



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Friday Evening, April 23, 2010

Electricity

PPL Shuts 1,111 MW Susquehanna Nuclear Unit 2 in Pennsylvania April 23

PPL shut the unit "to repair a heat exchanger tube in a heating system," it said in a press release. The company expected to restart the unit in a few days. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 22 the unit was operating at 65 percent.

<http://www.pplweb.com/newsroom/newsroom+quick+links/news+releases/Susquehanna+Unit+2+shut+down+safely+for+planned+repairs+042310.htm>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

PPL's 1,105 MW Susquehanna Nuclear Unit 1 in Pennsylvania Shut April 22

The unit shut automatically "during equipment testing," the company said in a press release. Operators returned the unit from a refueling outage on April 21. The testing was part of that restart. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported that on the morning of April 22 the unit was operating at 25 percent.

<http://www.pplweb.com/newsroom/newsroom+quick+links/news+releases/Unit+1+at+Susquehanna+nuclear+plant+shuts+down+safely+042210.htm>

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: PG&E's 407 MW Helms Pump-Gen Hydro Unit 1 in California Returns to Service by April 22

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201004221515.html>

Update: Reliant's 320 MW Etiwanda Gas-Fired Unit 4 in California Returns to Service by April 22

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned outage.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201004221515.html>

Update: Watson Cogeneration's 417 MW Watson Cogeneration Company Gas-Fired Unit in California Ramps up by April 22

According to the California Independent System Operator, the unit reported a return from an unplanned curtailment of 227 MW.

<http://www.caiso.com/unitstatus/data/unitstatus201004221515.html>

Update: FPL's 839 MW Saint Lucie Nuclear Unit 2 in Florida Ramped Up to 98 Percent by April 23

The company shut the unit on April 15 "due to lifting of the 2B moisture separator reheater relief valve," it said in a previous filing with The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The NRC reported that on the morning of April 22 the unit was operating at 2 percent.

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/2010/20100416en.html>

Bloomberg News, 07:02 April 22, 2010

Information also derived from the NRC Power Reactor Status Reports:

<http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/reactor-status/2010/>

Update: AmerenUE Restarts 440 MW Taum Sauk Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Plant in Missouri by April 21

The facility shut after the reservoir breached in December 2005.

<http://ameren.mediaroom.com/index.php?s=43&item=805>

A-Power Energy Generation to Launch Final Development Phase of Jointly-Owned Wind Farm in Texas April 27

http://files.shareholder.com/downloads/ABEA-22UX49/899081877x0x368395/eaccfed1-7d4c-43db-88cc-d8d0ebc5cc31/APWR_News_2010_4_22_General_Releases.pdf

Northern California Power Agency Plans 296 MW Gas-Fired Power Plant in California

The consortium expects to open the project in 2012. The California Energy Commission approved the project on April 21.

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100422/A_NEWS/4220321/-1/NEWSMAP

Petroleum

Sunken Rig and Well Not Leaking Oil: U.S. Coast Guard

The oil well from Transocean's sunken Deepwater Horizon rig was not leaking oil on April 23, a Coast Guard official told The New York Times. The rig was not leaking either, a local news source said, also citing the Coast Guard. The sheen from the previous days' leaks, however, had expanded, the Coast Guard said. The news came some three days after an explosion onboard injured at least 17 and left another 11 missing. The sheen was 10 miles by 10 miles, up from 1 mile by 5 miles, according to the Coast Guard. The search continued for the missing workers, as of latest reports. Survivors of the blast indicated that those missing might have been "in the vicinity of the explosion," a Coast Guard commander said. BP activated an oil spill response yesterday, it said in a release. The company launched a plan to drill a relief well, if necessary. It also mobilized 32 spill response vessels, skimming capacity in excess of 171,000 b/d, mechanical recovery capacity, offshore storage capacity, dispersant supplies and aircraft, at least 500,000 feet of boom, and multiple other resources. To read more about the incident and the initial response, see the previous two Energy Assurance Daily's.

