



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

ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Wednesday, April 19, 2006

Major Developments

Update: Texas' Unusual Rolling Blackout

Although no rolling blackout occurred on Tuesday, Texas set a new record electric use for the month of April at 58,000 MW during its peak. On Monday, a rolling blackout occurred because a large number of power plants were shut for seasonal maintenance, and four power plants unexpectedly shut when power demand approached its daily peak. Sam Jones, chief operations officer of the Electric Reliability Council of Texas, said it was "very abnormal" that four close plants tripped. He added that Texas remains "vulnerable" until late May, when the seasonal maintenance ends.

Reuters, 19:09 April 18, 2006.

Reuters, 17:08 April 18, 2006.

Electricity

Nevada Power's 1,160 MW Gas-fired Chuck Lenzie Generating Station in Nevada Now in Operation

The second phase of construction of the plant, located near Las Vegas, is complete and provides another 580 megawatts of power to customers in Southern Nevada. Nevada Power Company, a subsidiary of Sierra Pacific Resources, bought the half-complete plant from Duke Energy in 2004.

<http://www.pnewsire.com/cgi-bin/stories.pl?ACCT=104&STORY=/www/story/04-17-2006/0004341164&EDATE=>

Seven Utilities Agree to Fund Studies for Massive Transmission Line in California

Southern California Edison Co., Pacific Gas and Electric Co. and San Diego Gas and Electric Co., are among the seven utilities that recently agreed to finance economic and environmental studies for a 1,300 – mile transmission line, called the "Frontier Line," that would connect Wyoming, Nevada, California, and Utah. The governors of these four states issued a joint statement of support for the project on April 17.

<http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/metroeast/story/23642FC8E8F5DC2E862571540013F1D0?OpenDocument>

<http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/apr2006/2006-04-18-09.asp>

Update: Entergy's 968 MW River Bend Nuke Unit in Louisiana Up to 84 Percent Power April 19

Entergy's nuclear power plant in St. Francisville, Louisiana, which was automatically shut down on April 15, ramped up to 84 percent of its capacity on April 19.

Reuters, 07:45 April 19, 2006.

SCE's 1,070 MW San Onofre Nuke Unit 2 in California Still Down April 19

Southern California Edison's unit 2 nuclear power station, which has been off since January 3 for refueling, is still down because the turbines are spinning at inconsistent rates and cannot connect to the grid. It is possible that the unit will be out for another week or so.

Reuters, 15:00 April 18, 2006.

Entergy's 825 MW Fitzpatrick Nuke in New York at 50 Percent Power April 19

Entergy's nuclear unit in Scriba, New York, is now operating at 50 percent of its capacity after completing repairs on a feed water pump.
Reuters, 13:36 April 19, 2006.

Update: Duke Energy's 864 MW Oconee 2 Nuke in South Carolina Back at Full Power April 18

The unit went offline April 12 because of loss of power in a pump that sends cooling water through the reactor. The pump has been repaired.
Bloomberg, 17:10 April 19, 2006.

Energy Northwest's 1,190 MW Columbia Nuke in Washington Back at Full Power April 18

The unit was reduced to as low as 85 percent April 17 at the request of Bonneville Power Administration, which needed to release excess water from its hydropower dams.
Bloomberg, 17:34 April 18, 2006.

Petroleum

Oil Prices Reach Record Heights Above \$73 a Barrel

Fears over disputes in Iran and decreased U.S. gasoline stocks caused oil prices to rise sharply April 19.
http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20060419/bs_nm/markets_oil_dc_34;_ylt=AuU03Q.doohGYwFOh7E1saAsnsA;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU

Plantation Pipeline Rupture Shuts 116,000 b/d of Products in Virginia

A section of the Plantation Pipe Line System that passes through Richmond, Virginia, ruptured Monday, spilling as much as 30,000 gallons of a "kerosene-like" substance in a suburban neighborhood. Plantation Pipe Line Company operators shut the pipeline immediately when they noticed abnormal operating pressure on the line from their control center in Atlanta. According to officials, the 12-inch pipeline section, which originates in Greensboro, North Carolina, moves 116,000 b/d of different products.

<http://www.timesdispatch.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=Common%2FMGArticle%2FPrintVersion&c=MGArticle&cid=1137835450402&image=timesdispatch80x60.gif&oasDN=timesdispatch.com&oasPN=%21news>

Map: <http://www.plantation-ppl.com/javamap.html>

Gasoline Supplies Tight Due to RVP Shift and Reduced Use for MTBE

Baltimore, MD, Northern Virginia (Fairfax, Manassas, and Newington), along with Boston, MA, are experiencing gasoline supply issues resulting from the seasonal switch from high-RVP gas to low-RVP gas and challenges providing gasoline without MTBE added.

Source: OPIS Alert, April 19, 2006.

Update: Nigeria Yoho Oil Export Port Returned to Normal Production at 150,000 b/d

Exxon Mobil's Yoho oil export terminal in Nigeria, which was suspended of 150,000 b/d crude oil loadings on April 18, is now back to normal production level.

Reuters, 16:54 April 19, 2006.

Bloomberg, 17:30 April 18, 2006.

Natural Gas

Nothing to Report.

Other News

Nothing to Report.

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 19, 2006			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL			
West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	71.91	68.54	52.33
NATURAL GAS			
Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	7.72	6.78	6.95

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Colorado OGCC Expected to Issue Record Number of Permits for New Oil and Gas Wells

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/C/CO_ENERGY_BOOM_COOL-?SITE=COCOL&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT&CTIME=2006-04-18-16-23-34

World's First Commercial Gas-to-Liquids Plant to Launch in Qatar June 6

Reuters, 06:22 April 19, 2006.

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 at 10:30 AM and 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.

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