

Refinery Events

April 5, 2013—April 11, 2013

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

Update: Regulators May Allow Chevron's 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery to Resume Full Operations Within Days

The California Occupational Safety and Health Program has been inspecting Chevron's refinery this week to ensure that standards are met. State regulators say they may allow the refinery to resume full operations within days. The refinery has been operating at 60 percent capacity since a fire in August 2012 knocked out the refinery's crude distillation unit (CDU). Chevron has stated that it had completed all repairs and replacements as well as instituted a number of new safety measures at the refinery and other parts of its operations.

http://www.insidebayarea.com/breaking-news/ci_22957542/chevron-refinery-could-restart-within-few-daysregulators?source=rss Posted to DOE website 4-5-13.

Flaring, Emissions Reported at Shell's 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery April 5

In a filing with the California Energy Management Agency, Shell reported a release of hydrogen into a flare through a pressure release valve, which caused flaring and a release of sulfur dioxide. The valve was isolated and the release was secured.

Reuters, 13:21, April 4, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-5-13.

Update: Phillips 66 Completes Restart of Units at its 198,400 b/d Ponca City, Oklahoma Refinery April 4

Phillips 66 said Thursday that it had completed restarting all units at its 198,400 b/d Ponca City, Oklahoma refinery. Several units were shut down over the weekend because of severe weather. Phillips 66 restarted some units earlier this week. Phillips did not specify which units were affected.

Reuters, 13:21, April 3, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-5-13.

Power Outage Shuts Compressor, Causes Flaring at United Refining's 65,000 b/d Warren, Pennsylvania Refinery April 5

On Friday, shortly past midnight, United Refining Co. reported flaring at its Warren, Pennsylvania refinery. The flaring happened after a power outage caused a compressor to go offline and release materials to the flare, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

Reuters, 00:10, April 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-5-13.

Update: Safety Regulator Approves Chevron to Restart CDU at Its 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery

California's Occupational Safety & Health Division on Friday gave Chevron Corp. permission to restart the central crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Richmond refinery, an agency spokesman said. The No. 4 CDU has been shut since an August 6, 2012 fire. The refinery has been operating at about 50 percent of capacity while repairs were underway.

Reuters, 16:30 April 5, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-8-13.

Unspecified Breakdown Leads to Flaring at ExxonMobil's 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery April 8

ExxonMobil Corp. reported unplanned flaring at its Torrance refinery early Monday morning was due to an unspecified breakdown, according to a filing with the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Reuters, 09:14 April 8, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-8-13.

ExxonMobil Says Wastewater Leak at Its 192,500 b/d Chalmette, Louisiana Refinery Had No Impact on Production April 3

ExxonMobil Corp. on Friday said there had been no impact on production at its Chalmette refinery following a leak on Wednesday. Operators reported an unknown amount of wastewater had leaked from the facility's No. 1 flare drum, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. A spokeswoman said the liquid material released was condensate water from the flare system. Operators quickly contained the leak, but it was later linked to strong odors in the area and was under investigation by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Reuters, 14:16 April 5, 2013

<http://rt.com/usa/louisiana-exxon-chemical-spill-362/>

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1042781 Posted to DOE website 4-8-13.

Valero Shuts Unspecified Process Units at Its 120,000 b/d Meraux, Louisiana Refinery April 5

Valero Energy Corp. reported that a controlled shutdown of unspecified process units at its Meraux refinery resulted in flaring Friday morning, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The release had not been secured at the time of the filing, but operators had air monitoring systems in place.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1043029 Posted to DOE website 4-8-13.

Phillips 66 Reports Work on Flare Gas Recovery System at Its 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery April 6

Phillips 66 reported it was performing work on the flare gas recovery system at its Wood River refinery on Saturday, according to a filing with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

Reuters, 16:49 April 7, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-8-13.