<http://www.bp.com/genericarticle.do?categoryId=2012968&contentId=7061490>

<http://deepwater.com/fw/main/News-748.html?c=113031&p=irol-news&nyo=0>

<http://www.d8externalaffairs.com/go/doc/425/455751/>

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/statement-press-secretary-presidents-oval-office-meeting-discuss-situation-gulf-mex>

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Ecosystem+faces+threat+from+spill/2942375/story.html>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/23/us/23rig.html?hp>

http://www.weartv.com/template/inews_wire/wires.national/2e9f654f-weartv.com.shtml

Reuters, 19:29 April 22, 2010

Shell Shuts 75,000 b/d Nakika Oil Pipeline near Explosion-Downed Deepwater Horizon Oil Rig in Gulf of Mexico

Shell shut the pipeline for precautionary reasons. The line delivers oil to the Delta pipeline system and to Motiva's Norco, Louisiana refinery. Shell did not expect the shutdown to last long, or impact operations at Norco. The line remained down, as of latest reports.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSWEN335620100422?type=marketsNews>

DJN, 10:09 April 23, 2010

American Petroleum Institute Issues Two New Refinery Safety Standards April 22

The first standard provides companies with leading and lagging process safety indicators for recognizing and evaluating events that may predict safety issues. The second standard provides guidance to help manage fatigue risk.

<http://www.api.org/Newsroom/new-guidance-on-risk.cfm>

Update: Cenovus to Boost Capacity by 105,000 b/d Combined at Foster Creek and Christina Lake Oil Sands Projects in Alberta, Canada

Cenovus plans to boost capacity by 45,000 b/d at Foster Creek and by 60,000 b/d at Christina Lake. The company, separately, said its total oil assets hold a combined 3.9-7.3 billion barrels of bitumen.

<http://www.cenovus.com/news/news-releases/2010/0422-independ-eval.pdf>

Pipeline Capacity Outpaces Supply in Canadian Oil Sands

Companies postponed or abandoned some 1.2 million b/d of planned oil sands projects from 2008, a news source said, as rising costs and lower oil prices deterred investment. The economic climate had improved, but the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers still does not expect oil sands production to reach previously-forecasted 2011 figures until 2018. Despite the projected-production decline, TransCanada and Enbridge recently opened a combined 885,000 b/d in new pipeline capacity; the companies expect to eventually increase that figure to 1.39 million b/d. The two lines – Keystone and Alberta Clipper – have led to too much pipeline capacity, according to some producers. The 1.39 million b/d is, according to the news source, about equal to total production in the Canadian oil sands. Despite company concerns, the president of the Canadian Energy Pipeline Association said “being pipe short has some severe consequences... The key is to look long-term and know that pipe capacity will not be a constraining factor in economic growth.”

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/report-on-business/industry-news/energy-and-resources/oil-sands-awash-in-excess-pipeline-capacity/article1543726/>

Statoil to Produce 40,000-60,000 b/d at Oil Sands Project in Alberta, Canada

Statoil expects to open the first phase of the Leismer Demonstration Project later in 2010. The company expects to initially produce 10,000 b/d, and possibly increase that figure to 20,000 b/d. It plans to eventually launch the project's next phase, called Comer. That phase will produce 40,000-60,000 b/d.

http://www.rigzone.com/news/article.asp?a_id=91552

Nigeria to Produce 2.35 Million b/d in 2010: Budget

The acting President of Nigeria approved a large increase in the budget with the objective being to raise Nigeria's oil production. To meet the 2.35 million b/d objective would require a continued truce between militants and the federal government, according to the Associated Press.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g9pwEaaKzj889MUnVVTKvcker5fgD9F8HRGG0>

Natural Gas

Environmental Ruling Effectively Blocks Natural Gas Drilling in Catskills, New York

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation will impose stricter regulations on companies that want to develop natural gas in the Catskills watershed a move that would effectively block natural gas drilling in the area. The Catskills watershed supplies drinking water to more than 9 million people in New York, according to The New York Times. Natural gas producers had, prior to the state's decision, sought to drill the Catskills using the controversial hydraulic fracturing method. Those opposed, however, cited concerns over the management of wastewater, and the potential for leaks and spills. State officials said they are requiring stricter regulations in the Catskills watershed (and the smaller Skaneateles Lake watershed) because drilling operations would have carried additional environmental consequences, other than those caused simply by hydraulic fracturing.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/04/24/science/earth/24drill.html?hp>

Eagle Rock Energy Plans 200 MMcf/d, 20-Inch, Nine-Mile Expansion along Existing ETML Natural Gas Pipeline in East Texas

The company is also considering additional expansion phases. Those projects could, combined, yield a total 50 miles of mostly 20-inch pipeline.

