

## Refinery Events

May 11, 2012 – May 17, 2012

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

### **Compressor Trip Shuts Hydrocracker at ExxonMobil's 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery May 10–11**

ExxonMobil reported a hydrocracker recycle compressor tripped Thursday, resulting in flaring at its Beaumont refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators shut the unit and were investigating the cause of the compressor trip at the time of the filing. A spokeswoman said Friday the hydrocracker will return to service following repairs to the recycle compressor. The refinery anticipates some impact to production, but it expects to meet all contractual commitments, the spokeswoman said.

DJN, 10:16 May 11, 2012

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168311>

Posted to DOE website 5-11-12.

### **Update: Valero Restarts FCCU after Repairs at Its 171,000 b/d McKee, Texas Refinery May 10**

Valero Energy Corp. reported emissions were expected during the restart of the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its McKee refinery, according to a filing with state regulators. The startup began on Thursday and would last through Monday, the filing said. In early April operators cut feed to the FCCU to perform maintenance on the electrostatic precipitator.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=167990>

Posted to DOE website 5-11-12.

### **Process Upset Leads to Emissions at Phillips 66's 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery May 10**

Phillips 66 reported an unspecified process upset at its Borger refinery led to emissions Thursday afternoon, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168318>

Posted to DOE website 5-11-12.

### **Update: Delek Restarts Boiler after Snag at Its 60,000 b/d Tyler, Texas Refinery May 9**

Delek reported excess emissions occurred at the No.9 boiler stack in the process of resuming normal operations after a snag earlier in the week, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168271>

Posted to DOE website 5-11-12.

### **Mechanical Failure Results in Flaring at Citgo's 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery May 10**

Citgo Petroleum Corp. reported sulfur dioxide was releasing to a flare due to a mechanical failure at its Lemont refinery Thursday evening, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The filing did not identify the unit that malfunctioned, but the refinery reported a sulfur recovery unit upset on Monday. The release had not been secured at the time of the filing.

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1011151](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1011151) Posted to DOE website 5-11-12.

### **Phillips 66 Reports FCCU Startup, Emissions at Its 100,000 b/d Ferndale, Washington Refinery May 10**

Phillips 66 reported carbon monoxide emissions during the restart of the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Ferndale refinery, according to a filing with the Northwest Clean Air Agency. Reuters, 20:18 May 10, 2012. Posted to DOE website 5-11-12.

### **Update: Sunoco Expected to Restart Fire-Damaged CDU at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery May 10 after Repairs – Source**

Sunoco Inc. expected to restart a crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Philadelphia refinery May 10 as they completed repairs following a brief fire last Wednesday, a person familiar with operations at the plant said Monday. The May 9 fire in the Girard Point section of the facility lasted only 10 minutes and caused only light damage to the unit, the person said.

DJN, 10:13 May 14, 2012. Posted to DOE website 5-14-12.

### **Power Loss Shuts Boilers, Causes FCCU Shutdown, Flaring at Pasadena Refining's 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery May 12**

Pasadena Refining System Inc. reported a power loss Saturday shut Boilers Nos. 4 and 6, which cut steam to the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) and caused it to shut down, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators were repairing the power system at the time of the filing. The refinery also reported an unspecified boiler shutdown was causing flaring Saturday afternoon, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators shut the unit, the filing said.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168372>

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1011361](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1011361) Posted to DOE website 5-14-12.

### **Process Upset Causes FCCU Emissions at Phillips 66's 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery May 13**

Phillips 66 reported a process upset Sunday morning led to emissions from a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its joint-venture Borger refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168376>

Posted to DOE website 5-14-12.

### **Power Blip Causes Flaring, Emissions at Phillips 66's 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery May 12**

Phillips 66 reported its Sweeny refinery was working to restore normal operations after a power interruption Saturday afternoon caused flaring and emissions, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The filing specifies the regenerative thermal oxidizer tank and coker flare, in addition to several unidentified units, as sources of emissions.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168374>

Posted to DOE website 5-14-12.

### **Coker Wet Gas Compressor Trips, Leads to Ongoing Emissions at ExxonMobil's 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery May 11**

ExxonMobil reported a coker wet gas compressor tripped at its Beaumont refinery Friday morning and was still offline as of Sunday morning, according to filings with the U.S. National Response Center and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. On Sunday, the refinery reported emissions due to two compressors that tripped. Operators routed process streams to flares to minimize emissions and were working to restore normal operations as soon as possible. The refinery reported a hydrocracker recycle compressor tripped Thursday. Operators shut the unit and were investigating the cause of the compressor trip at the time of the filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168362>

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1011278](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1011278)

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1011341](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1011341) Posted to DOE website 5-14-12.

### **Heater Outlet Valve Catches Fire, Shuts Unit at Motiva's 285,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery May 12**

Motiva Enterprises reported an R2 heater outlet check valve caught fire at its Port Arthur refinery Saturday, forcing operators to shut and depressurize the unit, according to a filing with state regulators. The plant's emergency response team extinguished the fire. The lube hydrocracking unit is listed in the filing as the source of emissions.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168366>

Posted to DOE website 5-14-12.