Power Outage Damages Compressor at United Refining's 65,000 b/d Warren, Pennsylvania Refinery April 4

United Refining Co. reported flaring at its Warren refinery Thursday after a power outage caused damage to a compressor, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators had not secured the release by the time of the filing, but had adjusted operations to reduce emissions and were working to repair the compressor.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1043025

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1042961 Posted to DOE website 4-8-13.

Philadelphia Energy Restarts Isomerization Unit, Other Units at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery by April 1

Philadelphia Energy Solutions reported Friday that it restarted an isomerization unit at the Girard Point section of its Philadelphia refinery on April 1. It also restarted an unspecified Unit 231 on March 28, and Unit 433 on March 27, following repairs.

Reuters, 16:27 April 5, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-8-13.

Update: Chevron to Begin Restarting CDU at Its 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery This Week – Source

Chevron Corp. was preparing to begin restarting the No. 4 crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Richmond refinery this week after California regulators on Friday gave it permission to restart the unit, according to a person familiar with operations. The equipment will take several days to restart. The CDU had been shut since an August 6, 2012 fire, and the refinery has been operating at about 50 percent of capacity during repairs. A spokeswoman said Monday that the company expects to restart the crude unit this quarter.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-04-08/san-francisco-gasoline-weakens-as-chevron-seen-startingunit.html?cmpid=yahoo>

Posted to DOE website 4-9-13.

Update: Valero Returns 36,000 b/d HCU to Planned Rates at Its 144,000 b/d Benicia, California Refinery by April 8

Valero Energy Corp. on Monday said a hydrocracking unit (HCU) was at planned rates at its Benicia refinery. Operators shut the 36,000 b/d HCU on March 11 due to an unspecified upset in the facility's hydrogen plant. Operators restarted the unit March 21.

Reuters, 10:39 April 8, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-9-13.

Update: ExxonMobil Cuts FCCU Rates after Hydrotreater Malfunction at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery April 8 – Sources

ExxonMobil Corp. on Monday cut production on an 87,800 b/d fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Torrance refinery after a hydrotreater malfunction, according to sources familiar with refinery operations. Workers at the refinery were attempting to restart the hydrotreater, the sources said. Operators had reported unplanned flaring at the refinery early Monday was due to an unspecified breakdown. A spokeswoman confirmed a breakdown in a unit Monday, but said the upset didn't affect fuel production.

Reuters, 17:05 April 8, 2013

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-04-08/san-francisco-gasoline-weakens-as-chevron-seen-startingunit.html?cmpid=yahoo> Posted to DOE website 4-9-13.

Shell Isolates Equipment after a Release of Flushing Oil and Gas at Its 156,400 b/d Martinez, California Refinery April 5

Royal Dutch Shell Plc isolated equipment at its Martinez refinery on Saturday after a release of "flushing oil and gas" late Friday evening, according to statements posted on the refinery's Facebook page and blog. The material was contained onsite. Two workers received medical treatment as a result of the incident, the cause of which was under investigation.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Shell-Refinery-in-Martinez/177039505666832>

<http://blogs.shell.com/martinez/2013/04/small-release-contained-on-site/> Posted to DOE website 4-9-13.

Flint Hills Shuts Coker Unit Due to a Leak at Its 288,468 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery April 7

Flint Hills Resources reported that operators discovered a leak in the piping at the West Refinery coker unit at its Corpus Christi refinery on Sunday, causing emissions from the coker unit and two coker fugitives, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators shut the coker unit and ceased the charge rate where the leak occurred.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=181367>

Posted to DOE website 4-9-13.

Power Interruption Shuts SRU at Valero's 120,000 b/d Meraux, Louisiana Refinery April 5

Valero Energy Corp. reported that a power interruption caused a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) to shut down at its Meraux refinery on Friday, without affecting other units, according to a spokesman.

Reuters, 10:39 April 8, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-9-13.

