

Refinery Events

May 25, 2012 – May 31, 2012

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

Workers Strike at 155,000 b/d Husky Refinery in Lima, Ohio May 24

After weeks of negotiations between United Steelworkers Local 624 and Husky Lima refinery, more than 200 hourly workers went on strike May 24. There was no disruption to operations at the refinery, as managers took over for the striking workers.

<http://www.limaohio.com/news/husky-83962-workers-lima.html>

<http://af.reuters.com/article/commoditiesNews/idAFH5E8E501X20120525> Posted to DOE website 5-25-12.

Valero Reports Small Leak at Its 180,000 b/d Memphis, Tennessee Refinery May 25

Valero Energy Corp. said May 25 that an overhead line in the fluid catalytic cracker at its 180,000 b/d Memphis, Tennessee refinery had a small leak and was operating at slightly reduced rates. The company reported it was currently working on a plan to repair the leak.

Reuters, 09:53 May 25, 2012. Posted to DOE website 5-25-12.

Emissions Reported at Motiva's 235,000 b/d Convent, Louisiana Refinery May 24

Motiva Enterprises reported a release of sulfur dioxide and hydrogen sulfide due to a unit upset at its 235,000 b/d Convent, Louisiana, refinery on May 24. According to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center, the release was due to an H-oil upset, and the company was reducing charge and stabilizing the unit to secure the release.

Reuters, 01:30 May 25, 2012. Posted to DOE website 5-25-12.

Valero Reports Compressor Trip at Its 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery May 25

Valero Energy Corp. reported the trip of an off-gas compressor at the coker unit of its 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery May 24. According to the report to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Control, the trip did not result in material impact to production.

Reuters, 16:44 May 24, 2012

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168866>

Posted to DOE website 5-25-12.

Montana Refining Company Reports Fire at Its 10,000 b/d Great Falls Refinery May 24

Montana Refining Company said May 24 that it quickly put out a small fire at its 10,000 b/d Great Falls, Montana refinery. The company said the fire was caused by leaking naphtha that ignited, but there were no injuries reported.

Reuters, 17:52 May 25, 2012. Posted to DOE website 5-25-12.

Chevron Reported Oil Spill at Cymric Oilfield in California May 28

Chevron Corp. reported a discharge Monday at its Cymric oilfield in San Joaquin Valley, California. Crews are currently working to contain the mixture of steam and oil, but there is no estimate of how much oil spilled.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-05-28/chevron-reports-well-blowout-in-california-s-cymric-oilfield.html?cmpid=yhoo> Posted to DOE website 5-29-12.

Update: Husky Refinery Continues to Operate Normally Despite Strike

Husky Energy Inc. said its 160,000 b/d Lima refinery was maintaining normal operations on Monday, after workers went out on strike May 25.

Reuters, 14:41 May 25, 2012

<http://www.toledoblade.com/Energy/2012/05/29/Refinery-in-Lima-running-as-230-strike.html>

Posted to DOE website 5-29-12.

Upset Leads to Emissions at Valero's 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery May 25

Valero Energy Corp. reported an upset at sulfur recovery unit 542 of its 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas refinery, caused by an incinerator trip. According to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the company is working to stop excess emissions as quickly as possible, and the event causing the upset is under investigation. There was no material impact to production.

Reuters, 17:36 May 25, 2012

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168922>

Posted to DOE website 5-29-12.

Phillips 66 Reports Equipment Malfunction at Its 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery May 25

According to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, a piece of equipment at Phillips 66's 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas refinery had a malfunction, causing the equipment to shut down.

Reuters, 17:10 May 25, 2012

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168923>

Posted to DOE website 5-29-12.

Suncor Reports Unit Upset at Its 93,000 b/d Commerce City, Colorado Refinery May 28

Suncor reported an SVU unit malfunction at its 93,000 b/d Commerce City, Colorado refinery Monday. According to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center, the fire department was notified about the incident and that there was an unknown orange substance covering the city.

Reuters, 00:34 May 29, 2012. Posted to DOE website 5-29-12.

Petrobas Reports Leak at Its 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery May 27

According to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, an alkylation unit malfunctioned at Petrobas' 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas refinery Saturday, causing the release of hydrofluoric acid.

Reuters, 11:29 May 27, 2012

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168939>

Posted to DOE website 5-29-12.

Motiva Reports Flaring at Its 285,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery May 28

Motiva Enterprises reported that flaring at its 285,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas refinery led to the release of 135 pounds of hydrogen sulfide into the air Monday. According to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center, the release was not secured, and the faulty unit was being stabilized.

Reuters, 00:22 May 29, 2012

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1012869 Posted to DOE website 5-29-12.

