

USW BACKGROUND SHEET
January 5, 2011
SAVE THE EAST COAST REFINERIES

Shortly after Labor Day 2011, Sunoco announced it was going to permanently shut down its Philadelphia and Marcus Hook, Pa., refineries in July 2012 if a buyer was not found. At the end of September ConocoPhillips idled its Trainer, Pa., refinery. Then on Dec. 1, Sunoco announced it was immediately idling the Marcus Hook plant.

- Sunoco Philadelphia Refinery, about 900 employees (600 hourly, and just under 300 salary) plus approximately 300 contractors on a daily basis, shutdown announced Sept. 6, 2011, currently operating.
- Sunoco Marcus Hook, PA Refinery, 590 employees plus 150-200 contractors at the facility on a daily basis, shutdown announced Sept. 6, 2011, idle announcement made Dec. 1, 2011, currently idled.
- ConocoPhillips Trainer, PA Refinery: about 600 employees & contractors, shutdown announced Sept. 27, 2011, idled Sept. 30, 2011, currently shut down.

Congressional and elected state legislators have joined the USW in expressing concern about the negative impact on the Northeast if the Philadelphia area refineries are permanently shuttered.

After the Sunoco shutdown announcement, congressional members wrote letters to the U.S. Department of Energy requesting data on how the refinery closures would impact the availability and price of oil products like gasoline, heating oil, and diesel. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) issued a report Dec. 23, 2011. In its analysis the EIA said the closures could negatively impact oil product supplies and cause price spikes.

The EIA report said the northeast refineries supplied about 40 percent of the region's gasoline sales and 60 percent of distillate (diesel fuel and heating oil) sales in 2010. About half of this supply came from the three refineries that could be shut down permanently.

USW members and their families have rallied, lobbied members of Congress and state legislators, transmitted letters to the affected Northeast region state governors, circulated petitions in their communities and held news conferences in the hometowns of the refineries.

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Document Links & Contacts for More Information:

Letters transmitted in response to the EIA report by members of Congress to the U.S. Department of Energy and the Federal Trade Commission support the USW contention that American consumers, workers and U.S. energy needs are not being served by the petroleum industry's unilateral shutdown of refining capacity. The USW is calling for congressional and state hearings.

- Letter (Dec. 27, 2011) from U.S. Reps. Edward J. Markey (D-MA), Robert A. Brady (D-PA) and Allyson Y. Schwartz (D-PA) **to U.S. DOE Secretary Steven Chu** can be found [HERE](#).
- Letter (Dec. 27, 2011) from Edward J. Markey (D-MA), Robert A. Brady (D-PA) and Allyson Y. Schwartz (D-PA) **to the FTC** can be found [HERE](#).
- Report (Dec. 22, 2011) by the U.S. DOE/Energy Information Administration (EIA) on the East Coast refineries shutdown can be found [HERE](#).
- Letter (Nov. 7, 2011) from U.S. Reps. Edward J. Markey (D-MA), Henry A. Waxman (D-CA) and Robert A. Brady (D-PA) to the EIA can be found [HERE](#).

USW News Release

- *Statement (Dec. 23, 2011) -- [USW Says Government Analysis Confirms Shutdown of Philadelphia-area Refineries Could Negatively Impact Oil Products for Northeast Region](#). The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) released a report today that confirms what the USW has been saying about the impact of shutting down the ConocoPhillips and Sunoco Philadelphia-area refineries: supplies of oil products could be negatively impacted with accompanying price volatility and spikes.*

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