[http://phx.corporate-](http://phx.corporate-ir.net/External.File?item=UGFyZW50SUQ9NDE5NzR8Q2hpbGRJRD0tMXxUeXBIPtM=&t=1)

[ir.net/External.File?item=UGFyZW50SUQ9NDE5NzR8Q2hpbGRJRD0tMXxUeXBIPtM=&t=1](http://phx.corporate-ir.net/External.File?item=UGFyZW50SUQ9NDE5NzR8Q2hpbGRJRD0tMXxUeXBIPtM=&t=1)

Other News

Secretary Chu Participates in Online Chat with Washington Post April 22

Secretary Chu participated in an online chat on washingtonpost.com on April 22, the 40th anniversary of Earth Day. He answered questions on a number of topics, from energy efficiency to clean energy manufacturing. You can read the full transcript here: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/discussion/2010/04/22/DI2010042201410.html?hpid=discussions>
<http://www.energy.gov/news/8876.htm>

MSHA Launches Inspection Blitz at 57 Problem Coal Mines

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) launched an inspection blitz last weekend at 57 coal mines. The MSHA targeted mines with large numbers of violations or potentially unsafe conditions. "The purpose of these inspections is to provide assurance that no imminent dangers, explosions, hazards or other serious health or safety conditions and practices are present at these mines," according to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health.
<http://www.msha.gov/MEDIA/PRESS/2010/NR100421.asp>

SunPower Corp. and Flextronics Plan 75 MW/Year Solar Panel Manufacturing Facility in California

The companies expect to begin production by the end of 2010.
<http://investors.sunpowercorp.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=462572>

United States Brings 11 Suspected Pirates from Somalia to the United States

Five of the defendants are suspected to have taken part in a March 31 attack on the USS Nicholas Navy frigate. The remaining six defendants are thought to have been involved in an April 10 attack on the USS Ashland Navy vessel. Reuters, 12:51 April 23, 2010

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 23, 2010			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	83.73	82.69	48.18
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	3.95	3.97	3.48

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Wind Power Rises nearly 1,300 Percent, Solar Power Jumps 3,000 Percent from 2005 to Present on PJM System: Generation Attribute Tracking System

<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/first-5-years-of-gats-data-show-renewables-more-than-doubled-in-pjm-91833389.html>

Update: CPUC Okays PG&E's Five-Year Plan to Develop up to 500 MW of Solar Photovoltaic Facilities in California

http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/NEWS_RELEASE/116816.htm

Update: Enbridge Returns Oil Pipeline to Service after Leak in Minnesota – State Official Says Leak Did Not Contribute to April 16 Wildfire

<http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews/articleid/4054944>

Alberta Conditionally Okays Tailings Ponds Plans at Syncrude’s Mildred Lake and Aurora North Oil Sands Projects and Suncor’s Planned Fort Hills Project

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/Alberta+approves+oilsands+tailings+plans/2942665/story.html>

Petrobras to Construct 25 Rigs for Offshore Crude Output and Storage by 2020

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2010-04-23/petrobras-to-spend-75-billion-on-oil-rigs-by-2020-folha-says.html>

Iran Says Sanctions Have Not Impacted Oil Industry – Oil Minister Calls Possible Risk to Gasoline Imports “A Joke”

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0.7340.L-3879707.00.html>

Fatal Mid-April Explosion at O&G Production Site in Oklahoma Occurred at an Unsecured Location That Likely Lacked Fire or Explosion Warning Signs: CSB

<http://www.csb.gov/newsroom/detail.aspx?nid=315>

American Indian Leaders Seek Congressional Support in Bid to Streamline Energy Project Development across Tribal Lands

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ghUuoVQph06gsLtkGhzx2MhVhgegD9F8DFFO3>

Engine Shutdown Triggers Flaring at Keystone Gas Plant in Texas April 22

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=138774>

International Isotopes Inc. Plans Uranium Processing Plant in New Mexico

<http://www.kivitv.com/Global/story.asp?S=12354223>

GE Plans Smart Grid Technology Center of Excellence in Atlanta, Georgia

<http://www.genewscenter.com/Press-Releases/GE-Center-of-Excellence-will-Make-Atlanta-Worldwide-Hub-for-Smart-Grid-Breakthroughs-2798.aspx>

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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