

Refinery Events

April 26, 2012—May 3, 2012

The following events were obtained from the Department of Energy (DOE) website:

Unspecified Equipment Malfunction Leads to Emissions at Chevron's 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery April 26

Chevron Corp. reported an equipment malfunction led to sulfur dioxide emissions at its Richmond, California refinery on Thursday, according to a filing with the California Emergency Management Agency. The release was contained, the filing said.

Reuters, 15:13 April 26, 2012. Posted to DOE website 4-27-12.

Update: Husky Shuts Compressor, Unspecified Units for Repairs after Leak at Its 146,200 b/d Lima, Ohio Refinery April 26

Husky Energy Inc. reported it was flaring material due to a leak in a line that caused the compressor to be taken down Thursday morning, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were bringing unspecified units down to make associated repairs, the filing said. Husky reported yesterday it was still processing about 120,000 b/d of crude oil at its Lima refinery after a leak shut a unit, according to an executive, and a spokeswoman from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency said black smoke on Wednesday began gushing from a stack in the aromatics heater after a malfunction in a fuel gas system.

Reuters, 11:05 April 26, 2012

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1009713 Posted to DOE website 4-27-12.

Valero Reports Flaring from FCC, Flue Gas Scrubber Stack at Its 87,400 b/d Ardmore, Oklahoma Refinery April 26

Valero Energy Corp. reported a release of hydrogen cyanide from a fluid catalytic cracker (FCC) flue gas scrubber stack at its Ardmore refinery on Thursday due to normal operations, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The release was ongoing at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1009779 Posted to DOE website 4-27-12.

Motiva Reports Ongoing Emissions Due to Unknown Cause at Its Norco, Louisiana Refinery April 26

Motiva Enterprises reported ongoing emissions at its Norco refinery on Thursday due to an unknown cause, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Workers were investigating the cause of the release, which was not secured at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1009767 Posted to DOE website 4-27-12.

Energy Transfer Partners to Acquire Sunoco; Under Merger Agreement Sunoco Still Exiting Refining Business

Energy Transfer Partners, L.P. (ETP) and Sunoco, Inc. today announced that they have entered into a definitive merger agreement whereby ETP will acquire Sunoco for approximately \$5.3 billion. This combination expands ETP's presence in the transportation, terminalling, and logistics of crude oil, natural gas liquids, and refined products. The transaction has been approved by each company's board of directors and is expected to close in the third or fourth quarter of 2012, subject to approval of Sunoco shareholders and customary regulatory approvals. Following the closing, Sunoco and Sunoco Logistics Partners will operate under the Energy Transfer Equity, L.P. umbrella of companies. In addition, under the merger agreement, Sunoco will continue its plans for exiting its refining business as previously announced, as well as continue its plans for the proposed refinery joint venture being discussed by Sunoco and The Carlyle Group.

<http://ir.energytransfer.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=106094&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1688772> Posted to DOE website 4-30-12.

ExxonMobil Completes Startup of Unidentified Unit at Its 238,600 b/d Joliet, Illinois Refinery April 27

ExxonMobil on Friday completed the startup of an unidentified unit at its Joliet refinery, according to a filing with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. The startup triggered flaring at the refinery and the release of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide into the atmosphere, according to the filing. On April 24 ExxonMobil reported an unspecified equipment malfunction led to flaring at the refinery. Operators removed the equipment from service.

[http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/29/refinery-operations-exxon-jolietidUSL1E8FT2U920120429?](http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/04/29/refinery-operations-exxon-jolietidUSL1E8FT2U920120429?feedType=RSS&feedName=industrialsSector&rpc=43)

Posted to DOE website 4-30-12.

Update: Husky Resumes Normal Operations at Its 146,200 b/d Lima, Ohio Refinery over Weekend after Repairs

Husky Energy Inc. said on Monday its Lima refinery resumed normal operations over the weekend, after unspecified units were shut down for repairs after a malfunction on Friday.

Reuters, 10:55 April 30, 2012. Posted to DOE website 4-30-12.

Control Valve Malfunction Triggers Flaring, Sulfur Dioxide Release at Marathon's 204,000 b/d Robinson, Illinois Refinery April 25–26

Marathon Petroleum Corp. reported flaring and a release of sulfur dioxide at its Robinson refinery on Wednesday and Thursday due to a control valve malfunction, according to a filing with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

Reuters, 15:05 April 29, 2012. Posted to DOE website 4-30-12.

Valero Restarts HCU at Its 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery April 28

Valero reported excess emissions during the startup of hydrocracker unit (HCU) No. 942 at its Port Arthur refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators were investigating the cause of the excess emissions, the filing said.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=167901>

Posted to DOE website 4-30-12.

