

Refinery Events

August 30, 2013—September 5, 2013

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

Update: Motiva's 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery Has Increased Activity, Units Remain Offline August 30

Motiva's Port Arthur refinery has shown some furnace stack activity from the 325,000 b/d crude distillation unit and the 160,000 b/d vacuum distillation unit (VPS-5). This is the first activity from the crude section since it was shut on August 18, due to a fire. Currently, the units remain offline as activity remains below normal operational levels. Reuters, 9:21 August 30, 2013. Posted to DOE website 8-30-13

Phillips 66 Reports Process Unit Upset, Emissions at Its 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery August 29

A process unit upset was reported at Phillips 66's Wood River refinery in Roxana, Illinois, according to a filing with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. The incident led to sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide emissions, the filing said.

Reuters, 4:15 August 30, 2013. Posted to DOE website 8-30-13.

Update: Motiva Restarts 325,000 b/d CDU at Its 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery September 2

Motiva restarted a 325,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) and 160,000 b/d vacuum distillation unit that make up its VPS-5 crude section over the weekend, sources said. VPS-5, the hydrocracker, and diesel hydrotreater were shut down following a fire at the hydrocracker on August 17. VPS-5 now appears to be operating normally. Elevated flaring was observed from the hydrocracker flare tower.

Reuters, 19:48 September 2, 2013. Posted to DOE website 9-3-13.

HollyFrontier Restarts 75,000 b/d CDU at Its 125,000 b/d Tulsa, Oklahoma Refinery September 3

HollyFrontier Corp. restarted the 75,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Tulsa, Oklahoma refinery. The unit's heating and furnace stack activity have remained at normal operational levels since yesterday evening. The CDU had been ramping-up since September 1 after being shut since August 20.

Reuters, 7:35 September 3, 2013. Posted to DOE website 9-3-13/

Shell Reports Flaring, Sulfur Dioxide Release at Its 156,400 b/d Martinez, California Refinery September 3

Royal Dutch Shell Plc reported a release of sulfur dioxide due to flaring at its Martinez, California refinery, according to a filing with the California Emergency Management Agency. The filing did not mention which units were affected or the reason for the flaring.

Reuters, 8:20 September 3, 2013. Posted to DOE website 9-3-13.

Phillips 66 Restarts VDU at Its 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery September 2

Phillips 66 restarted the 105,000 b/d vacuum distillation unit (VDU) at its Wood River, Illinois refinery. Ramp-up of the VDU started yesterday morning after being offline since August 29. The associated 65,000 b/d coker has continued operating normally during the outage.

Reuters, 7:35 September 3, 2013. Posted to DOE website 9-3-13.

Marathon Reports SRU Malfunction at Its 102,000 b/d Detroit, Michigan Refinery August 30

Marathon Petroleum Corp. reported the sulfur recovery unit (SRU) malfunctioned at its Detroit, Michigan refinery,

according to a notice filed with the U.S. National Response Center on Saturday. The malfunction triggered a release of hydrogen sulfide from the refinery, according to the notice.

Reuters, 13:28 September 2, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1058787 Posted to DOE website 9-3-13.

Pasadena Refining Shuts FCCU at Its 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery September 1

Pasadena Refining System Inc. reported the fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Pasadena, Texas refinery was shut on Sunday due to a malfunction in the sulfur recovery unit, according to a notice filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The shutdown triggered the refinery's safety flare system, according to the Texas pollution regulators.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=187523>

Posted to DOE website 9-3-13.

Flint Hills Shuts GOHT at Its 260,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery August 29

Flint Hills Resources reported the shutdown of a gas oil hydrotreater (GOHT) at the west plant of its Corpus Christi, Texas refinery, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The company shut the GOHT to isolate a vapor leak on a heat exchanger at the unit.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=187482>

Posted to DOE website 9-3-13.

Storm Shuts Units at Phillips 66's 239,400 b/d Westlake, Louisiana Refinery September 3

Phillips 66 reported a storm with lightning shut down some units at its Lake Charles refinery in Westlake, Louisiana, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. There was a release of sulfur dioxide and instruments will be put back online after securing the release, the filing said.

Reuters, 3:39 September 4, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1059079 Posted to DOE website 9-4-13.

Motiva Reports Flaring Due to Operational Issue at Its 226,500 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery September 3

Motiva Enterprises said an operational issue resulted in flaring at its Norco, Louisiana, refinery. The company earlier yesterday reported flaring at the facility due to a problem with the hydrocracker, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

Reuters, 9:59 September 4, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1059086 Posted to DOE website 9-4-13.

Update: FCCU Operating Normally at Pasadena Refining's 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery September 1

Pasadena Refining System Inc. said a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) was back in operation at its refinery in Pasadena, Texas. The unit was shut on Sunday due to a malfunction in the sulfur recovery unit, according to a notice filed with Texas pollution regulators.

