

Refinery Events

April 26, 2013—May 2, 2013

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

Update: Citgo Returns Two FCCUs to Service at Its 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery by April 25

Citgo Corp. on Thursday reported two fluid catalytic cracking units (FCCUs) at the East Plant of its Corpus Christi refinery were back online. Water in the feed to the units had on Tuesday disrupted their operation, and operators dropped unit rates and placed both into circulation.

DJN, 10:18 April 26, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-26-13.

Update: ExxonMobil Reports Normal Operations at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery by April 25

ExxonMobil Corp. on Thursday reported normal operations at its Torrance refinery. The company had reported an unspecified breakdown at the refinery on April 21 led to flaring that was expected to continue through April 26.

Reuters, 13:48 April 25, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-26-13.

Fire Extinguished after Ignition in Sour Water Tank During Fueling at Marathon's 102,000 b/d Detroit, Michigan Refinery April 27

Marathon Petroleum Corp. reported that just before 6:00 p.m. EDT Saturday, a fire erupted in a sour water tank at its Detroit refinery while operators were fueling the tank, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The refinery's onsite emergency response team extinguished the blaze by about 8:00 p.m., according to a spokesman. Operators were investigating the cause of the fire, which also led to a release of ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, and sulfur dioxide. During the fire, officials evacuated the eastern part of Melvindale, near the refinery, and closed two exits off of a nearby interstate highway.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1045314

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2013/04/27/Explosion-at-Detroit-oil-refinery-evacuation-ordered/UPI-26321367109646/?spt=hs&or=tn Posted to DOE website 4-29-13.

Update: Chevron Resumes CDU Operations at Its 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery by April 26

Chevron Corp. on Friday reported it was restarting a crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Richmond refinery that had been shut since an August 2012 fire, according to a filing with the Contra Costa Health Department Hazardous Materials Program. Company officials said Friday the CDU is expected to be fully operational during the second quarter. Since the August 6 fire, the refinery has been producing motor fuels at about 50 percent of capacity during repairs.

Reuters, 16:41 April 26, 2013

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/chevron-resumes-operations-unit-closed-212000370.html>

Posted to DOE website 4-29-13.

Flange on Unspecified Unit Leaks Hydrogen Sulfide at Flint Hills' 280,500 b/d Saint Paul, Minnesota Refinery April 27

Flint Hills Resources reported hydrogen sulfide was leaking from a flange on an unspecified unit at its Saint Paul refinery Saturday morning, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators repaired and tightened the flange but had not yet secured the release at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1045303 Posted to DOE website 4-29-13.

Power Loss Shuts Unit, Causes Hydrogen Sulfide Emissions at HollyFrontier's 130,000 b/d El Dorado, Kansas Refinery April 28

HollyFrontier Corp. reported an unspecified unit at its El Dorado refinery shut down during a power loss Sunday

morning, causing a release of hydrogen sulfide, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were investigating the cause of the power loss and working to restart the unit, but had not yet secured the release at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1045346 Posted to DOE website 4-29-13.

Marathon Reduces FCCU Feed During ESP Unit Repairs at Its 451,000 b/d Galveston Bay, Texas Refinery April 27

Marathon Petroleum Corp. reported it was reducing charge rates to a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Galveston Bay refinery Saturday morning to reduce emissions from the FCCU and the electrostatic precipitator (ESP) stack, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Opacity was exceeded during maintenance on the transformer rectifier on the ESP unit.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=182161>

Posted to DOE website 4-29-13.

ExxonMobil Reduces Rates on Catalytic Light Ends Unit at Its 572,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery Due to Vent Gas Leak from Pipe April 27

ExxonMobil Corp. reported it was cutting production on a catalytic light ends unit at its Baytown refinery on Saturday after operators discovered a refinery vent gas leak from a hole in a pipe, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators isolated the leak and depressured and reduced rates in applicable process units to minimize emissions, which were reported from the catalytic light ends Unit 3, Flare Stacks 3, 4, 6, and from the hole in the pipe.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=182162>

Posted to DOE website 4-29-13.

