

Refinery Events

August 24, 2012—August 30, 2012

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

Update: BP Says Recalled Gasoline Came From Faulty Alkylation Unit at Its 337,000 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery

BP Plc said August 23 that an alkylation unit at its 337,000 b/d refinery in Whiting, Indiana was the source of the 50,000 barrels of recalled gasoline shipped from the company's Whiting fuel storage terminal from August 13–17. On August 21, BP alerted Northwest Indiana fuel distributors that it was recalling this unleaded regular gasoline because it was contaminated. The company did not say what the problem with the alkylation unit specifically was but said it had made changes to operations to fix it.

Reuters, 18:04 August 24, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-24-12.

Update: Citgo Says FCCU at Its 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery is Back Online August 23

Citgo Petroleum Corp. said Thursday that a fluid catalytic cracker unit (FCCU) at its 167,000 b/d Lemont refinery in Illinois was operating normally after operators shut the unit July 28 for unplanned repairs following an equipment issue. The FCCU was initially expected to return to service within the week, according to reports at that time. On August 8, Citgo reported it was restarting the FCCU in a filing with state environmental regulators, but traders later said the restart was unsuccessful.

Reuters, 11:08 August 23, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-24-12.

Update: Chevron Says Its 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery is Operating at Reduced Capacity August 23

Chevron Corp. reported on Thursday that its 245,271 b/d Richmond, California refinery was operating at a reduced capacity following the August 6 fire at its crude distillation unit. The cause of the incident and the extent of the damage is still under investigation, and Chevron will not say what the refinery's current operating capacity is.

http://articles.marketwatch.com/2012-08-23/industries/33335778_1_chevron-refinery-crude-unit-richmond-refinery

Posted to DOE website 8-24-12.

Update: Tesoro Says Its 103,800 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery is Operating Normally August 24

Tesoro Corp. filed a report with California pollution regulators Friday, stating that operations at its 103,800 b/d Wilmington, California refinery were normal following a unit trip. The company had reported flaring on Saturday after a hydrogen supplier reported a breakdown at the refinery on August 18.

Reuters, 9:59 August 24, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-24-12.

ExxonMobil Reports FCCU Equipment Failure at Its 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery August 24

According to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, ExxonMobil experienced equipment failure at a gasoline-making fluid catalytic cracking unit at its 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas refinery and anticipates some impact on production.

Reuters, 11:29 August 24, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-24-12.

Valero Reports Malfunction at Its 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery August 23

According to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, there was a malfunction in the complex 7 area of Valero's 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery. Operators routed streams and returned the unit to normal operations immediately. Valero said that refinery production was not affected.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=172658> Posted to DOE website 8-24-12.

PBF Delays Delaware Refinery Expansion Project; Plans to Shift Oil Deliveries to Rail Cars

PBF Energy has postponed a \$1 billion expansion project at its 190,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware refinery that would have established units that produce ultra-low sulfur heating and diesel oil. Instead, it has launched a \$50 to \$60 million project that could shift the majority of its crude oil deliveries to rail cars instead of tanker ships. This project would allow PBF's rail unloading complex to handle up to an additional 100,000 b/d of oil.

<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20120721/NEWS/307210046/Refinery-quietly-postpones-Clean-Fuel-expansion?odyssey=topicpage> Posted to DOE website 8-24-12.

Update: Delta Air's 185,000 b/d Trainer, Pennsylvania Refinery is Receiving Crude

Delta Air Line said Thursday that its 185,000 b/d Trainer, Pennsylvania refinery is receiving crude oil in its tanks, ahead of the scheduled restart of some of its units in September. Delta purchased the refinery from Phillips 66 in June. The facility has been shut down since September 2011. Monroe Energy, which will operate the plant, said in June that it planned to resume fuel production in September.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/23/refinery-operations-delta-traineridUSL2E8JNGKU20120823?feedType=RSS&feedName=rbsEnergyNews&rpc=43> Posted to DOE website 8-24-12.

LyondellBasell Reports Minor Crude Oil Leak at Its 270,600 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery August 25

LyondellBasell on Monday reported a crude oil leak at its Houston refinery over the weekend was minor and did not involve any reportable quantity, according to a spokesman. The company had reported an unknown amount of crude oil leaked from a 2-inch pipeline Saturday afternoon in a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The leak was due to unknown causes, the filing said.

Reuters, 11:28 August 27, 2012

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1022190 Posted to DOE website 8-27-12.