Alon Reports CDU Malfunction, Flaring at Its 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery April 27

Alon USA reported a malfunction on the crude distillation unit (CDU) Friday, according to a filing with state regulators. Operators were diverting vent gas compressor (VGC) feed to a control device after the VGC tripped offline due to high receiver temperature Friday night, triggering flaring, the filing said. The high receiver temperature resulted when the exchanger on the boiler feed water provided inadequate cooling to the system.

Reuters, 14:41 April 29, 2012

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=167896>

Posted to DOE website 4-30-12.

Instrumentation Issue Trips Waste Gas Compressor, Leads to Emissions at Motiva's 236,400 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery April 29

Motiva Enterprises reported a waste gas compressor on Sunday tripped offline due to an unspecified instrumentation issue at its Norco refinery Sunday morning, triggering emissions, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1009993 Posted to DOE website 4-30-12.

BP Reports Unplanned Flaring at Its 265,000 b/d Carson, California Refinery April 27–28

BP Plc on Friday reported unplanned flaring at its Carson refinery, according to the South Coast Air Quality Management District, and said the flaring was expected to last until midnight Saturday. Reports did not indicate the source of the flaring.

<http://www.nasdaq.com/article/flaring-event-occurs-at-bp-refinery-in-carson-calif-20120427-01212> Posted to DOE website 4-30-12.

Update: Delta Air Lines Buys ConocoPhillips's Shuttered Trainer, Pennsylvania Refinery; Plans to Convert Infrastructure to Maximize Jet Fuel Production

Delta Air Lines' wholly owned subsidiary Monroe Energy has entered into an agreement with ConocoPhillips' downstream spinoff Phillips 66 to acquire the idled 185,000 b/d Trainer refinery near Philadelphia, according to reports. Delta intends to convert existing infrastructure to maximize jet fuel production at the refinery, and it will exchange gasoline, diesel, and other refined products for jet fuel from Phillips 66 and BP through multi-year agreements. Production at the refinery along with the exchange agreements will provide 80 percent of Delta's jet fuel needs in the United States, according to Delta, allowing the company to reduce its fuel expense by \$300 million annually. The acquisition also includes pipelines and transportation assets needed to deliver jet fuel to Delta's operations throughout the U.S. Northeast, including hubs at LaGuardia and JFK airports in New York. Delta expects to close on the acquisition in the first half of 2012; begin producing jet fuel during the third quarter of 2012; and complete infrastructure changes to increase jet fuel production by the end of the third quarter of 2012.

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3020414/Latest-News/Delta-strikes-deal-for-Conoco-Pennsylvaniarefinery.html> Posted to DOE website 5-1-12.

Pump Failure at BP's 405,000 b/d Whiting, Illinois Refinery April 30 Prevents Deliveries to West Shore Pipeline near Chicago

A pump failure at BP's Whiting refinery on Monday prevented the company from delivering products to the West Shore pipeline near Chicago, according to a worker for Buckeye Partners LP, which operates the line. The pipeline connecting the Whiting refinery to the West Shore line was expected to reopen today, according to Buckeye.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-04-30/chicago-gasoline-jumps-to-three-month-high-on-bp-pumpfailure.html?cmpid=yahoo> Posted to DOE website 5-1-12.

ExxonMobil Reports Flaring Due to Unknown Causes at Its 503,000 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana Refinery April 29

ExxonMobil on Sunday reported a release of hydrogen sulfide from a flare at its Baton Rouge refinery due to unknown causes, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The single flare was intermittently burning with a very low flame, according to the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1010038 Posted to DOE website 5-1-12.

ConocoPhillips Reports FCC Unit Upset, Flaring at Its 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery April 29-30

ConocoPhillips reported a process upset at the fluid catalytic cracking (FCC) unit at its joint-venture Borger refinery in Texas, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The refinery reported emissions from FCC Unit No. 40 began late Sunday, the filing said.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=167930>

Posted to DOE website 5-1-12.

Update: ExxonMobil's 160,000 b/d North Line Crude Pipeline Remains Shut after Oil Spill April 28; Says Its 502,000 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana Refinery Unaffected by Shutdown

ExxonMobil Corp. said Wednesday that the 160,000 b/d North Line crude pipeline in Louisiana remains shut after an oil spill occurred over the weekend, according to a company spokeswoman. The cause of the spill is still under investigation. The company also reported its Baton Rouge refinery has been unaffected by the shut pipeline. ExxonMobil has not estimated a restart date. The U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration said on Tuesday it will continue to monitor the situation.

DJN 09:58, May 2, 2012

Reuters, 14:30 May 2, 2012. Posted to DOE website 5-2-12.