### **Unplanned Flange Repairs Cause Emissions at CVR Energy's 70,000 b/d Wynnewood, Oklahoma Refinery May 11**

CVR Energy reported unplanned repairs to a flange at its Wynnewood refinery caused emissions Friday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators had to shut and depressurize the unit to fix a leak near the heater, the filing said.

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1011219](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1011219) Posted to DOE website 5-14-12.

### **Update: BP Reports Ongoing Sulfur Dioxide Emissions at Its 225,000 b/d Cherry Point, Washington Refinery May 13**

BP Plc reported ongoing emissions of sulfur dioxide at its Cherry Point refinery, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center (NRC). The release has been ongoing since May 8, when the refinery first filed with the NRC, reporting an ongoing release from the No. 2 tail gas unit absorber due to a chain reaction from shutting the crude unit the day before. Operators had stopped restarting the central crude distillation unit (CDU) because of problems during its return to service, sources said. The unit has been shut for repairs since February 17 when it was damaged by a fire.

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1011364](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1011364) Posted to DOE website 5-14-12.

### **Update: Sunoco to Restart Fire-Damaged CDU at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery May 17 – Source**

Sunoco Inc. continues to make repairs to a crude distillation unit (CDU) damaged by a brief fire last Wednesday in the Girard Point section of its Philadelphia refinery, and operators expect to start the feed to the unit either Thursday or Friday this week, a source familiar with refinery operations said on Monday. Workers discovered a hole in the CDU where the fire occurred, the source said. Reports yesterday indicated—perhaps in error—that the CDU was expected to restart Thursday, May 10.

Reuters, 15:05 May 14, 2012

<http://www.nasdaq.com/article/refinery-status-fccu-hydrotreater-work-under-way-at-chevron-richmond-20120515-01071> Posted to DOE website 5-15-12.

### **Update: BP Resumes Restart Activities at Its 225,000 b/d Cherry Point, Washington Refinery; On Track to Return to Service This Month – Sources**

BP Plc was resuming restart activities at its Cherry Point refinery on Monday, according to sources familiar with refinery operations. BP halted the restart last Thursday when a problem developed on the crude distillation unit (CDU). That problem has since been resolved, the sources said, and the refinery is on track for a mid-May return to service. The refinery has been shut since February, when a fire damaged the CDU.

Reuters, 15:20 May 14, 2012

<http://www.nasdaq.com/article/refinery-status-fccu-hydrotreater-work-under-way-at-chevron-richmond-20120515-01071> Posted to DOE website 5-15-12.

### **Update: ExxonMobil Restarts HCU at Its 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery May 14**

ExxonMobil Corp. restarted a hydrocracking unit (HCU) that tripped last Thursday at its Beaumont refinery and was working to return it to normal operation on Monday, a company spokeswoman said. The company is also working to restart a compressor on the coking unit that malfunctioned on Saturday, the spokeswoman said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/14/refinery-operations-exxon-beaumontidUSH5E8E500Y20120514?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43> Posted to DOE website 5-15-12.

### **Citgo Flares Gas, Reduces Rates on Coker and Platformer Unit at Its 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery May 13**

Citgo Petroleum reported flaring after a third party receiving off gases from Citgo's West Plant at the Corpus Christi refinery shut down intake because the gas's composition was outside an accepted range, according to a filing with state regulators. This caused increased pressure in the flare header and the gas build-up exceeded the capacity of the flare gas recovery compressors. The excess gases were flared. Operators reduced charge rates on the coker and No. 5 platformer unit to reduce the production of refinery off gases until the third party reestablished gas intake. Another report indicated the third party mentioned in the filing is the MarkWest Javelina plant in Corpus Christi.

Reuters, 16:24 May 14, 2012

<http://www1.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168409>

Posted to DOE website 5-15-12.

### **Update: Sunoco to Restart Fire-Damaged CDU at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery May 16 – Trade Source**

Sunoco Inc. will restart the crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Philadelphia refinery later today, a trade source familiar with refinery operations said Wednesday. A brief fire in the Girard Point section of the refinery last Wednesday damaged the CDU, boring a hole in the unit. The refinery is expected to restore full rates by the weekend, the source said. A company spokesman declined to comment.

Reuters, 08:11 May 16, 2012. Posted to DOE website 5-16-12.

### **Update: BP Confirms Its 225,000 b/d Cherry Point, Washington Refinery Should Be Fully Operational by the End of May**

BP Plc confirmed its Cherry Point refinery should be fully operational by the end of May, if restart procedures go well, a spokesman said. The refinery has been shut since mid-February, when a fire damaged the crude distillation unit (CDU). BP halted restart activities last Thursday when a problem developed on the CDU—a setback the spokesman characterized as minor and said was addressed.

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2012/05/16/2523236/bp-cherry-point-restart-under.html>

Posted to DOE website 5-16-12.

