



ENERGY ASSURANCE DAILY

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Electricity

Update: FERC and NERC Monitoring Investigation into Cal-ISO Bomb-Threat

Both the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) have announced that they are monitoring developments as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) conducts its investigation into an intentionally caused power outage and subsequent bomb-threat that occurred at the headquarters of the California ISO. Neither the FERC nor the NERC believe that at this time they need to be involved but are observing the investigation to determine if any action is warranted or necessary.

http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=8174612

Exelon's 1,170 MW Limerick Nuke Unit 2 in Pennsylvania Shut by Low Water April 24

Exelon reported that the unit automatically shut at approximately 2:15 a.m. local time on April 24 because of low water levels in the reactor. The cause of the problem is under investigation but the company does not have an estimate as to when the unit will return to service.

Bloomberg News, 09:12 April 24, 2007

Southern Co.'s 1,215 MW Vogtle Nuke Unit 2 in Georgia Fails Restart April 23

The company announced that the unit remains offline after an unexpected shut down during a restart attempt as the unit was exiting a refueling outage. The company indicated that the cause of the shut down is being investigated but did not provide an estimate as to when the unit would be operating at full power.

Bloomberg News, 18:49 April 23, 2007

Entergy's 967 MW River Bend Nuke Unit in Louisiana Operating at Reduced Output April 23

In a filing to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Entergy reported it reduced the output of the power plant to 12 percent of capacity so that a steam leak could be repaired. The company did not provide an estimate as to when the unit would return to full power.

Bloomberg News, 09:54 April 24, 2007

Reuters, 07:30 April 24, 2007

TMPA's 462 MW Gibbons Creek Coal-fired Unit in Texas Shut April 24

Reuters, 08:29 April 24, 2007

Idaho Power Expects Less Summer Hydro Generation Due to Poor Snowmelt

Idaho Power said its flows from snowmelt over April-July are expected to be only 40 percent of the runoff in the same period in 2006. The forecast is almost half the 30-year average stream flow, according to the US Weather Service's Northwest River Forecast Center. To make up the lost generation, Idaho Power expects to rely more heavily on more expensive coal-fired generation or wholesale purchases of electricity.

<http://www.waterpowermagazine.com/story.asp?sectioncode=130&storyCode=2043858>

Black Hills Plans New 149 MW Power Plant in New Mexico

Black Hills Corporation announced plans to construct a new 149 MW simple-cycle gas-fired power plant to be located near Albuquerque in New Mexico. The plant is expected to begin operation June 1, 2008.

<http://sev.prnewswire.com/utilities/20070423/AQM10623042007-1.html>

Update: NRC Fines Entergy's Indian Point Nuke for Failing to Meet Deadline for Getting Emergency Sirens to Work

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/55248.html>

Petroleum

Malfunction Shuts FCC Unit at Valero's 250,000 b/d St. Charles Refinery in Louisiana Gasoline Production Cut by 71 Percent

Valero reported that a malfunctioning slide valve resulted in shutting the fluid catalytic cracking (FCC) unit. With the FCC unit shut, the refinery will lose some 75,000 b/d of production per day (about 15,000 b/d of distillate and 60,000 b/d of gasoline). The refinery is continuing to produce about 25,000 b/d of gasoline and is obtaining additional product from other sources. Valero anticipates that repairs will be complete in 10 to 14 days.

Bloomberg News, 19:35 April 23

Reuters, 19:36 April 23, 2007

BP's 420,000 b/d Whiting Refining in Indiana to Run at 50 Percent of Capacity Until Repairs and Turnaround Work is Completed

BP will operate the refinery at about 200,000 b/d while repairs on a hydrotreater, repairs to equipment damaged in a fire and planned seasonal turnaround work is completed. Bloomberg cites an unnamed source who estimates that the repairs and work should be completed in about eight weeks.