Chevron Reports Sulfur Transfer Line Leak at Its 330,000 b/d Pascagoula, Mississippi Refinery April 6

Chevron reported a sulfur transfer line at its Pascagoula refinery was leaking at a flange Saturday, and that material was leaking into the Bayou Cassotte waterway, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators had not secured the release at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1043157 Posted to DOE website 4-9-13.

Power Failure Causes Sulfur Dioxide Emissions at PBF's 190,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery April 8

PBF Energy reported flaring and sulfur dioxide emissions at its Delaware City refinery late Monday were due to a power failure, according to a filing with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. Reuters, 21:52 April 8, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-9-13.

Alon Says Upgrades Necessary at Its Krotz Springs, Louisiana and Big Spring, Texas Refineries to Comply with EPA's Proposed Tier III Fuel Standards

Alon USA Energy, Inc. on Monday announced it would have to make upgrades at its Krotz Springs, Louisiana refinery and Big Spring, Texas refinery to meet the requirements under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) recently proposed pollution standards for fuels, referred to as the Tier III fuel standards. On March 29, the EPA published its proposed Tier III fuel standards which require, among other things, a reduction in the sulfur

content of gasoline to a level of no more than 10 parts per million on an annual average basis. Alon believes the Krotz Springs and Big Spring refineries will be required to comply with the proposed Tier III fuel standards no later than 2020.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=190387&p=RssLanding&cat=news&id=1803980>

Posted to DOE website 4-9-13.

SCOT Unit Shutdown Causes SRU Emissions at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery April 9

Alon USA Holdings reported excess emissions from the No. 1 sulfur recovery unit (SRU) at its Big Spring refinery Tuesday night after the No. 1 shell claus off-gas treating (SCOT) unit tripped on flame failure, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The filing reports emissions from the No. 1 tail gas incinerator and the No. 1 SCOT unit, in addition to the No. 1 SRU.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=181441>

Posted to DOE website 4-10-13.

Unit Trip Causes Emissions at Phillips 66's 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery April 8

Phillips 66 reported Unit 38 at its Sweeny refinery tripped on Monday while operators were servicing the unit depressure valve, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The trip caused emissions from Flare 29 and Unit 38 for a period of about 22 minutes.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=181406>

Posted to DOE website 4-10-13.

Phillips 66 Reports Sulfuric Acid Leak at Its 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery April 8

Phillips 66 reported that approximately one barrel of sulfuric acid leaked from a flange at its Wood River refinery on Monday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were investigating the cause of the leak.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1043355 Posted to DOE website 4-10-13.

Heavy Gasoil Leaks from Process Pipeline at Shell's 329,800 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery April 8

Royal Dutch Shell Plc. said a leak of heavy gasoil from a process pipeline was contained at its Deer Park refinery Monday afternoon, according to a spokeswoman. Operators were investigating the cause of the incident.

Reuters, 14:03 April 9, 2013. Posted to DOE website 4-10-13.

Continental Resources to Ship Bakken Crude Oil by Rail to PBF's 190,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery

PBF Energy Inc. today announced the signing of an agreement with Continental Resources Inc. to supply PBF with Bakken crude oil, which will be delivered by rail to PBF's double-loop track at its refinery in Delaware City, Delaware. PBF did not announce the volumes of Bakken crude it expected to buy from Continental. PBF in February completed a second rail unloading facility at its Delaware City refinery, allowing the plant to take a total of 70,000 b/d of light, sweet crude from North Dakota's Bakken shale and 40,000 b/d of Canadian heavy oil.

<http://investors.pbfenergy.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=250880&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1805238>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/04/10/pbf-continental-crude-idUSL2N0CX0S520130410>

Posted to DOE website 4-10-13.

Motiva Reports Leak at Its 236,400 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery April 10

Motiva Enterprises reported a leak in a pipeline at its Norco, Louisiana refinery on Wednesday. According to a filing with the National Response Center, there was a release of an unspecified amount of butadiene due to the leak.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1043580 Posted to DOE website 4-11-13.