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Ecuador halts Sote, OCP oil lines after landslide

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cross, based on pictures provided by
PetroEcuador.

Technicians for both companies are still evaluating a way to continue to pump without risking a pipeline break, but the firms did not announce when the pipelines could restart operations. Neither PetroEcuador nor the ministry of energy has announced a possible declaration of *force majeure* over Ecuadorian oil exports. Operations are otherwise normal, PetroEcuador said.

The pipeline stoppage comes as Ecuador is struggling to achieve its production goal for this year of 521,000 b/d. In January, the South American country reached an average of 489,560 b/d, and from 1-21 February, the daily average was 481,565 b/d, 8pc lower than the goal for 2023.

The last time Sote suspended operations was December 2021, when the pipeline had to shut because of erosion in the nearby Coca and Quijos river beds, also in Napo province. OCP had to stop at the same time, and again for 11 days in early 2022 because of two more rockslides in the same area.

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CNPC subsidiary PetroOriental with 36.26pc;
Argentinian Pampa Energia, 30.06pc; Repsol,
29.66pc and Perenco, 4.02pc.

By Alberto Araujo

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