

Refinery Events

August 9, 2013—August 15, 2013

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

Unit Shut for Repair at Shell's 600,000 b/d Motiva Port Arthur, Texas Refinery August 7

Royal Dutch Shell Plc shut down one of the units for repair at its Motiva refinery in Port Arthur, Texas. Energy intelligence group Genscape had reported elevated flaring at the refinery. Reuters, 16:19 August 8, 2013. Posted to DOE website 8-9-13.

Chevron Confirms Ongoing Work at Its 279,000 b/d El Segundo, California Refinery August 8

Chevron Corp. confirmed work was under way at its Los Angeles-area refinery in El Segundo, California. The ongoing work has no impact on the company's ability to deliver products to customers in the Southern California region, Chevron said. Sources in the West Coast refined products markets on Thursday said a restarting crude distillation unit malfunctioned overnight at the refinery. Reuters, 15:40 August 8, 2013. Posted to DOE website 8-9-13.

Coking Unit Drums to be Replaced in October at Phillips 66's 198,400 b/d Ponca City, Oklahoma Refinery

Phillips 66 is set to replace two giant drums on the coking unit at its Ponca City, Oklahoma, refinery in October, according to sources familiar with operations at the refinery. The coking unit will be shut to lift out the current drums and put the replacement drums in the unit, the sources said. Reuters, 13:08 August 8, 2013. Posted to DOE website 8-9-13.

Process Unit Restarted at Marathon's 226,000 b/d Catlettsburg, Kentucky Refinery August 11 Following Power Outage August 9

Marathon Petroleum Corp. reported a release of benzene upon start-up of a processing unit, on Sunday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. On Friday the refinery had experienced a power outage and was in the process of bringing the affected units back on line.

Reuters 2:11 August 12, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1056765 Posted to DOE website 8-12-13.

Valero's 270,000 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery Returning to Planned Rates August 12 After Power Disruption Shuts Multiple Units August 9

Valero Energy Corp. said all units at its refinery in Norco, Louisiana, were returning to planned rates following a power outage on Friday that caused multiple units to shut, according to a notice filed with the U.S. National Response Center.

Reuters, 9:51 August 12, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1056659 Posted to DOE website 8-12-13.

Phillips 66 Reports Unit Malfunction at Its 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery August 9

Phillips 66 reported a unit malfunction, on Friday, at its refinery in Wood River, Illinois, according to a notice filed with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. The malfunction triggered releases of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, according to the notice. No further details were immediately available.

Reuters, 13:06 August 11, 2013. Posted to DOE website 8-12-13.

Catalytic Reformer Shut at PBF's 190,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery August 12

PBF Energy Inc. reported a catalytic reformer was shut at its Delaware City, Delaware, refinery, according to a source familiar with refinery operations.

Reuters, 10:39 August 12, 2013. Posted to DOE website 8-12-13.

ExxonMobil Reports Sulfur Plant Malfunction at Its 503,000 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana Refinery August 10

Exxon Mobil Corp. reported the sulfur plant malfunctioned at its Baton Rouge, Louisiana, refinery, according to a notice filed with the U.S. National Response Center. The malfunction resulted in the release of hydrogen sulfide into the atmosphere beyond levels allowed by the refinery's operating permit.

Reuters 12:30 August 11, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1056692 Posted to DOE website 8-12-13.

Phillips 66 Reports Flaring at Its 139,000 b/d Carson, California Refinery August 12

Phillips 66 reported flaring at its refinery in Carson, California, according to a filing with the California Emergency Management Agency. There was a release of about 500 pounds of sulfur dioxide, the filing said.

Reuters, 4:24 August 12, 2013. Posted to DOE website 8-12-13.

Shell Considering Crude-by-Rail Terminal at Its 145,000 b/d Anacortes, Washington Refinery August 9

Royal Dutch Shell may build crude-by-rail offloading infrastructure at its refinery in Anacortes, Washington, a spokeswoman said on Friday. Shell plans to file for permits this summer to expand the Anacortes plant's rail facility to include offloading, a spokesperson said.

