

Refinery Events

August 3, 2012—August 9, 2012

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

Update: Impact to Production Unclear as HollyFrontier Assesses Damage after Diesel Hydrotreater Fire at Its 125,000 b/d Tulsa, Oklahoma Refinery August 2

HollyFrontier Corp. was still assessing the damage and impact to operations after a diesel hydrotreater at its Tulsa East refinery caught fire early Thursday, according to a spokeswoman. The facility's emergency response team extinguished the fire about two hours after it broke out, sometime around 2:00 AM local time Thursday. Operators were still investigating the cause. It was unclear Friday afternoon whether the incident has impacted production at the refinery: A refinery manager said the fire did not shut down production, while a spokeswoman declined to say whether the refinery was still operating. HollyFrontier operates two refineries in Tulsa—Tulsa East and Tulsa West. Located within 2 miles of one another, the two refineries are operated as an integrated facility through interconnecting pipelines.

http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/article.aspx?subjectid=49&articleid=20120803_49_E1_CUTLIN534142
<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3070990/Latest-News/HollyFrontier-assesses-Tulsa-refinery-fire-damage.html> Posted to DOE website 8-3-12.

Update: Two FCCUs Operating Normally at Sunoco's 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery August 2 after Recent Glitches – Source

Two fluid catalytic cracking units (FCCUs) at Sunoco Inc.'s Philadelphia refinery were operating normally Thursday, according to a source familiar with refinery operations. At the Girard Point section of the refinery, operators restarted an FCCU earlier this week. At the Point Breeze section of the refinery, operators slightly cut rates to the FCCU for a brief period on Thursday, the source said, but soon after resumed normal rates. The unit was shut on July 23 due to high vibrations.

Reuters, 13:30 August 2, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-3-12.

Update: SRU Malfunction Leads to Emissions at BP's 225,000 b/d Cherry Point, Washington Refinery July 30

BP Plc reported a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) at its Cherry Point refinery malfunctioned on Monday, according to a filing with the Northwest Clean Air Agency. The south sulfur plant and tail gas Unit 2 tripped offline, sending sulfur into the incinerator, the filing said.

Reuters, 20:16 August 2, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-3-12.

Flange Leak on Hydrogen Line Triggers Flaring at Chevron's 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery August 2

Chevron Corp. reported a flange leak on a hydrogen line triggered a flaring event at its Richmond, California refinery on Thursday, according to a filing with state pollution regulators. Operators depressurized an unspecified unit and fully contained the leak, the filing said.

Reuters, 17:21 August 2, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-3-12.

Western Refining Planning Expansion Projects at Its Refineries in New Mexico and Texas – Executive

Western Refining Inc. on Thursday said it is planning an unspecified expansion project at its 20,800 b/d Gallup, New Mexico refinery, according to an executive during a second quarter-earnings call. Western added up to 6,000 b/d of rail-loading capacity at the refinery 6 months ago. The company said it is also undertaking an expansion project at its 122,000 b/d El Paso, Texas refinery to add from 25,000 to 30,000 b/d of new capacity. Pending necessary permits, the company hopes to launch the project at the end of this year.

Reuters, 12:15 August 2, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-3-12.

Update: Diesel Hydrotreater Fire at HollyFrontier's 125,000 b/d Tulsa, Oklahoma Refinery August 2 Will Affect Production – Refinery Official

HollyFrontier Corp. on Friday said fuel production at its Tulsa refinery would be affected in the near term due to damage caused by a fire that broke out in a diesel hydrotreater last Thursday, according to a company official. The refinery's environmental manager could not say how long the hydrotreater will be out of commission, and he said the company will have to decide whether to shift some of its diesel product for processing at its Tulsa West facility, ship it to other HollyFrontier refineries, or sell the untreated fuel to other refineries. The refinery was working to make adjustments, and it was still investigating the cause of the fire, the official said.

http://www.tulsaworld.com/business/article.aspx?subjectid=49&articleid=20120804_49_E1_CUTLIN922301

Posted to DOE website 8-6-12.

Update: Valero Restarting Downstream Units at Its 125,000 b/d Meraux, Louisiana Refinery by August 6; Expects Crude Unit to Resume Operation by August 31

Valero Energy Corp. on Monday said it had begun restarting downstream units at its Meraux refinery and expected the crude unit to resume operation by the end of the month, according to a spokesman. Valero shut all units at the refinery July 23, when a fire broke out in the crude unit.