Reuters, 9:56 September 4, 2013. Posted to DOE website 9-4-13.

ExxonMobil Reports System Trip at Its 572,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery September 3

ExxonMobil Corp. reported a release of nitrous oxide due to a system trip at its Baytown refinery in Texas, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

Reuters, 00:39 September 4, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1059083 Posted to DOE website 9-4-13.

Marathon Reports Elevated Flaring at Its 451,000 b/d Galveston Bay, Texas Refinery September 4

Marathon Petroleum Corp. reported brief elevated flaring at its Galveston Bay, Texas, refinery. Currently, all monitored units, including the fluid catalytic cracker and crude section, appear to be operating normally.

Reuters, 10:32 September 4, 2013. Posted to DOE website 9-4-13.

CVR Reports Catalytic Reformer and Hydrotreater Shut at Its 115,700 b/d Coffeyville, Kansas Refinery September 3

CVR Refining reported the 26,500 b/d catalytic reformer and 37,500 b/d hydrobon naphtha hydrotreater at its Coffeyville, Kansas, refinery were shut down. The 36,900 b/d fluid catalytic cracking unit has been shut down since July 20. The unit is expected to be down until mid-September. In addition, there has been decreased activity observed from the 21,000 b/d vacuum distillation unit since July 30.

Reuters, 11:43 September 3, 2013. Posted to DOE website 9-4-13.

HollyFrontier Working to Restore Power at Its 47,000 b/d Cheyenne, Wyoming Refinery September 3

HollyFrontier Corp. said it was working to restore power to its Cheyenne, Wyoming, refinery after a power failure led to flaring at the refinery on Tuesday. The company was restarting the Wyoming refinery following the power outage, according to local media reports.

Reuters, 18:17 September 3, 2013. Posted to DOE website 9-4-13.

ExxonMobil Says Unit Leak Stopped at Its 503,000 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana Refinery September 4

Exxon Mobil Corp. said a leak from an unspecified unit was identified and stopped on Wednesday at its Baton Rouge, Louisiana, refinery. The company had earlier reported a release of hydrogen sulfide from a pipe at the refinery, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

Reuters, 9:43 September 5, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1059103 Posted to DOE website 9-5-13.

Update: Phillips 66's 239,400 b/d Westlake, Louisiana Refinery Operating Normally September 4 After Storms Shut Units

Phillips 66 said operations were back to normal at its Lake Charles refinery in Westlake, Louisiana. The company had on Tuesday reported severe weather had led to a shutdown of some units at the refinery although no damage was reported.

Reuters, 12:07 September 4, 2013. Posted to DOE website 9-5-13.

Marathon Reports Flaring From RHU at Its 451,000 b/d Galveston Bay, Texas Refinery September 4

Marathon Petroleum Corp. reported flaring from a residual hydrotreating unit (RHU) at its Galveston Bay refinery in Texas City, Texas, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operations reduced rates and stabilized the unit, the filing said.

Reuters, 18:14 September 4, 2013. Posted to DOE website 9-5-13.

Valero Reports Leak, Unit Shutdown at Its 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery September 5

Valero reported a leak and unit shutdown at its Corpus Christi, Texas, refinery. Streams were routed to an authorized control device and appropriate sections of the unit were de-pressured in order to isolate the leak and complete repairs.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm> Posted to DOE website 9-5-13.

Update: HollyFrontier Restores Power at Its 47,000 b/d Cheyenne, Wyoming Refinery September 4

HollyFrontier Corp. said power was restored at its Cheyenne, Wyoming, refinery within two hours of a failure and the plant was making progress towards resuming full operations. The refinery suffered a power outage on Tuesday.

Reuters, 21:26 September 4, 2013. Posted to DOE website 9-5-13.

Shell Reports Oxygen Sensor Failure Shuts Units at Its 156,400 b/d Martinez, California, Refinery September 5

Royal Dutch Shell Plc reported flaring due to an oxygen sensor failure at its refinery in Martinez, California, according to a filing with Contra Costa Health Services. The oxygen sensor trip led to shutdowns on Thursday, the filing added. The company had earlier reported the shutdown of a flare gas recovery compressor at the refinery due to instrumentation failure, according to a filing with state pollution regulators.

Reuters, 11:44 September 5, 2013

Reuters, 10:27 September 5, 2013. Posted to DOE website 9-5-13.

PBF Reports ARU Tower Upset at Its 180,000 b/d Paulsboro, New Jersey Refinery September 4

PBF Energy Inc. reported an aromatics recovery unit (ARU) tower upset and a flare valve shutdown at its refinery in Paulsboro, New Jersey, according to a filing with state pollution regulators. Repairs were in progress, the filing said.

Reuters, 15:06 September 4, 2013. Posted to DOE website 9-5-13.