HCU Trips Due to Unspecified Cause, Triggers Emissions at ExxonMobil's 572,000 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery May 1

ExxonMobil reported a hydrocracking unit (HCU) tripped offline Tuesday evening at its Baytown refinery in Texas, causing a release of hydrogen sulfide into the atmosphere, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The filing does not say why the HCU tripped. Operators were depressurizing the unit at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1010270 Posted to DOE website 5-2-12.

Hydrocracker Down at Tesoro's 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery – Traders

Tesoro Corp. has taken a hydrocracking unit (HCU) out of service at its Golden Eagle refinery in Martinez, California and expects the unit to be out of service for 2 weeks, according to marketers and traders doing business with the company.

DJN, 10:30 May 2, 2012. Posted to DOE website 5-2-12.

Leaking Valve Leads to Emissions at Valero's 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery April 30

Valero Energy Corp. reported emissions at its Port Arthur refinery Monday morning occurred due to a leaking valve, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators located and closed the leaking valve.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1010191 Posted to DOE website 5-2-12.

Shell Shuts Unspecified Unit after Upset Leads to Flaring at Its 329,800 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery May 1

Shell reported an unspecified process-unit upset at its Deer Park refinery Tuesday morning was causing materials to be routed to the flare, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators shut the unit and are investigating the cause of the upset, the filing said.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1010211 Posted to DOE website 5-2-12.

Tesoro Prepared to Operate Refineries if USW Members Strike – CEO

Tesoro Corp. is prepared to continue operating its refineries in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington state, and North Dakota in the event of a strike by United Steelworkers (USW) union members, Tesoro President and Chief Executive Gregory Goff said in an interview on Tuesday. Contracts with USW members at the four refineries expired but have been extended during negotiations, which are focused on bargaining rights over benefit changes in the current contract, a USW spokeswoman said. Workers at each of the refineries voted to authorize a strike, but they have not scheduled strikes in any location. Tesoro's contingency plans at the Martinez, California refinery near San Francisco, for example, would involve temporarily stopping production but continuing operation as a refined products terminal while replacement workers are trained. Once replacement workers are trained, the refinery would resume normal production.

Reuters, 20:23 May 1, 2012. Posted to DOE website 5-2-12.

Update: Tesoro Expects First Bakken Crude Oil Rail Deliveries to Anacortes, Washington Refinery in September, Ahead of Schedule

Tesoro Corp. will finish ahead of schedule a project to bring crude oil from the Bakken shale in North Dakota to its refinery in Anacortes, Washington, a company executive said Thursday. The company is constructing a rail line that will start deliveries in September, ahead of its previously scheduled fourth-quarter start date. Tesoro estimates it will receive one unit train delivery of crude oil every other day, which will amount to 40,000 b/d of crude.

DJN, 08:36 May 3, 2012. Posted to DOE website 5-3-12.

Delek Reduced Rates at Its 70,000 b/d El Dorado, Arkansas Refinery April 30 after ExxonMobil Shut North Pipeline

Delek US Holdings Inc. said it reduced rates Monday by more than 25 percent, to 55,000 b/d, at its refinery in El Dorado as a result of the closure of ExxonMobil's North Pipeline over the weekend, an executive said during a conference call with investors. Delek was monitoring the situation closely and working to partially replace scheduled shipments on the North Pipeline, the executive said.

DJN, 11:05 May 3, 2012. Posted to DOE website 5-3-12.

BP Restarts Ultracracker at Its 455,790 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery May 3

BP Plc reported the ultracracker at its Texas City refinery will resume normal operations today, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. BP Plc reported lightning struck a unit and knocked out a compressor at its Texas City refinery April 20, igniting a small fire. Local media reported the lightning struck an ultracracker at the refinery.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168012>

Posted to DOE website 5-3-12.

Chalmette Refining Restores Normal Operations at Its 192,500 b/d Chalmette, Louisiana Refinery after Power Blip May 2

Chalmette Refining restarted a unit and restored normal operations at its Chalmette refinery following a temporary weather-related power loss on Wednesday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The refinery reported no impact to production, the filing said.

Reuters, 00:11 May 3, 2012. Posted to DOE website 5-3-12.

Update: ExxonMobil Reports Minimal Impact to Production at 572,000 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery after HCU Malfunction May 1

ExxonMobil Corp. reported only minimal impact on production at its Baytown refinery after a malfunction on a hydrocracking unit Tuesday, according to reports. The company reported in a filing with state regulators a compressor trip Tuesday evening caused the HCU to shut, resulting in emissions and flaring.

Reuters, 17:57 May 2, 2012

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168050>

Posted to DOE website 5-3-12.

ExxonMobil Reports Minor Oil Spill at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery May 2

Exxon Mobil reported a release of greater than one barrel of oil to the soil from its Torrance refinery Wednesday afternoon, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The refinery was still operating and reported no impact to production at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1010327 Posted to DOE website 5-3-12.