### **Update: FCCU to Remain Idled until End of May at Delek's 60,000 b/d Tyler, Texas Refinery after Power Snag Last Week**

Delek U.S. Holdings Inc. reported the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) upset by a power interruption at the Tyler refinery last week will remain idled until the end of the month. The refinery expects crude oil throughput to average 45,000–50,000 b/d in May, and it expects normal operations to resume by the end of the month.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/05/15/delekus-idUSL4E8GF99H20120515> Posted to DOE website 5-16-12.

### **Update: Pasadena Refining's 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery Resumes Normal Operations after Weekend Power Loss**

Pasadena Refining Systems Inc. on Tuesday said all process units at its Pasadena refinery are operating at normal rates after a weekend power loss caused two boilers and the fluid catalytic cracking unit to go off line. The shutdowns had no impact to customer commitments, a company spokeswoman said.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2012/05/15/pasadena-refining-says-texas-refinery-returns-to-normal-rates/>

Posted to DOE website 5-16-12.

### **Compressor Upsets Lead to Coker Emissions at Valero's 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery May 15**

Valero Energy Corp. reported two separate compressor upsets led to emissions from the refinery's delayed coker unit (DCU) on May 15, according to filings with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and U.S. National Response Center. The first incident occurred in the morning as workers were troubleshooting a faulty governor valve and a low hydrogen flow to the reactor resulted. The unit depressured automatically, and operators later returned the compressor to normal operating conditions. The DCU was listed as a source of emissions in the filing. Later on Tuesday, Valero reported flaring from the DCU when the DCU fractionator overhead drum filled,

causing the wet gas compressor to trip on high suction drum level. Operators put two coker drum modules on circulation and reduced the other module to a minimum charge rate. The drum level was lowered to allow the compressor to be restarted. A Valero spokesman said the incident had no material impact to production.

DJN, 11:43 May 16, 2012

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168486>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168503>

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1011610](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1011610) Posted to DOE website 5-16-12.

### **Saturate Gas Compressor Trip Leads to Flaring at Valero's 83,000 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery May 15**

A saturate gas compressor trip resulted in emissions at Valero Energy Corp.'s Houston refinery, a company spokesman said on Tuesday. The company earlier reported flaring at the northwest portion of the refinery around 8:15 PM local time on Tuesday, according to a message posted on a community information line. The spokesman said there was no material impact to production.

Reuters, 22:49 May 15, 2012. Posted to DOE website 5-16-12.

### **ESP Shuts, Causes FCCU Emissions at Citgo's 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery May 15**

Citgo on Tuesday reported that, while operators were working on the Unibon Unit's power management, the fluid catalytic cracking unit's (FCCU) feed diversion activated, shutting the electrostatic precipitator (ESP) and resulting in increased opacity from the FCCU stack. Operators later restarted the ESP and restored normal operations.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168464>

Posted to DOE website 5-16-12.

### **Power Outage Causes Emissions at Valero's 180,000 b/d Memphis, Tennessee Refinery May 14**

Valero Energy Corp. reported sulfur dioxide emissions due to a power outage at its Memphis refinery late Monday night, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1011508](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1011508) Posted to DOE website 5-16-12.

### **Update: Sunoco Restarts CDU at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery May 16; Expects to Reach Planned Rates by May 19 – Source**

Sunoco Inc. on Wednesday began restarting a 100,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) in the Girard Point section of its Philadelphia refinery and was expected to reach planned operating rates by Saturday, a person familiar with operations at the plant said Thursday. Operators shut the unit for repairs after a brief fire May 9 damaged the unit. DJN, 10:58 May 17, 2012. Posted to DOE website 5-17-12.

### **Update: Valero's 180,000 b/d Memphis, Tennessee Refinery Operating after Brief Power Outage May 14**

Valero Energy Corp. on Wednesday said all main production units at its Memphis refinery were in operation following a brief power interruption Monday. The company had reported sulfur dioxide emissions due to a power outage Monday night. A company spokesman said there was no material impact to production.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2012/05/16/valero-memphis-refinery-operating-after-brief-power-outage/>

Posted to DOE website 5-17-12.

### **Mechanical Malfunction Causes SRU Emissions at Delek's 60,000 b/d Tyler, Texas Refinery May 16**

Delek reported a mechanical malfunction resulted in excess sulfur dioxide emissions from the sulfur recovery unit (SRU) No. 2 tail gas incinerator.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168525>

Posted to DOE website 5-17-12.

## **Citgo Says Hydrofluoric Acid Release at Its Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery May 15 Had No Impact on Production**

Citgo Petroleum Corp. said there was no impact to production at its Corpus Christi refinery after a hydrofluoric acid release in its East Plant late Tuesday. The release occurred when operators opened a valve to transfer the acid to an alkylation unit. The refinery had earlier said some units at the plant were undergoing turnaround maintenance. It also had reported emissions from the fluid catalytic cracking unit Tuesday after the electrostatic precipitator unexpectedly shut.

Reuters, 16:41 May 16, 2012. Posted to DOE website 5-17-12.