 because of an instrumentation problem. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 16 the unit was operating at full power.

<http://www.jsonline.com/business/43179997.html>

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/oilRpt/idUKN1738475020090417>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Exelon's 855 MW Quad Cities Nuke Unit 2 in Illinois Reduced to 32 Percent by April 17

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 16 the unit was operating at 97 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Energy Northwest's 1,107 MW Columbia Generating Station Nuke Unit in Washington Reduced to 61 Percent by April 17

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 16 the unit was operating at 94 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

TVA's 1,118 MW Browns Ferry Nuke Unit 3 in Alabama at Full Power by April 17

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 16 the unit was operating at 70 percent. Information derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

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

Mountainview Power Company's 525 MW Mountainview Gas-fired Unit 4 in California Shut by April 16

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit experienced an unplanned outage by April 16.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus200904161515.html>

PG&E Creates Agreement with Solaren Corporation for 200 MW of Solar Power Satellite Energy for California

The agreement calls for the utility to begin purchasing 200 MW of electricity in 2016 that is generated through a solar-power satellite consisting of mirror arrays. The electricity will be beamed down to Earth using microwaves.

<http://www.switched.com/2009/04/15/space-based-solar-power-may-come-to-california/>

Vice President Biden Outlines Department of Energy Funding for Smart Grid Initiatives

As part of Vice President Biden's announcement, the Department of Energy released a Notice of Intent (NOI) for the DOE Smart Grid Investment Grant Program, as well as a draft Funding Opportunity Announcement from the Department for a smart grid regional demonstration initiative. Together these efforts involve over \$3.9 billion in funding and are geared to help implement technologies aimed at transforming how electricity providers operate their systems, offer options for increased energy storage and accelerate the integration of renewable energy sources like wind and solar power with the electrical grid.

<http://www.energy.gov/news2009/7282.htm>

Operators at Exelon's 619 MW Oyster Creek Nuclear Plant in New Jersey to Investigate Possible Release of Low-Level Radioactive Substance

Officials with the facility reported to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that detectable levels of tritium were found in a cable vault, and while no release was occurring the source of tritium water remains unknown.

http://www.philly.com/philly/wires/ap/news/state/new_jersey/20090416_ap_njnuclearplantprobespossibleradiationrelease.html

Update: Iberdrola Renewables's 202 MW Peñascal Wind Power Project in Texas Now Operational

The Peñascal Wind Power Project, located near the Gulf Coast in southern Texas, is comprised of 84 turbines with a capacity to produce 202 MW of energy.

http://www.iberdrolarenewables.us/rel_09.04.17.html

National Grid Responds to New York State Public Service Commission Request for Projects Suitable for Federal Stimulus Funding - Potential Projects Bring Smart Grid Technology and Enhanced Reliability to Upstate New York

In a filing by National Grid, the company proposes to build and operate two 40,000-customer smart grid demonstration projects in the Syracuse area and the Capital District, as well as implement additional reliability enhancements throughout the state. The smart grid technology involved will include two-way, state-of-the-art communications, advanced sensors, and specialized computers to improve the efficiency, reliability and safety of electricity delivery and use.

http://www.nationalgridus.com/aboutus/a3-1_news2.asp?document=4073

Petroleum

Update: Alaska Offshore Oil Leasing Plan 'Fails to Consider Environmental Sensitivity' of Outer Continental Shelf, Thrown Out by Federal Appeals Court April 17

The Department of Interior (DOI), under the administration of President Bush, published a five-year plan through June 2012 to allow lease sales in the Beaufort, Bering and Chukchi Seas off Alaska for development of oil and gas drilling. A suit was filed by the Center for Biological Diversity raising the concerns about potential harm to polar bears in the area. The U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington D.C. ruled the Interior Department failed to properly consider environmental sensitivity in their original plan and remanded the program back to DOI for further review. Bloomberg News, 13:11 April 17, 2009

Iraqi Kurdistan's Natural Resources Minister Announces Discovery of 3 Billion to 4 Billion Barrels of Oil in Kurdish Northern Iraq

Reuters, 10:47 April 17, 2009

Natural Gas

El Paso Natural Gas Company Declares Forces Majeure Event, 120 MMcf/d Curtailed April 16

In a notice to shippers, El Paso is reporting a Force Majeure event that will impact 120 MMcf/d beginning Gas Day April 16 thru May 7.

<http://passportebb.elpaso.com/ebbEPG/Notices/NoticeView.asp?sPipelineCode=EPNG&sSubCategory=Critical&sNoticeId=7948>

Chesapeake Energy Further Curtails Natural Gas Production in Current Low Price Environment – Cuts Approximately 400 MMcf/d of Gross Production

Chesapeake Energy announced April 16 it has elected to curtail approximately 400 MMcf/d of its gross natural gas production due to continued low wellhead prices. This curtailment represents approximately 13 percent of Chesapeake's current gross operated natural gas production capacity. The wells that have been curtailed are primarily located in the Mid-Continent and Barnett Shale regions.

<http://www.chk.com/News/Articles/Pages/1277378.aspx>

FERC Authorizes Compression Expansions for Texas Gas Transmission's Fayetteville and Greenville Laterals

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission authorized Texas Gas Transmission's compression expansion of its Fayetteville lateral in Arkansas as well as its Greenville lateral in Mississippi.

<http://elibrary.ferc.gov/idmws/search/advResults.asp>

Natural Gas Intelligence, April 17, 2009 <http://intelligencepress.com/>

Other News

Nothing to report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 17, 2009			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	50.48	52.24	114.66
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.54	3.59	10.11

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Fire at Distribution Center in California Knocks out Power to 10,000 Department of Water and Power Customers April 15 – All Customers Restored by Early Evening April 16

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_12161052

BioEnergy Power Plans 27 MW Biomass Electric Generation Plant in Indiana with Construction to Begin by 2010

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem.asp?ID=35115>

In Effort to Modernize Electric Infrastructure and to Meet Increasing Demand, PECO Energizes New Tunnel Substation in Philadelphia

<http://www.exeloncorp.com/aboutus/news/pressrelease/peco/NR+041709.htm>

Update: California PUC Approves an Amended Power Purchase Agreement with PG&E for its Proposed 600 MW Gas-fired Russell City Energy Center in California

<http://ca.news.finance.yahoo.com/s/16042009/34/biz-f-business-wire-calpine-ge-receive-california-public-utilities-commission-approval.html>

Enel North America Dedicates Two Binary Geothermal Power Plants in Nevada, Combined Capacity of 'Stillwater' and 'Salt Wells' Projects Equals 65 MW

<http://www.enel.it/northamerica/boxhp.asp?IdDoc=1607952>

Update: Minnesota PUC Grants CapX2020 Certificate of Need for Three 345-kV Transmission Line Projects in Minnesota

http://www.capx2020.com/Regulatory/State/Minnesota/pdf/PUC_Decision_on_345_CON_press_release_4-16-2009_final.pdf

Petro-Canada to Lay Off 200 Workers in Oil Sands as Industry Spending for Oil Sands Projects Expected to Drop 73 Percent over One-Year, Analysts Predict

<http://www.financialpost.com/reports/story.html?id=1499134>

Pemex Forecasts its 2009 Oil Output to Decrease to 2.6 MMb/d from 2.7 MMb/d on Technical Disruptions Related to its Cantrell Oil Field

Reuters, 12:57 April 16, 2009

Update: Department of Energy to Cancel Domestic Component of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership

<http://www.neimagazine.com/story.asp?sectioncode=132&storyCode=2052719>

Kuwait Stops Oil Exports Due to Sandstorm, News Agency Reports

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=75140

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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