Reuters, 17:07 August 9, 2013. Posted to DOE website 8-12-13.

Valero's 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery Running at Reduced Rates August 13

Valero Energy Corp. reported its Port Arthur, Texas, refinery is running crude and vacuum units at reduced rates. Earlier, the company said power had been restored to the refinery and all units were operational after a problem Tuesday morning in the storage tank area of the plant. Energy intelligence group Genscape reported that the refinery's 75,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) and associated vacuum distillation unit (VDU) were shut down at 6:44 a.m. EDT.

Reuters, 10:39 August 13, 2013. Posted to DOE website 8-13-13.

Unit Shut Due to Operational Upset at Shell's 600,000 b/d Motiva Port Arthur, Texas Refinery August 12

Royal Dutch Shell Plc reported its Motiva refinery in Port Arthur, Texas, initiated a shutdown of an unspecified unit following an operational upset on Monday. Motiva Enterprises LLC earlier reported an upset with a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) at the refinery, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

Reuters, 10:50 August 13, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1056858 Posted to DOE website 8-13-13.

SRU Restarted at Total's 174,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery August 13

Total Petrochemicals USA restarted Unit 881, a sulfur recovery unit (SRU), at its Port Arthur, Texas, refinery after it was shut on Monday, according to a filing with state pollution regulators.

Reuters, 11:49 August 13, 2013. Posted to DOE website 8-13-13.

Phillips 66 Reports Emissions, Process Upset at its 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery August 12

Phillips 66 reported a process upset and emissions from the unit 34 sulfur recovery unit (SRU) at its refinery in Borger, Texas, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The company reported maintenance on Sunday on electrostatic precipitators serving the fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at the refinery, according to a notice filed with state pollution regulators.

Reuters, 19:00 August 12, 2013. Posted to DOE website 8-13-13.

Update: CDU Restarting After SRU Breakdown at Shell's 600,000 b/d Motiva Port Arthur, Texas Refinery August 13

Motiva Enterprises was restoring a crude distillation unit (CDU) to production at its Port Arthur, Texas, refinery after it was taken out of operation by a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) breakdown on Monday. The CDU is expected to be back in normal production on Wednesday as are a hydrotreating unit and a unit that produces lube oil. The SRU is expected to remain shut for at least three weeks to repair a hole burned in the metal wall of the unit after insulation lining the interior of the SRU broke off on Monday.

Reuters, 19:44 August 13, 2013. Posted to DOE website 8-14-13.

Valero's 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery Reports FCC, AVU Emissions; No Shut Units from Power Outage August 13

Valero Energy Corp. reported emissions from an atmospheric and vacuum unit (AVU) and a fluid catalytic cracker (FCC) due to a pump failure that caused an upset at the refinery, according to a notice with state pollution regulators. Valero also said that production units were not shut due to Tuesday's power outage at the storage tank area of the plant. Energy intelligence group Genscape reported on Wednesday that the refinery's 75,000 b/d CDU and associated VDU were restarted overnight.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=186703>

Reuters, 18:37 August 13, 2013. Posted to DOE website 8-14-13.

Update: Hydrocrackers at Planned Rates at Valero's 270,000 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery August 14

Valero Energy Corp. said both hydrocrackers at its refinery in Norco, Louisiana, were running at planned rates. A hydrocracking unit at the refinery was running at reduced production levels on Tuesday as it recovered from a Friday night power outage, a company spokesperson said.

Reuters, 10:46 August 14, 2013. Posted to DOE website 8-14-13.

Update: Phillips 66 Regains Control After Process Upset at its 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery August 13

Phillips 66 reported it regained control after a process upset and emissions from the unit 34 sulfur recovery unit (SRU) at its refinery in Borger, Texas late Monday, according to a filing with state pollution regulators. The company said on Tuesday that there was no planned maintenance under way at the refinery.

Reuters, 17:10 August 13, 2013. Posted to DOE website 8-14-13.