

Refinery Events

April 19, 2013—April 25, 2013

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

Update: ExxonMobil Halts Hydrotreater Overhaul at Its 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery after Fire April 17 – Sources

ExxonMobil Corp. has halted the overhaul of a hydrotreater at its Beaumont refinery while operators investigate the circumstances of a fire that broke out on the unit Wednesday, sources familiar with refinery operations said Thursday. The unit had been down while for maintenance at the time of the flash fire, which occurred as workers were cutting into a heat exchanger on the hydrotreater. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration is also onsite investigating the incident, the sources said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/18/refinery-operations-exxon-beaumontidUSL2N0D51XX20130418?feedType=RSS&feedName=rbssEnergyNews&rpc=43> Posted to DOE website 4-19-13.

Update: Motiva Cuts Gasoline Production at Its 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery after Low Hydrogen Supply Delays Restart of FCCU, HCU – Sources

Gasoline production was cut over the weekend at Motiva Enterprises' Port Arthur refinery because reduced hydrogen supply has delayed the refinery's return to full production following an unexpected power loss on April 14, sources familiar with refinery operations said on Monday. The fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) and hydrocracking unit (HCU) remain shut due to the lower hydrogen supply, the sources said. Operators completed restarting the refinery's three crude distillation units over the weekend. Motiva separately reported that as its operators were working to restart the FCCU last Thursday, the propylene and butylenes splitter feed pump from the No. 1 Debutanizer tower was lost, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The loss of feed caused the tower to pressure up and relieve to the atmosphere through the pressure relief valve, causing emissions from the FCCU Process Fugitives and the FCCU.

Reuters, 10:41 April 22, 2013

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=181914>
Posted to DOE website 4-22-13.

Update: Valero Says All Units Recovered at Its 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery by April 19 after Last Week's Power Loss

Valero Energy Corp. said units at its Port Arthur refinery had recovered by Friday following a power interruption on April 14. The company had reported all units had returned to production and were nearing planned rates by April 16. Reuters, 10:28 April 19, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-22-13.

Phillips 66 Reports Normal Operations at Its 238,000 b/d Bayway Refinery in Linden, New Jersey April 22 after Power Dip April 19

Phillips 66 reported normal operations at its Bayway refinery Monday following a power dip that affected several unspecified units Thursday.

Reuters, 11:10 April 22, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-22-13.

Hydrocracking Unit Trips Offline at Phillips 66's 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery April 18

Phillips 66 reported a hydrocracking unit at its Wood River refinery tripped offline last Thursday, causing nitrous oxide emissions, according to a filing with State pollution regulators. Operators discovered a hydrocracker high separator dump valve had lifted.

Reuters, 04:00 April 22, 2013

Reuters, 04:01 April 19, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-22-13.

Citgo Says Its 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery Remained Operational Despite Minor

Flooding and Electrical Issues April 18; Reports Compressor Shutdown April 21

Citgo Petroleum Corp. said its Lemont refinery in Illinois remained operational on Thursday during minor flooding and electrical issues caused by extreme weather conditions, according to a company official. Operators had earlier reported flaring due to a possible power outage at the refinery, in a filing with State pollution regulators on Thursday. Operators were restoring the refinery's flare equipment at the time of the filing. On Sunday the refinery reported a flare gas compressor had unexpectedly shut down that day and could potentially have caused a release of carbon dioxide and a mixture of gases, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators later reported the compressor was shut for only a short time Sunday before it was returned to service, without affecting production.

Reuters, 16:50 April 19, 2013

Reuters, 04:01 April 19, 2013

Reuters, 11:46 April 23, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1044644 Posted to DOE website 4-23-13.

