



Nabucco removed from EU energy project list

Date : 17.03.2009

Source : EurActiv

<http://www.euractiv.com/en/opinion/nabucco-removed-eu-energy-project-list/article-180336>

Mention of the Nabucco gas pipeline has been deleted from a list of projects to be financed by a five-billion euro EU stimulus plan, it emerged after a meeting of the bloc's foreign ministers yesterday.

EU officials confirmed yesterday that the pipeline, once considered a flagship EU venture, had disappeared from the list of energy projects to be financed under the plan. The move was apparently made at the request of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who insists that no public money should be spent on a project in which Berlin has little interest.

Under a revised version of the plan, Nabucco has been diluted under a wider common heading, the 'Southern Gas Corridor', which also includes an offshore pipeline, ITGI, to be built between the Greek Ionian coast and Italy, and other projects in the southern region.

Czech Deputy Prime Minister Alexandr Vondra confirmed that the ministers had failed to agree on the stimulus plan, as "some member states want to look at the package again" ahead of the EU summit on 19-20 March. However, he added that a "strong group of countries want Nabucco to be part of a set of projects". "I told that group of countries we still support Nabucco," Vondra said, hinting that the Union was now divided along the lines of those supporting the pipeline and those who doubt its merits. During the ministerial meeting, Romania - an important transit country for Nabucco - was reported to be very critical of the project's deletion from the list.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel recently confirmed her country's opposition to funding the flagship Nabucco gas pipeline project with European money, stressing that the problem is not financing but finding gas to feed the pipeline.

An initial draft earmarked 250 million euro for the establishment of a risk-sharing facility for Nabucco, intended to help secure loans from banks at better conditions than those offered on the market. A second version of the plan cut this amount to 200 million. But the latest version now appears to have weakened Nabucco even more, diplomats admitted.



Tüpraş refinery resumes output

Date : 17.03.2009

Source : Hürriyet Daily News (Bloomberg)

<http://arama.hurriyet.com.tr/arsivnews.aspx?id=11222013>

Tüpraş, Turkey's biggest oil refiner, said output at its plant in Izmir has resumed after a halt yesterday caused by an explosion. The refinery will probably be back at full capacity within about 24 hours, after a blast in one of its nine boilers Sunday required a temporary shutdown.



Taq Taq appraisal well flows at 44,240 b/d of oil

Date : 18.03.2009

Source : Oil & Gas Journal

http://www.ogi.com/display_article/356664/120/ARTCL/none/ExpID/1/Iraq-appraisal-well-flows-at-44,240-b/d-of-oil/

An appraisal well in Taq Taq field in Northern Iraq has flowed at a combined rate of 44,240 b/d of 48° gravity oil with a low gas-oil ratio. Three Cretaceous intervals were tested separately at the TT-10 well, drilled on 3D seismic into the crest of the field's main formations.

The well is the last in an appraisal program by Taq Taq Operating Co., a joint venture of Genel Enerji and Addax Petroleum. A 136-m upper Shiranish interval flowed at a rate of 17,700 b/d, and an 85-m lower section made 13,780 b/d. A 67-m upper Kometan interval flowed at a rate of 19,380 b/d, and a 49-m lower interval made 14,800 b/d. A 136-m Qamchuqa interval flowed at a rate of 11,080 b/d.

“Interpretation of data acquired from the TT-10 well, including wireline logging and core samples, confirmed the presence of a significant and extensive fracture system in the tested formations as observed in the previous Cretaceous appraisal wells. In addition, the log analysis performed indicates that matrix porosity increases towards the center of the field,” Addax Petroleum said.

The 30,000 b/d early production system is complete and is to be expanded to as much as 60,000 b/d by mid-2009. Taq Taq Operating is making intermittent oil sales for trucking to local refineries.



European gas demand increases by 2.1% in 2008

Date : 17.03.2009

Source : Oil & Gas Journal (Doris Leblond)

http://www.ogj.com/display_article/356403/120/ARTCL/none/GenIn/1/Europe-an-gas-demand-increases-by-21-in-2008/

Preliminary figures and estimates brought out by Eurogas indicate that total natural gas consumption in EU27 increased by 2.1% in 2008 over 2007 from 506.4 bcm to 517 bcm.

The total number of gas customers connected to the EU27 gas grid rose 1% to 112.5 million customers. The largest gas consumers by far were in the UK where consumption rose to 101.8 bcm from 97.6 bcm in 2007; in Germany, where consumption fell to 85.1 bcm from 86 bcm in 2007; and in Italy, where consumption fell to 82.8 bcm from 82.9 bcm in 2007.

