

Refinery Events

February 15, 2013—February 21, 2013

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

Update: North Atlantic Refining Resumes Full Production at Its 115,000 b/d Come By Chance, Newfoundland and Labrador Refinery by February 18

North Atlantic Refining Ltd. on Monday said it had resumed full production at its Come By Chance refinery following a site-wide power outage on February 4. The refinery shut when a trip at the facility's terminal station knocked out the two transmission lines that provide power to the refinery. Newfoundland and Labrador Hydro reported a protection circuit failure at the terminal station caused the outage, after heavy winds that day drove plastic debris into contact with high voltage equipment inside the station.
Reuters, 09:05 February 18, 2013. Posted to DOE website 2-19-13.

ExxonMobil Reports Alkylation Unit Snag at Its 238,600 b/d Joliet, Illinois Refinery February 14; Shuts Unspecified Unit after Malfunction February 16

ExxonMobil Corp. reported flaring at its Joliet refinery last Thursday was due to a "hick" valve malfunction at the alkylation unit, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were working to repair the valve and had secured the leak. On Saturday the refinery shut an unspecified unit after a malfunction, according to filings with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were investigating the cause of the malfunction.

Reuters, 12:30 February 17, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1038549 Posted to DOE website 2-19-13.

Flint Hills Discovers Mercury in Crude Unit at Its 288,468 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery During Turnaround Work February 18

Flint Hills Resources reported that while conducting turnaround activities at the West Crude Unit at its Corpus Christi refinery Monday, workers discovered mercury in the bottom of the tower, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were investigating the source of the mercury. Operators had on February 15 reported they were depressuring a hydro-desulfurization at the refinery unit due to a leak.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1038763

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1038634 Posted to DOE website 2-19-13.

Motiva Shuts Unspecified Unit at Its 236,400 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery Due to Relief Valve Leak February 18

Motiva Enterprises reported it was shutting down an unspecified unit at its Norco refinery on Monday after a relief valve released material due to over-pressuring in the system, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators said there may be a ruptured tube in the exchanger.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1038768 Posted to DOE website 2-19-13.

Motiva Shuts FCCU after Malfunction at Its 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery February 19 – Sources

Motiva Enterprises shut a fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Port Arthur refinery Monday night after a malfunction, sources familiar with operations said on Tuesday. Operators were working to determine the cause of the malfunction and restore the unit to planned production rates, the sources said.

Reuters, 15:42 February 19, 2013. Posted to DOE website 2-20-13.

Phillips 66 Restarts FCCU after Electrical Trip at Its 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery February 14; Reports Coker and FCCU Emissions February 18

Phillips 66 reported it was restarting the Unit 27 fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Sweeny refinery on February 14 after an electrical feeder trip shut the unit, resulting in emissions from the FCCU and the coker,

according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The refinery later reported emissions from a coker and from the Unit 27 FCCU on February 18 were due to a malfunction in the instrument air header, which led to a decision by operators to de-energize the electrostatic precipitators and thus created excess emissions. <http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=179402>
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=179521>
Posted to DOE website 2-20-13.

Equipment Malfunction Shuts Compressor at Phillips 66's 247,000 b/d Belle Chasse, Louisiana Refinery February 14

Phillips 66 reported flaring at its Alliance refinery in Belle Chasse on Thursday was due to an equipment malfunction that shut a compressor, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were attempting to stabilize the units and get the compressor back online. http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1038534 Posted to DOE website 2-20-13.

Phillips 66 Reports Flaring at Its 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery February 19

Phillips 66 reported flaring and emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen monoxide, and nitrogen dioxide were due to unknown reasons at its Wood River refinery on Tuesday, according to a filing with state pollution regulators. Reuters, 04:00 February 20, 2013. Posted to DOE website 2-20-13.

Hydrotreating Unit Upset Causes Sulfur Dioxide Emissions at Tesoro's 96,860 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery February 15

Tesoro Corp. on Friday reported a hydrotreating unit upset at its Wilmington refinery Friday may have caused the release of about 1,900 pounds of sulfur dioxide, according to a filing with the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Reuters, 18:33 February 15, 2013. Posted to DOE website 2-20-13.

Process Glitch Causes Emissions at ExxonMobil's 238,600 b/d Joliet, Illinois Refinery February 21

ExxonMobil Corp. reported a process glitch on Unit No. 5D6 at its Joliet refinery Thursday caused emissions of nitrous oxide and sulfur dioxide, according to a filing with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Reuters, 04:00 February 21, 2013. Posted to DOE website 2-21-13.

ExxonMobil Reports Unspecified Unit Startup at Its 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery February 21

ExxonMobil Corp. reported an unspecified unit startup at its Beaumont refinery, according to a message on a community information line. Reuters, 04:21 February 21, 2013. Posted to DOE website 2-21-13.

Level Indicator Malfunction Causes Flaring at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery February 16

Alon USA Holdings reported that while starting up the PDA Unit after turnaround maintenance, a level indicator malfunction on the unit caused flaring due to hot valves on a compressor, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. <http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=179581>
Posted to DOE website 2-21-13.