Transformer Malfunction Shuts Crude Unit, Causes FCCU Emissions at Phillips 66's 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery April 19

Phillips 66 reported a transformer malfunction near the Crude Unit No. 25.1 at its Sweeny refinery caused the unit to shut down, and forced operators to reduce rates, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. During this event, operators de-energized the Unit 27 fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) electrostatic precipitator, causing emissions from the Unit 27 FCCU regenerator and Unit 27.1 FCCU regenerator. Operators later restored the FCCU electrostatic precipitator to normal service. On Friday, energy intelligence service Genscape reported the shutdown of a 123,500 b/d crude distillation unit and a 47,000 b/d FCCU at the refinery.

Reuters, 18:02 April 21, 2013

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=181926>

Posted to DOE website 4-23-13.

Marathon Cuts Feed to FCCU at Its 76,000 b/d Galveston Bay, Texas Refinery after Electrostatic Precipitator Failure April 20

Marathon Petroleum Corp. reported it cut feed into the No. 1 fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Galveston Bay Refinery in Texas City Saturday afternoon when part of the electrostatic precipitator (ESP) failed, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The filing lists the FCCU and ESP as sources of emissions.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=181932>

Posted to DOE website 4-23-13.

Unspecified System Upset Causes Emissions at Valero's 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery April 22

Valero Energy Corp. reported a system upset at its Port Arthur refinery on Monday led to the release of approximately 501 pounds of sulfur dioxide and 101 pounds of hydrogen sulfide into the atmosphere through the flare, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators secured the release.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1044709 Posted to DOE website 4-23-13.

High Winds Blow Out Flare Pilot, Causing Emissions at Valero's 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery April 18

Valero Energy Corp. reported the loss of a flare pilot at the East Plant of its Corpus Christi refinery due to high winds Thursday afternoon caused emissions from Complex 8Q, the Complex 8Q flare, and the Complex 8Q reformer flare, 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=181917>

Posted to DOE website 4-23-13.

Delek Reports Malfunctions, Emissions at Its 60,000 b/d Tyler, Texas Refinery April 19 and April 20

Delek U.S. Holdings reported excess sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions at its Tyler refinery Friday morning were the result of an unspecified sulfur recovery unit (SRU) upset, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on

Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The filing reported emissions from the No. 2 Cat Flare, the No. 2 tail gas incinerator, and SRU 2. The refinery also reported an electrical supply irregularity affected the No. 9 boiler Saturday morning, causing emissions from the No. 9 boiler, boiler stack, and associated fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU), according to another TCEQ filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=181996>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=181931>

Posted to DOE website 4-23-13.

Vent Gas Compressor Malfunction Causes Crude Unit Emissions at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery April 22

Alon USA Energy Inc. reported emissions at its Big Spring refinery Monday morning were related to a malfunction on a vent gas compressor, which was not able to pump enough volume of gas, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The filing lists the vent gas compressor, the No. 2 crude flare, and a crude unit as sources of emissions. The incident did not affect production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=181994>

Posted to DOE website 4-23-13.

HollyFrontier Reports Unspecified Unit Startup at Its 130,000 b/d El Dorado, Kansas Refinery April 21

Holly Frontier reported that during an unspecified unit startup at its El Dorado refinery on Sunday, there was a release of an unknown amount of hydrogen sulfide into the atmosphere through the flare, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were "attempting to align the system" to secure the release.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1044638 Posted to DOE website 4-23-13.

Update: Chevron Plans to Resume Normal CDU Operations at Its 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery by Month's End – Source

Chevron Corp. plans to resume normal operations on the crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Richmond refinery by the end of the month, news sources reported. The plant's only CDU has been shut since a fire on August 6, 2012. Operators previously reported plans to restart the unit by April 20. The refinery has been producing motor fuels at about 50 percent capacity during repairs.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-04-22/san-francisco-gasoline-weakens-a-second-day-on-refineryrestarts.html?cmpid=yahoo>

Posted to DOE website 4-23-13.