Update: FCCU at ExxonMobil's Beaumont, Texas Refinery May Remain Shut for 6-10 Days for Repairs after Equipment Failure August 23 – Industry Report; Refinery Reports Normal CDU Operations after Snag August 24

Industry reports indicate the equipment failure that occurred on the only fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at ExxonMobil Corp.'s Beaumont refinery on Thursday would require 6–10 days to repair, according to a report from EnergyNewsToday, which did not cite its source for the information. Last week the refinery reported the equipment failure had resulted in flaring from the unit and would likely cause some impact on production, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The refinery also reported it restored normal operations on a crude distillation unit (CDU) after an unspecified instrumentation failure caused emissions Friday morning, according to another TCEQ filing.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-08-24/gulf-coast-gasoline-strengthens-as-exxon-beaumont-shuts-cracker.html?cmpid=yhoo>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=172673>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=172707>

Posted to DOE website 8-27-12.

PBF Energy Reports Normal Operations at Its 190,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery after a Coker Unit Snag August 26

PBF Energy Inc. reported a mechanical failure in a compressor of the coker unit led to sulfur dioxide emissions at its Delaware City refinery Sunday night, according to a filing with state pollution regulators. PBF later reported all unit operations were back to normal at the refinery, according to a notice on a community information line.

Reuters, 07:08 August 27, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-27-12.

Unspecified Equipment Failure Causes Benzene Release at Flint Hills' 288,468 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery August 26

Flint Hills Resources reported a release of benzene from the sulfolane BIH column at its Corpus Christi refinery Sunday night was due to an unspecified equipment failure, according to a filing from the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were isolating the leak and shutting the unit, the filing said.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1022258 Posted to DOE website 8-27-12.

Unspecified Process Upset Causes Emissions from FCCU and ESP Stack at Petrobras' 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery August 23–24

Petrobras reported an unspecified process upset caused emissions at its Pasadena refinery Thursday night, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The filing lists the electrostatic precipitator (ESP) stack and the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) as sources of emissions and said emissions were expected to continue into Friday.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=172693>

Posted to DOE website 8-27-12.

Update: BP Recalls More Than 2 Million Gallons of Gasoline Blended at Its 413,000 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery – Reports

The latest reports indicate BP Plc has issued a recall for about 2.1 million gallons of off-specification gasoline that was blended at its Whiting refinery and shipped to stations in Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin earlier this month. BP said earlier this month that an alkylation unit at its refinery was the source of 50,000 barrels of recalled gasoline shipped from the company's storage terminal August 13–17.

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/bp-recalling-over-2m-gallons-151108415.html>

<http://chicago.cbslocal.com/2012/08/28/lawsuits-filed-over-bad-gasoline-from-bp/> Posted to DOE website 8-28-12.

Unplanned Process-Unit Shutdown Causes Flaring of Sulfur Dioxide at Phillips 66's 120,000 b/d Rodeo, California Refinery August 25

<http://www.nasdaq.com/article/refinery-status-exxon-reports-unit-outage-at-beaumont-20120827-00608>

Posted to DOE website 8-28-12.

Total Reports Emissions Related to Restart Activities at Its 232,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery August 27

Total Petrochemicals reported elevated emissions from Units 870 and 871 during start-up activities at its Port Arthur refinery Monday afternoon, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Sulfur Recovery Unit No. 4 (SRU-4) and SRU-5 are also listed as sources of emissions.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=172763>

Posted to DOE website 8-28-12.

Update: Flint Hills Repairs Leak after Shutting DIH and Sulfolane Units at Its 288,468 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery August 26

Flint Hills Resources reported its operators discovered a leak on the reflux pipe to the deisohexanizer (DIH) column at its Corpus Christi refinery Sunday evening, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators immediately shut the DIH and sulfolane units to repair the leak. In a previous filing with national regulators, the refinery had reported only that a leak from the sulfolane unit was due to an unspecified equipment failure.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=172768>

Posted to DOE website 8-28-12.

Western Refining Reports Amine Unit Release at Its 20,800 b/d Gallup, New Mexico Refinery August 26

Western Refining Inc. reported a sulfur dioxide release from an amine unit at its Gallup refinery Sunday afternoon was due to lost circulation, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators secured the

release by reducing the out-gas flow through the AMV-3 unit to drop the circulation to the bottom of the tower, the filing said.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1022315 Posted to DOE website 8-28-12.

Unspecified Upset Causes Sulfur Dioxide Emissions at BP's 225,000 b/d Cherry Point, Washington Refinery August 16

BP Plc reported an upset led to excess emissions of sulfur dioxide at its Cherry Point refinery on August 16, according to a filing from the Northwest Clean Air Agency that was released Monday. Investigators were working to determine the cause of the incident, the filing said.

Reuters, 19:31 August 27, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-28-12.

Phillips 66 Calls County Hazmat Team after Routine Flaring Causes Compressor Problems at Its 238,000 Linden, New Jersey Refinery August 27 – Local Media

Phillips 66 on Monday called in the Union County hazmat team after a routine flaring operation led to compressor problems at its Bayway refinery in Linden, New Jersey, local media reported. Investigators found “no unusual activity,” however, according to a county spokeswoman.