On a lower scale, consumption increased in France to 47.4 bcm from 45.8 bcm in 2007; in the Netherlands, up from 39.8 bcm to 41.4 bcm; Turkey to 36.1 bcm from 35.9 bcm; and in Switzerland to 3.3 bcm from 3.1 bcm.

Although natural gas markets vary significantly from one EU country to another, Eurogas believes some general trends may explain the overall increase. The main one is that the weather was mild in 2007 but rather cold in 2008 which, in addition, was a leap year of 366 days.

Overall the residential sector registered stable consumption resulting mainly from a trade-off between generally colder weather and energy savings. So the increase in gas consumption could be attributed to high demand in the power sector due to favorable gas prices compared with oil and coal. However, in all EU countries, there was a major slowdown in industrial demand in the last quarter due to the economic crisis.

Indigenous gas production increased 1.8% to 202 bcm over the period, pulled along by the Netherlands' 10.9% increase in production and Denmark's 9.4% hike, compensating for the downward trend in most other EU producing countries. Indigenous production, nonetheless, covers the highest percentage of the gas supplied in the EU, covering 39% of the total net supplies in 2008. The main external sources are Russia 25%, Norway 18%, and Algeria 10%. Some 60% comes from fields in Western Europe.

OIL



Afghanistan to launch oil and gas licensing round in April

Date : 19.03.2009

Source : Oil & Gas Journal (Eric Watkins)

http://www.ogj.com/display_article/356771/120/ARTCL/none/ExplD/1/Afghanistan-to-launch-oil-gas-licensing-round-in-April/

Afghanistan has announced the launch of a licensing round to award exploration and production-sharing contracts for three blocks bearing oil and gas in the north of the country.

The three blocks on offer are Jangalikalan, with natural gas reserves pegged at 19 bcm, Juma-Bashikurd, with reserves of 33 bcm, and Kashkari, which holds Kaskhari, Angoat, and Aqdarya oil fields. The Afghan ministry of mines said all three blocks hold known hydrocarbon-bearing accumulations in Cretaceous and Jurassic formations.

More recently, a US Geological Survey report has shown that Afghanistan may hold far higher amounts of minerals than previously thought, according to energy minister Mohammad Ibrahim Adel. Based on the USGS survey, Mohammed said the northern area of Afghanistan is estimated to hold 600–700 bcm of gas and 25 million tonnes of oil in four basins. A road show for the Afghan licensing round, to be led by Mohammed, will be launched in Kabul on Apr. 26, before it travels on to Dubai, London, Calgary, Houston, and Singapore.

GAS



Iran and China sign \$3.2 billion gas deal

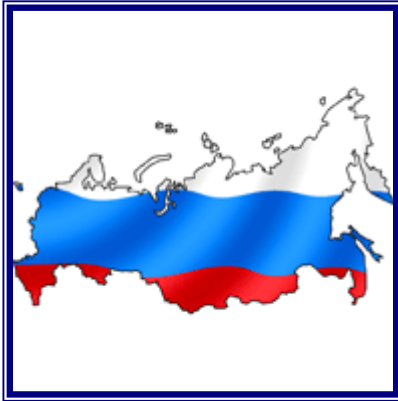
Date : 16.03.2009

Source : Today's Zaman (AP)

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=169689>

Iran and China have signed a \$3.2 billion gas deal to produce more than 10 million tons of liquid natural gas over the next 36 months. The deal was signed in Tehran between Iran LNG Company and a Chinese-led consortium.

The Chinese company will build a line to liquefy gas in Phase 12 of the South Pars gas field. The United States is pushing for China and others to abide by United Nations sanctions aimed at pressuring Iran to rein in its nuclear program.



Russia wants to become permanent OPEC observer

Date : 16.03.2009

Source : Today's Zaman (AP)

<http://www.todayszaman.com/tz-web/detaylar.do?load=detay&link=169686>

Russia says that it wants to send a permanent observer to OPEC. Moscow also said it wants to reduce oil production. That's welcome news to the OPEC as it seeks to bolster prices by cutting the amount of oil available on world markets.

Russian Deputy Premier Igor Sechin spoke Sunday at a meeting of the OPEC. Russia prizes its independence and is unlikely to become an OPEC member. It may be cutting production in part because it can no longer pump at present levels. Signs of closer cooperation between the largest non-OPEC producer of oil and the organization accounting for more than a third of world output are closely watched for their effect on supply and prices.

❖ GDPA Performance Programme – 2009

Source : General Directorate of Petroleum Affairs

Weblink : http://www.pigm.gov.tr/duyurular/2009_pigm_performans_programi.pdf

❖ Energy Policies of IEA Countries – Luxembourg 2008 Review

Source : International Energy Agency

Weblink : http://www.iea.org/Textbase/press/pressdetail.asp?PRESS_REL_ID=281