Reuters, 10:08 August 6, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-6-12.

Update: Sunoco Restarts Point Breeze FCCU at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery July 30 – Filing

Sunoco Inc. restarted fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) No. 868 at the Point Breeze section of its Philadelphia refinery on July 30, according to a filing with Philadelphia pollution regulators. Operators shut the unit July 23 due to high vibrations. A source familiar with refinery operations said late last week that operators had slightly cut rates to the Point Breeze FCCU for a brief period on Thursday, August 2, but soon after resumed normal rates.

Reuters, 16:13 August 3, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-6-12.

Update: Valero Restarts FCCU at Its 144,000 b/d Benicia, California Refinery by August 6; Expects to Resume Planned Rates within Days

Valero Energy Corp. on Monday said it had begun restarting the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Benicia refinery and expected the unit to be at planned rates within a few days, according to a spokesman. Valero shut the unit July 26 after a compressor malfunction.

Reuters, 10:08 August 6, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-6-12.

Phillips 66 Reports Flaring at Its 120,000 b/d Rodeo, California Refinery August 5

Phillips 66 reported a flaring event led to sulfur dioxide emissions at its Rodeo refinery, according to a filing with the California Emergency Management Agency. The filing does not specify which unit was involved in the incident.

Reuters, 21:18 August 5, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-6-12.

Valero Reports Hydrogen Sulfide Release at Its 455,790 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery August 5

Valero Energy Corp. reported a pressure relief valve lifted at its Texas City refinery Sunday afternoon, releasing hydrogen sulfide, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators had secured the release and were investigating the incident, the filing said.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1020048 Posted to DOE website 8-6-12.

Valero Reports Flaring Due to Compressor Maintenance at Its 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery August 3

Valero Energy Corp. reported flaring at its Corpus Christi refinery Friday night was due to maintenance on a compressor, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The filing lists a coking unit as one source of emissions.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=171903>

Posted to DOE website 8-6-12.

CDU Fire Shuts Chevron's 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery August 6

Chevron Corp. reported a major fire broke out in its Richmond refinery's lone crude distillation unit (CDU) at 6:15 PM PDT Monday evening, shortly after operators discovered the unit was leaking, according to a spokesman. The fire was contained by 11:00 PM PDT and extinguished by the following morning, Chevron said. Safety officials were allowing a small controlled burn to continue on Tuesday, as a safety measure to reduce pressure and to reduce hydrocarbon emissions. The cause of the incident and the extent of the damage it caused were still under investigation. Chevron said parts of the refinery were still operating Monday night, according to a spokesman, who did not specify which units at the plant were still operating. Local sources have said the refinery shut all production. Traders have estimated the refinery will remain shut for up to three months, and fears of a months-long shutdown caused a 25-cent spike in regional wholesale gasoline prices. Chevron's Richmond refinery is located near a densely populated industrial suburb of east San Francisco Bay, and the thick smoke resulting from the fire caused more than 200 people to seek medical help due to respiratory problems, according to local health officials. The Contra Costa County Health Services and Chevron both issued shelter-in-place advisories, asking more than 100,000 nearby residents to remain indoors to avoid smoke inhalation yesterday evening. The advisories were lifted by midnight local time last night.

Reuters, 11:01 August 7, 2012

http://www.chevron.com/news/mediareources/updates.news?utm_campaign=Richmond_Fire_-_US&utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=Google&utm_term=chevron

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/residents-in-2-n-california-cities-told-to-stay-inside-because-of-fire-atrichmond-refinery/2012/08/06/ea190880-e037-11e1-8d48-2b1243f34c85_story.html?hpid=z3

Posted to DOE website 8-7-12.

Equipment Malfunction Leads to Sulfur Dioxide Emissions at PBF Energy's 190,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery August 6

Reuters, 18:24 August 6, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-7-12.