Union Workers Threaten Strike at ExxonMobil's 572,200 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery over Health and Safety Language during Talks for New Contract

The United Steelworkers (USW) Local 13-2001 at ExxonMobil's Baytown refinery has threatened to strike if it cannot reach an agreement with ExxonMobil over a new contract, the USW announced Monday. During recent negotiations, Local 13-2001 proposed to include in the contract health and safety language drawn from the 2012 National Oil Bargaining agreement, which ExxonMobil has agreed to use for its facilities in Torrance, California, Billings, Montana, Chalmette, Louisiana, and Beaumont, Texas. The USW has raised concerns about safety at the plant since June 2011, after a worker suffered burns on 25 percent of his body because of a problem with a steam vent valve. The proposed health and safety language is intended to help operators detect safety risks before they result in fires, explosions, releases, and other incidents. Management at Baytown refused to accept the language in its last, best, and final offer given April 15. This refusal prompted Local 13-2001 to issue a required 60-day notice to terminate the contract and go out on strike. Shortly after Local 13-2001 issued its notice, ExxonMobil issued its required 60-day lockout notice to the local union. Since then, both sides met once on April 19 to negotiate the contract. Another bargaining session has been scheduled for May 3.

http://www.usw.org/media_center/releases_advisories?id=0697

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2013/04/29/union-workers-threaten-strike-at-exxon-baytown-refinery/>

Posted to DOE website 4-29-13.

Process Upset Results in Emissions During DCU Startup Operations at Motiva's 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery April 25

Motiva Enterprises reported that during startup operations on a delayed coker unit (DCU) at its Port Arthur refinery Thursday evening, a process upset resulted in the over-pressuring of the Naphtha Splitter Drum, resulting in emissions, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators stabilized the unit to minimize emissions, which were reported from the DCU, the DCU-1, and the DCU-1 Flare Stack. Separately, sources familiar with refinery operations on Thursday said operators were planning to begin returning a 205,000 b/d crude distillation unit to production on Friday.

Reuters, 17:55 April 26, 2013

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=182149>

Posted to DOE website 4-30-13.

Valero Reports Distillate Hydrotreater Startup at Its 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery April 29

Valero Energy Corp. reported startup operations were underway on a distillate hydrotreater at its Port Arthur refinery, according to a spokesman, who said the work did not have a material impact on production. Reuters, 11:29 April 29, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-30-13.

Unspecified Process Upset Causes Emissions at Phillips 66's 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery April 29

Phillips 66 reported an unspecified process upset at its Borger refinery Monday morning caused emissions from Area C, a flare, and the refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. <http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/occeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=182214>
Posted to DOE website 4-30-13.

Lyondell Says Its 270,600 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery Running Above Capacity in Q2 as It Refines Lighter Crudes after CDU, Coking Unit Overhaul

LyondellBasell Industries NV on Friday said its Houston refinery was running above capacity as it refines more light crude oil following an overhaul in the first quarter. The refinery has been processing 290,000 b/d in the second quarter, Chief Executive Jim Gallogly said. Crude oil throughput in the first quarter averaged 173,000 b/d, or about 63 percent of capacity. Overhauling a crude distillation unit (CDU) and a coking unit has enabled the refinery to now run a crude slate that includes 20 percent light crude. Prior to the overhaul, the refinery had run mostly heavy, sour crude oil, primarily from Venezuela, leaving the plant unable to process new supplies of light crude coming from south Texas. Reuters, 12:25 April 26, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-30-13.

Flare Gas Recovery Compressor Fails at Phillips 66's 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery April 30

Phillips 66 reported the loss of a flare gas recovery compressor at its Wood River refinery on Tuesday, according to a filing with state pollution regulators. Reuters, 10:10 April 30, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-30-13.

Shell Reports Unspecified Major Unit Startup at Its 156,400 b/d Martinez, California Refinery April 25

Royal Dutch Shell Plc reported an unspecified major unit was starting up at its Martinez refinery on Thursday, according to a filing with the Contra Costa Health Department Hazardous Materials Program. Reuters, 16:41 April 26, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-30-13.