Chevron Scheduled to Restart FCCU at Its 279,000 b/d El Segundo, California Refinery by April 15 after Repairs – Source

Chevron Corp. was scheduled to restart a fluid catalytic cracking unit at its El Segundo refinery on April 15 after finishing repairs, according to a source familiar with operations at the refinery. The refinery reported unplanned flaring from April 18 to April 19, according to a filing with the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Reuters, 03:05 April 19, 2013

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-04-19/los-angeles-gasoline-weakens-as-refinery-restarts-unit-thisweek.html?cmpid=yahoo>

Posted to DOE website 4-23-13.

Pipe Samples from Chevron's El Segundo, California Refinery Show Sulfidation Corrosion Similar to Samples from the Failed Pipe at Chevron's Richmond, California Refinery

The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) and California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) on April 15 jointly issued a report that shows pipe samples from Chevron's El Segundo, California refinery had sulfidation corrosion that is similar to samples from the company's Richmond, California refinery, where a crude distillation unit caught fire on August 6, 2012. CSB and Cal/OSHA investigations determined that sulfidation corrosion and severe pipe thinning caused the Richmond plant's crude distillation tower piping to fail, which led to the fire. After the fire, Chevron voluntarily inspected and upgraded corresponding sections of piping from El Segundo, which has a nearly identical crude unit. The tests compared sections of pipe from side-cuts in the two crude units. A report on the results of that test show the similarities in the type of sulfidation corrosion. No release or incident occurred at El Segundo, and Chevron has since replaced the corroded piping with an upgraded metallurgy that is more resistant to sulfidation corrosion.

http://www.csb.gov/assets/1/7/Anamet_inc_report.pdf

<http://www.ogi.com/articles/2013/04/report--chevron-el-segundo-refinery-pipe-shows-sulfidation-.html> Posted to DOE website 4-23-13.

ExxonMobil Reports Unspecified Breakdown at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery April 21

Exxon Mobil Corp. reported an unspecified breakdown at its Torrance refinery on April 21, which led to flaring, according to a filing with the South Coast Air Quality Management District. The filing says that operators were anticipating the flaring to continue through April 26.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-04-22/san-francisco-gasoline-weakens-a-second-day-on-refineryrestarts.html?cmpid=yahoo> Posted to DOE website 4-23-13.

Tesoro Reports Unspecified Unit Startup at Its 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery April 21

Tesoro Corp. reported the startup of an unspecified unit at its Martinez refinery on Sunday, according to a filing with the Contra Costa County Health Department Hazardous Materials Program.

Reuters, 12:30 April 22, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-23-13.

Tesoro Reports Unspecified Equipment Startup at Its 120,000 b/d Anacortes, Washington Refinery April 16

Tesoro Corp. reported an equipment startup at its Anacortes refinery on April 16, according to a filing with the Northwest Clean Air Agency. The company reported an equipment shutdown at the refinery on March 1.

Reuters, 18:20 April 19, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-23-13.

Phillips 66 Reports Emissions from FCCU Flu Gas Scrubber at Its 100,000 b/d Ferndale, Washington Refinery April 13

Phillips 66 reported carbon monoxide emissions from a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) flu gas scrubber at its Ferndale, Washington refinery on April 13, according to a filing with the Northwest Clean Air Agency.

Reuters, April 19, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-23-13.

Desulfurization Unit Snag Causes Emissions at PBF Energy's 190,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery April 19

PBF Energy reported an unspecified problem with a desulfurization unit at its Delaware City refinery caused emissions on Friday, according to a filing with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

Reuters, 03:47 April 19, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-23-13.

Tesoro and Savage to Build 120,000 b/d Crude-by-Rail Unloading and Marine Loading Facility at the Port of Vancouver, Washington

Tesoro Corporation and Savage Companies on Monday announced the formation of a joint venture between Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company LLC (a subsidiary of Tesoro) and Savage to develop and operate a new 120,000 b/d crude-by-rail unloading and marine loading facility at the Port of Vancouver, Washington, subject to approval by regulatory agencies and Port Commissioners. With access to rail and existing marine infrastructure, the Port of Vancouver is uniquely positioned to serve as a hub for the distribution of North American crude oil to West Coast refining centers. The facility is expected to be operational in 2014, and will be designed to handle an estimated initial volume of 120,000 b/d with potential near-term expansion capability to 280,000 b/d.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=79122&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1809355>

Posted to DOE website 4-23-13.

