

Woodside Says LNG Production Restarts At North West Shelf

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MELBOURNE -(Dow Jones)- Woodside Petroleum Ltd. (WPL.AU) said Monday that liquefied natural gas production at the North West Shelf joint venture has restarted.

Production of both natural gas and LNG was interrupted at the Karratha Gas Plant last Wednesday following an electrical fault, and domestic gas production resumed Friday.

A spokeswoman for Woodside, which is the operator of the North West Shelf, said LNG production restarted Sunday night and will be ramped up to normal rates in the coming days.

LNG ship loading is expected to resume Monday, and while assessments are continuing, Woodside said it expects there will be a deferral of some shipments and it is in discussions with customers to agree on a revised delivery schedule.

"Woodside doesn't believe that the production disruption will materially affect its production forecast for the year," said the spokeswoman.

Industrial users of the North West Shelf's domestic gas were impacted by the outage, but Woodside said any claims for compensation would be of a confidential nature and it would be inappropriate to comment on them.

Woodside's equal partners in the North West Shelf joint venture are Chevron Corp. (CVX), BHP Billiton Ltd. (BHP), Royal Dutch Shell PLC (RDSB.LN), BP PLC (BP) and Japan Australia LNG.

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