Update: BP Resumes Normal Operations at Its 225,000 b/d Cherry Point, Washington Refinery May 29 – Sources

BP Plc reported its Cherry Point refinery resumed normal operations on Tuesday after completing a plant-wide restart, sources familiar with refinery operations said. The refinery shut in mid-February, when a fire damaged the crude distillation unit. A BP spokesman declined to discuss operations at the refinery.

http://www.lse.co.uk/FinanceNews.asp?ArticleCode=jk10f843i50wqkg&ArticleHeadline=BP_Cherry_Point_refinery_at_normal_ops_sources Posted to DOE website 5-30-12.

Sinclair Says All Units Operating at Its 74,000 b/d Sinclair, Wyoming Refinery May 29 after Fire in Alkylation Unit May 25

Sinclair Oil Corp. reported its Sinclair refinery was operating on Tuesday after a brief fire occurred during startup of a pump in the alkylation unit late Friday, a spokesman said. The fire damaged the pump, but all refinery units were in operation Tuesday, the spokesman said.

Reuters, 18:25 May 29, 2012. Posted to DOE website 5-30-12.

Instrument Malfunction Results in Flaring from Hydrocracker at Motiva's 285,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery May 28

Motiva reported flaring at its Port Arthur refinery Monday after work performed on Hydrocracking Unit 2 reactor bed temperature instruments falsely indicated a "rate of temperature rise," causing an Instrument Protective Function

(IPF) to trip. As a result of the IPF trip, the unit depressured to the flare system, according to a filing with state regulators. Operators stabilized the unit and placed it back into circulation.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=168982>

Posted to DOE website 5-30-12.

Failed Tail Gas Unit Controller Leads to Emissions at Valero's 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery May 29

Valero reported a failed controller on a tail gas unit caused a trip resulting in a release of hydrogen sulfide and sulfur dioxide at its Port Arthur refinery on Tuesday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

Operators secured the release, the filing said.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1012993 Posted to DOE website 5-30-12.

Relief Valve Snag Causes Propylene Emissions at PBF's 190,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery May 29

PBF Energy reported relief valves on three separate storage units at its Delaware City refinery activated for unknown reasons Tuesday, causing a release of propylene, according to a filing with state pollution regulators. The valves all reset after about 11 minutes, the filing said.

Reuters, 20:03 May 29, 2012. Posted to DOE website 5-30-12.

Update: Chevron Stops Oil, Steam Leak at Cymric Oilfield in California May 29

Chevron Corp. reported its crews stopped the discharge of steam and oil droplets from a well at the Cymric field in California yesterday afternoon. The well was being plugged with cement, according to a spokesman. The well began spewing a mixture of steam and oil Sunday morning. Chevron hasn't said how much oil was spilled. The Cymric field, in California's San Joaquin Valley, uses steam to produce mostly heavy crude.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-05-29/chevron-stops-oil-steam-leak-in-california-s-cymric-field-1-.html?cmpid=yhoo> Posted to DOE website 5-30-12.

Motiva Celebrates Completion of Expansion Project at Port Arthur, Texas Refinery; Facility Is Now Biggest U.S. Refinery with Capacity of 600,000 b/d

A ceremony held today at the Motiva Enterprise's Port Arthur, Texas refinery celebrated the completion of a 5-year construction project that more than doubled the facility's processing capacity to 600,000 b/d of crude. Motiva's Port Arthur refinery has now surpassed ExxonMobil Corp's 560,640 b/d Baytown, Texas refinery to become the largest refinery in the United States. The refinery's pre-expansion capacity was 285,000 b/d, and it had processed mostly medium-sour crude. The expansion gives it the flexibility to process heavier crudes from South America and potentially from Canada, as well as light-sweet domestic crudes. Motiva Enterprises is a joint venture between Shell Oil Company and Saudi Aramco, Saudi Arabia's state-owned oil company.

Reuters, 12:04 May 31, 2012

http://www.motivaenterprises.com/home/content/motiva/media_center/2012/05312012_par.html

Posted to DOE website 5-31-12.

BP Restores Normal Operations at Its 225,000 b/d Cherry Point, Washington Refinery May 31 after HCU Compressor Malfunction May 30 – Sources

BP Plc's Cherry Point refinery was operating normally today after a malfunction on a hydrocracking unit (HCU) yesterday, according to sources familiar with refinery operations. The refinery reported an inoperable HCU compressor was causing an unknown amount of sulfur dioxide to release to the flare Wednesday afternoon, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were slowing units until a solution could be made, the filing said.

Reuters, 10:36 May 31, 2012

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1013081 Posted to DOE website 5-31-12.

FCCU, Alky Units to Reach Planned Rates at Valero's 125,000 b/d Meraux, Louisiana Refinery after Maintenance Shutdown was Extended Due to Economics

Valero Energy Corp. is restarting a fluid catalytic cracker unit (FCCU) and alkylation units at its Meraux refinery

and hopes to increase the units to planned rates over the next several days, a company spokesman said on Thursday. Earlier this month, Valero said it was evaluating the economics of restarting the units at the refinery, which have been shut for maintenance since January.

Reuters, 09:52 May 31, 2012

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20120516-714879.html> Posted to DOE website 5-31-12.