

Woodside shuts Karratha gas plant due to fault

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SYDNEY, Jan 2 (Reuters) - Woodside Petroleum Ltd, Australia's second-largest oil and gas producer, said it had shut down production at its Karratha gas plant in Western Australia on Wednesday due to an electrical fault.

Domestic gas production was expected to resume by late Thursday, Woodside said in a statement, while liquefied natural gas (LNG) production would recommence after the re-start of domestic gas production.

Woodside said it was investigating the cause of the incident, and all personnel were safe and had been accounted for.

The Karratha gas plant, part of the North West Shelf venture operated by Woodside, produces LNG, condensate, liquefied petroleum gas and pipeline natural gas for the domestic market.

The plant produces about 33,000 tonnes of LNG and 104,000 barrels of condensate each day, according to Woodside's third-quarter production report.

The Perth-based company said the shutdown was not expected to materially affect its production forecast for 2008.

Woodside shares were up 1.5 percent at A\$51.10 on Wednesday, in a broader market up 0.2 percent, helped by firmer oil prices. (Reporting by Fayen Wong)