Bloomberg News, 13:21 April 24, 2007

Reuters, 12:15 April 24, 2007

Storage Crunch Eases at LOOP

Refinery turnarounds and unanticipated refinery outages have led to a glut of crude oil in storage at the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port (LOOP) in the Gulf of Mexico. As recently as last week, traders expressed concern that LOOP would be unable to accommodate all the scheduled deliveries of crude for the next month. However, a representative from LOOP announced that conditions have "improved somewhat".

Oil Daily, April 24, 2007

Rebels Storm Chinese-run Oil Field in Ethiopia, All Workers Killed or Kidnapped

Nine Chinese workers were killed in the attack and seven were taken hostage. The Ogaden National Liberation Front, an ethnic Somali group, has claimed responsibility for the attack. The group has issued a statement saying they killed the 74 Ethiopian troops guarding the oil exploration facility and the destroyed the facility. The group warns oil companies not to operate in the region.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20070424/ap_on_re_af/ethiopia_china_oil_attack_4;_ylt=ArAJqpv0JUTY5.f3QcArBOAsnsA

<http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-ethiopia-china-oil-attack.0.947896.story?coll=sns-ap-nationworld-headlines>

Reuters, 12:29 April 24, 2007

Natural Gas

Update: Leak Shuts Section of TransCanada's Alberta Gathering System April 23

On April 23, TransCanada shut down a section of its natural gas gathering system in Alberta. The affected section includes three meter stations. The shutdown has forced the company to restrict flows on its Marten Hills Lateral line in north-central Alberta by approximately 34 million cubic feet per day. TransCanada's total capacity on the Marten Hills system is approximately 14 Bcf/d.

http://ca.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=businessNews&storyID=2007-04-23T205542Z_01_N23325683_RTRIDST_0_BUSINESS-TRANSCANADA-LEAK-COL.XML&archived=False

Reuters, 16:52 April 23, 2007

Other News

Former DOE Official Calls for Better Estimates of Waste Products before Proceeding with Global Nuclear Energy Partnership Funding

<http://www.platts.com/Nuclear/News/6378353.xml?p=Nuclear/News&sub=Nuclear>

Energy Prices

U.S. Oil and Gas Prices			
April 24, 2007			
	Today	Week Ago	Year Ago
CRUDE OIL West Texas Intermediate U.S. \$/Barrel	64.10	63.39	70.33
NATURAL GAS Henry Hub \$/Million Btu	7.57	7.50	7.33

Source: Reuters

Energy Notes

Fast Moving Storm Leaves Thousands of National Grid Customers without Power in Syracuse, New York April 23

<http://www.syracuse.com/articles/news/index.ssf?base/news-10/1177405921219620.xml&coll=1>

EPA Agrees to Consider California Plan to Limit Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Vehicles

Reuters, 11:38 April 24, 2007

Maryland Governor Says State is Opposed to AES's Plan for its Sparrows Point LNG Terminal in Baltimore County

www.intelligencepress.com

New York Mayor Unveils Plan to Boost Generation, Efficiency

<http://www.platts.com/Electric%20Power/News/6378350.xml?p=Electric%20Power/News&sub=Electric%20Power>

Ohio Agency Approves Siting of AEP's Clean Coal Power Plant

http://pro.energycentral.com/professional/news/power/news_article.cfm?id=8176013

Two Killed in Highwall Collapse at Tri-Star Mining's Job No. 3 Coal Mine in Maryland April 17

<http://www.platts.com/Coal/News/6378361.xml?p=Coal/News&sub=Coal>

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

Energy Assurance Daily provides a summary of public information concerning current energy issues. Published Monday through Friday to inform stakeholders of developments affecting energy systems, flows, and markets, it provides highlights of energy issues rather than a comprehensive coverage. *Energy Assurance Daily* is updated online Monday through Friday after 5:00 p.m. EST. For more information, visit the Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration (ISER) website at:

<http://www.oe.netl.doe.gov/index.aspx>.

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