Loss of Steam, Hydrogen Production Shuts Two CDUs at Motiva's 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery by April 24 – Sources

Two of three crude distillation units (CDUs) at Motiva's Port Arthur refinery – the 80,000 b/d VPS-2 and the 205,000 b/d VPS-5— were out of production on Wednesday due to the loss of a plant that produces part of the

steam and hydrogen required by the refinery over the weekend, according to sources familiar with refinery operations. The outage also led to reductions in gasoline production. The refinery's largest CDU, which accounts for 325,000 b/d of capacity, has remained in operation since restarting on April 21 following a power outage. Reuters, 10:33 April 24, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-24-13.

Citgo Reduces Rates on All FCCUs at Its 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery after Water in the Feed Causes Disruption April 23

Citgo Petroleum Corp. reported that water in the feed to its Corpus Christi East Plant's fluid catalytic cracking units (FCCUs) resulted in a disruption in the units' operation Tuesday morning, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators immediately dropped unit rates and placed each unit into circulation. Investigators were working to identify and isolate the source of the water. Operators were waiting for the source to be found and addressed before returning the units to normal operations. The event led to emissions from the East Plant FCCU 1, East Plant FCCU 2, and the No.1 and No. 2 FCCU.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=182046>

Posted to DOE website 4-24-13.

Exchanger Leak Causes Emissions at Valero's 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery April 23

Valero Energy Corp. reported an exchanger leaked into the East Plant Complex 8 Cooling Tower at its Corpus Christi refinery Tuesday morning, causing emissions in to the atmosphere, 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=182043>

Posted to DOE website 4-24-13.

Equipment Failure Causes Butadiene Release at Motiva's 234,000 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery April 23

Motiva Enterprises reported release of butadiene due to an equipment failure at its Norco refinery on Tuesday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were working to affix a clamp to secure the leak but had not yet stopped the release at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1044756 Posted to DOE website 4-24-13.

Gas Plant Glitch at Phillips 66's 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery Results in Sulfur Dioxide Emissions April 23

Phillips 66 reported a glitch at a gas plant at its Wood River refinery on Tuesday resulted in sulfur dioxide emissions, according to a filing with State pollution regulators.

Reuters, 04:00 April 24, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-24-13.

Chevron Testing and Commissioning CDU at Its 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery April 25

Chevron Corp. reported flaring at its Richmond refinery Thursday, confirming a filing with the California Emergency Management Agency. A spokeswoman said operators were testing and commissioning the crude distillation unit (CDU), which has been shut since an August 2012 fire. Once this process is complete, the refinery will restart the crude unit in the near term, the spokeswoman said.

Reuters, 11:06 April 25, 2013

Reuters, 09:10 April 25, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-25-13.

Alon Says Minor Fire in Reformer Under Control at Its 80,000 b/d Krotz Spring, Louisiana Refinery April 25

Alon Energy USA reported a fire that broke out in a reformer at its Krotz Spring refinery Thursday morning was brought under control by onsite emergency responders within 11 minutes. Operators were investigating the cause and working to determine what impact the incident might have on operations, if any, an Alon spokesman said.

Reuters, 11:01 April 25, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-25-13.

Power Blip Has No Material Impact on Production at Valero's 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery April 23

Valero Energy Corp. said a brief power blip on Tuesday had no material impact on production at its Corpus Christi refinery. The refinery had reported an exchanger leak at its East Plant Complex 8 Cooling Tower caused emissions Tuesday morning in a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
Reuters, 10:59 April 24, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-25-13.

PBF Energy Reports Compressor Repair Work at Its 190,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery April 24

PBF Energy Inc. reported sulfur dioxide emissions due to repair work on a compressor at its Delaware City refinery, according to a filing with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.
Reuters, 14:16 April 24, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-25-13.