Reuters, 16:03 August 27, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-28-12.

Fire Forces Evacuation at Sinclair's 80,000 b/d Sinclair, Wyoming Refinery August 24 – Local Media

Sinclair Oil Corp. reported a fire at its Wyoming refinery last Friday afternoon forced an evacuation at the plant but caused no injuries, according to local media.

Reuters, 13:22 August 27, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-28-12.

Update: Pipe Corrosion Caused October 2011 Distillate Unit Explosion at Consumers' 100,000 b/d Regina, Saskatchewan Refinery – Investigators

Consumers' Co-operative Refineries Limited reported the October 2011 explosion in the middle distillate unit at its Regina refinery occurred when a single small crack in a 6-inch pipeline carrying hydrogen gas, hydrogen sulfide, and diesel gas caused a rupture and explosion, which then caused four other hydrogen sulfide pipelines to breach as well. The rupture was caused by corrosion and uniform wall thinning along the upper half of the pipe from the pressure of the gas and high operating temperatures. Investigators are still trying to determine the source of the ignition that caused the gas to explode. The incident led to a 20-percent reduction in the refinery's diesel output from early October until May 2012.

<http://www.ohscanada.com/news/pipe-corrosion-caused-2011-oil-refinery-explosion/1001646072/>

Posted to DOE website 8-28-12.

Chevron Reports Flaring Due to Unknown Causes at Its 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery August 28

Chevron Corp. reported a release of hydrocarbons from a flare stack at its Richmond, California refinery Tuesday morning was due to unknown causes, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators had secured the release, and an investigation was underway, the filing said.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1022439 Posted to DOE website 8-29-12.

PBF Energy Reports Intermittent Flaring, Sulfur Dioxide Release at Its 190,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery August 28

PBF Energy Inc. reported intermittent flaring that resulted in the release of sulfur dioxide at its Delaware City refinery Tuesday evening, according to a filing with state pollution regulators.

Reuters, 19:12 August 28, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-29-12.

Tesoro Restarts Alkylation Unit at Its 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery August 28 after Shutting the Unit to Repair a Leak August 26

Tesoro Corp. was restarting the alkylation unit at its Martinez refinery on Tuesday, according to a filing with the Contra Costa County Health Department Hazardous Materials Program. Operators shut the unit on Sunday due to a small leak of spent acid and hydrocarbons, the filing said.
Reuters, 15:26 August 28, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-29-12.

Phillips 66 Shuts Hydrocracking Unit Due to Unspecified Equipment Failure at Its 120,000 b/d Rodeo, California Refinery August 24

Phillips 66 reported it shut the hydrocracking unit at its Rodeo refinery on Friday due to an equipment failure, according to a filing with the Contra Costa County Health Department Hazardous Materials Program. The shutdown led to flaring, the filing said. In a different filing, operators had reported an unplanned process-unit shutdown caused flaring of sulfur dioxide at the Rodeo plant on Saturday.
Reuters, 15:24 August 28, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-29-12.

Update: Shell Restarts Hydrocracking Unit at Its 156,400 b/d Martinez, California Refinery August 23; Unit Had Been Shut Since August 13 Fire

Royal Dutch Shell Plc. restarted the hydrocracking unit at its Martinez refinery last Thursday, August 23, according to a filing with the Contra Costa Health Department Hazardous Materials Program that was made public yesterday. Shell shut the unit after a small fire ignited in the light oil processing unit on August 13. The fire was caused by a leak of lubricating oil from a compressor on the hydrocracking unit, previous filings said.
Reuters, 15:21 August 28, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-29-12.

Hess Reports Emissions at Its 70,000 b/d Port Reading, New Jersey Refinery August 28

Amerada Hess Corp. reported emissions at its Port Reading refinery Tuesday afternoon, according to a filing with state pollution regulators. The filing did not identify the cause of emissions or the unit associated with the incident.
Reuters, 13:42 August 28, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-29-12.

ExxonMobil Reports Emissions Due to Unspecified Line Leak at Its 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery August 29

ExxonMobil Corp. reported a release of various chemicals from a flare at its Beaumont refinery Wednesday afternoon was due to a line leak in an unspecified unit, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators made repairs and secured the leak, the filing said.
http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1022559 Posted to DOE website 8-30-12.

Phillips 66 Reports Small Coker Unit Fire at Its 120,000 b/d Rodeo, California Refinery August 29

Phillips 66 has reported several recent snags at the Rodeo refinery, including an unspecified equipment failure that shut a hydrocracking unit on August 24 and an unplanned process-unit shutdown on August 25. Both incidents led to flaring.
Reuters, 12:09 August 30, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-30-12.