Update: Chevron Reports Small Second Fire at 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery August 8

On Wednesday, Chevron Corp. reported a small secondary fire ignited near the location of Monday's fire in the refinery's crude distillation unit (CDU). The second fire resulted in no injuries, presented no immediate threat to the public, and was extinguished in minutes. On Tuesday Chevron said its Richmond refinery still continued to operate but did not provide details on which parts of the refinery were still operating. The California Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA) on Tuesday said it had issued a preservation order around the site of the fire that was limited to the atmospheric tower and associated piping in the CDU. A preservation order keeps the site of the fire intact for investigators and prevents injuries to workers repairing damaged units. Cal/OSHA said Chevron must address any structural safety issues among the overhead pipes and walkways that were in or near the fire, and then, upon approval, review the atmospheric tower for necessary repairs. A lengthy disruption of production at the refinery could affect the supply of fuel on the West Coast, particularly gasoline. The Richmond refinery produces about 150,000 barrels of gasoline a day—or 16 percent of the region's daily gasoline consumption of 963,000 barrels, according to industry analysts. Spot prices for gasoline in California surged Tuesday, gaining 29.5 cents against futures traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. More than 1,000 people on Monday and Tuesday sought medical help due to respiratory problems and eye irritation caused by smoke from the fire, according to reports.

Reuters, 00:13 August 8, 2012

http://www.chevron.com/news/mediareources/updates.news?utm_campaign=Richmond_Fire_-_US&utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=Google&utm_term=chevron_corp

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/chevron-says-richmond-refinery-still-163548976.html>

[http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/07/chevron-refineryidUSL2E8J72HW20120807?](http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/07/chevron-refineryidUSL2E8J72HW20120807?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43)

[feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43](http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/07/chevron-refineryidUSL2E8J72HW20120807?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43)

<http://finance.yahoo.com/news/chevron-response-refinery-fire-under-071425311.html>

[http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/08/chevron-refinery-richmondidUSL2E8J810120120808?](http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/08/chevron-refinery-richmondidUSL2E8J810120120808?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43)

[feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43](http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/08/chevron-refinery-richmondidUSL2E8J810120120808?feedType=RSS&feedName=marketsNews&rpc=43)

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-08-07/california-gasoline-surges-after-chevron-refineryfire.html?cmpid=yahoo> Posted to DOE website 8-8-12.

Citgo Reports Flaring after Restarting SCC Process Unit at Its 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery August 8

Citgo Petroleum Corp. reported flaring at its Lemont refinery early Wednesday morning was caused when operators restarted an SCC process unit, according to a filing with state pollution regulators. The company had shut a fluid catalytic cracking unit at the refinery following an equipment issue on July 28.
Reuters, 04:01 August 8, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-8-12.

Update: HollyFrontier Says Third-Quarter Crude Rates at Its 125,000 b/d Tulsa, Oklahoma Refinery Could Drop by Up to 40,000 b/d during Diesel Hydrotreater Repairs

HollyFrontier Corp. on Wednesday said repairs at its Tulsa East refinery could take 6–8 weeks following a fire in a diesel hydrotreater unit August 2. Crude rates at the refinery are expected to be 30,000–40,000 b/d less in the third quarter due to the hydrotreater outage, according to an executive during a recent second-quarter earnings call. Operators were still assessing the damage caused by the fire. HollyFrontier operates two refineries in Tulsa—Tulsa East and Tulsa West. Located within 2 miles of one another, the two refineries are operated as an integrated facility through interconnecting pipelines. The neighboring 85,000 b/d Tulsa West plant continues to operate at “full speed,” the executive said.
Reuters, 11:48 August 8, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-8-12.

Alon Reports Sulfur Dioxide Emissions Due to Unknown Causes at Its 80,000 b/d Krotz Springs, Louisiana Refinery August 5

Alon USA Energy Inc. reported sulfur dioxide emissions at its Krotz Springs refinery on Sunday were due to unknown causes, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were in the process of troubleshooting a flow meter and had not secured the release at the time of the filing.
http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1020111 Posted to DOE website 8-8-12.

Update: Valero Says FCCU Increasing Toward Planned Rates at Its 144,000 b/d Benicia, California Refinery August 8

Valero Energy Corp. on Wednesday said the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Benicia refinery was increasing toward planned rates, according to a spokesman. Valero shut the unit July 26 after a compressor malfunction and restarted it by August 6.
Reuters, 10:58 August 8, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-8-12.

HollyFrontier to Add 14,000 b/d of Capacity at Its 31,000 b/d Woods Cross, Utah Refinery by Year-End 2014

HollyFrontier Corp. is undertaking an expansion project at its Woods Cross refinery that will add 14,000 b/d of capacity by year-end 2014, according to an executive during an earnings call. The expansion project will take advantage of the 62,000 b/d “UNEV” pipeline that has started transporting refined products from the Woods Cross refinery to Las Vegas, Nevada. The pipeline could be expanded to transport 118,000 b/d, the executive said.
Reuters, 11:48 August 8, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-8-12.