Tesoro Delays Restarting Units, Reduces Crude Rates at Its 120,000 b/d Anacortes, Washington Refinery Due to Unplanned Repairs – Source

Tesoro Corp. has delayed restarting units at its Anacortes refinery after a 2-month turnaround because of unplanned repairs on a crude reformer, according to a person with knowledge of the work. The crude unit is running at reduced rates and the fluid catalytic cracking unit was expected to restart Monday, the person said. A spokeswoman said Tuesday that the Anacortes refinery is performing planned maintenance and that it did not anticipate any impact to its product supply commitments. Operators had reported an equipment startup at the refinery on April 16 in a filing with state environmental regulators. <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-04-30/portland-gasoline-premium-jumps-as-tesoro-startup-saiddelayed.html?cmpid=yahoo> Posted to DOE website 5-1-13.

Update: Valero to Start Operation of New 60,000 b/d Hydrocracker at Its 270,000 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery in July

Valero Energy Corp expects to finish building a new 60,000 b/d hydrocracker at its Norco refinery in June and start production from the unit in July, the company said April 30. <http://www.proactiveinvestors.co.uk/columns/fullermoney-markets/12847/energy-markets-report-including-phillips-66-has-reported-gas-flaring-at-its-wood-river-illinois-refinery-12847.html> Posted to DOE website 5-1-13.

Electrical Malfunction Affects SRU Operations at Delek's 60,000 b/d Tyler, Texas Refinery April 30

Delek US Holdings reported excess sulfur dioxide emissions from the No. 2 Cat Flare at its Tyler refinery Tuesday morning were due to an electrical malfunction affecting sulfur recovery unit (SRU) operations, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. In addition to the No. 2 Cat Flare, operators reported emissions from the SRU 1/2 Incinerator, SRU 1/2 Tail Gas Incinerator, and Sulfur Recovery Plant. Operators restarted the SRU-2 and Shell Claus Off-gas Treating units as quickly as possible to minimize emissions.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=182278>

Posted to DOE website 5-1-13.

Update: Tesoro's 93,500 b/d Kapolei, Hawaii Refinery Ceases Operations April 30

Tesoro Hawaii Corp. said Tuesday that its 93,500 b/d Kapolei refinery in Hawaii had ceased operations as planned. But the company is temporarily delaying layoffs while it identifies potential buyers. The company said it is still on target to convert the refinery into an import, storage, and distribution terminal sometime this week.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/news/2013/04/29/tesoro-delays-layoffs-at-hawaii-refinery.html>

Posted to DOE website 5-2-13.

Valero Plans to Increase Light, Sweet Crude Refining Capacity by 160,000 b/d at Its Houston and Corpus Christi, Texas Refineries

Valero Energy said April 30 that it plans to invest about \$500 million for new equipment at its refineries in Houston and Corpus Christi, Texas, to increase their light, sweet crude refining capacity by a combined 160,000 b/d. The company is also planning to ship more crude oil from Texas to its refinery in Quebec City and expects the refinery to stop importing oil from outside North America by the end of 2013.

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3199043/Latest-News/Valero-looks-to-boost-refinery-processing-capacity-for-light-sweet-crudes.html> Posted to DOE website 5-2-13.

Western Refining Plans 25,000 b/d Expansion at Its 122,000 b/d El Paso, Texas Refinery; Phase 2 of Delaware Basin Crude Gathering System to be Operational in Q2

During its earnings call with analysts, Western Refining Inc. said it is planning a 25,000 b/d expansion to its 122,000 b/d refinery in El Paso, Texas, weighting it to diesel fuel output. This expansion is targeted to start up in 2015.

Additionally, the second phase of the Delaware Basin crude gathering system in Texas, which involves 50 miles of crude oil gathering lines in southern Mexico and West Texas, is slated to be operational by the end of the second quarter this year.

Reuters, 11:44 May 2, 2013

<http://seekingalpha.com/article/1394541-western-refining-s-ceo-discusses-q1-2013-results-earnings-call-transcript?page=4&p=qanda&l=last> Posted to DOE website 5-2-13.