Update: Chevron’s 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery Continues to Produce Transportation Fuel at Reduced Rates August 8

Chevron Corp. on Wednesday said its Richmond refinery is continuing to produce transportation fuel at reduced levels following a fire on Monday that shut the facility’s crude distillation unit (CDU), according to a company official. Operators on Wednesday ended a controlled burn-off of feedstock left in the shut CDU. A small fire from a leak near the crude unit on Wednesday morning lasted about three minutes, a plant official said, and there’s still risk a small fire could break out in the lines that are damaged. No timetable has been set for returning the crude unit to production, a spokeswoman said.
Reuters, 21:11 August 8, 2012
<http://uk.reuters.com/article/2012/08/09/idUKL2E8J8CTC20120809?feedType=RSS&feedName=tnBasicIndustries-SP> Posted to DOE website 8-9-12.

Update: BP Began Restarting Coker at Its 413,000 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery This Week – Sources

BP Plc. began restarting a coker unit this week at its Whiting refinery, according to sources familiar with refinery operations. The coker had been shut since July 23, when it was damaged in a fire. Traders had said the refinery cut run rates during the coker outage. A BP spokesman declined comment.
Reuters, 12:18 August 9, 2012. Posted to DOE website 8-9-12.

Sinclair Reports Small Fire at Its 80,000 b/d Sinclair, Wyoming Refinery August 5

Sinclair Oil Corp. on Wednesday reported a small fire occurred at its refinery near Rawlins late Sunday night, according to a spokesman, who said he didn't know the cause of the fire.
http://trib.com/business/energy/small-fire-at-wyoming-refinery-injures-contract-worker/article_9fc0cc28-4419-5fa1-a983-9a1ff8a90a87.html?comment_form=true Posted to DOE website 8-9-12.

Unspecified Process Upset Causes Emissions at Phillips 66's 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery August 7

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=172043>
Posted to DOE website 8-9-12.

Alon to Move Light U.S. Inland Crude to California Refineries via New Rail Facilities and Existing Pipelines – CEO

Alon USA Energy Inc. is in "advanced discussions" to move cheap inland U.S. light crude to its California refining system via new rail facilities and existing pipelines, the company's CEO said during a conference call Thursday. Alon would "more likely than not" start by moving Bakken crude oil, but the executive declined to provide details, saying only that the expected volumes shipped would be significant. The company is considering a "unit train concept" with a new rail terminal and expects to submit permit applications "within the next few days." It hopes to complete rail facilities by the third or fourth quarter next year, the executive said. Alon operates three refineries in Paramount, Long Beach, and Bakersfield, California that work together as one unit known collectively as the California Refineries. The refineries produce CARBOB gasoline, CARB diesel, jet fuel, asphalt and other petroleum products, with a throughput of 94,000 barrels per day.
<http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/08/09/alon-rail-idINL2E8J97OQ20120809>
<http://www.alonusa.com/refining/california-refineries> Posted to DOE website 8-9-12.

Delek to Increase Rail Deliveries of U.S. Inland and Canadian Heavy Crude at Its 83,000 b/d El Dorado, Arkansas Refinery – Executive

Delek U.S. Holdings Inc. on Wednesday said the company will ramp up crude oil deliveries via rail at its El Dorado refinery, in an effort to cut costs by accessing less-expensive U.S. inland and Canadian heavy crude and to compensate for the lengthy outage on ExxonMobil's North Pipeline, which ruptured and was subsequently shut in late April, according to an executive during a recent conference call. Introducing rail deliveries allowed the refinery to operate at 64,000 b/d in the second quarter and 70,000 b/d last month despite the pipeline's shutdown. In May and June, the company received about 2,000 b/d of crude oil from North Dakota's Bakken shale, Texas' Eagle Ford shale, Cushing, Oklahoma, and Canada. Delek expects deliveries from these sources in August to average 9,000 b/d, and it could increase deliveries to 15,000 b/d as necessary. The company also plans to add another 10,000 b/d of incoming heavy crude via rail with a new unloading facility at the El Dorado refinery, the executive said.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/08/delek-railidUSL2E8J86R020120808?feedType=RSS&feedName=financialsSector&rpc=43> Posted to DOE website 8-9-12.