

Refinery Events

January 11, 2013—January 17, 2013

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

Brief Electrical Fire Shuts CDU at Phillips 66's 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery January 12; Repairs May Take 'a Couple of Days'

Phillips 66 reported a crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Wood River refinery was temporarily shut following a fire on Saturday, according to a spokesman. At approximately 5:00 p.m. local time, an electrical fire occurred in a piece of equipment that supports one of the refinery's crude units, the spokesman said. He did not identify the unit where the fire broke out, but the refinery filed a notice Saturday with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency about a fire on an above-ground crude oil storage tank. The spokesman said that repairs were underway and that the crude unit was expected to return to production in "a couple of days." The CDU is one of three at the Wood River refinery. Reuters, 12:25 January 13, 2013. Posted to DOE website 1-14-13.

Update: Motiva Confirms CDU Shutdown at Its 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery; Reports Sump Pump Leak in Separate Incident January 12

Motiva Enterprises has stopped restart procedures on a new 325,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Port Arthur refinery after a leak developed on a pipe carrying heated crude oil to the CDU, sources familiar with refinery operations said. The leak was discovered under a clamp where a previous leak was found in December. A Motiva spokeswoman confirmed the new CDU was shut, and said the company anticipates "making the necessary adjustments/repairs and returning the unit to normal operation in an expeditious manner." The company still expects for this unit to be fully re-started in the early part of this year, the spokeswoman said. Operators began attempts to restart the unit in December after it was shut in June to repair extensive damage caused by a caustic leak. In a separate incident, the refinery on Saturday reported a discharge of light cycle gas oil from a sump in the tank farm was due to unknown causes, according to filings with the U.S. National Response Center and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www.equities.com/news/headline-story?dt=2013-01-13&val=918105&cat=energy>

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1035552

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=177984>

Posted to DOE website 1-14-13.

FCCU Resumes Normal Operations at BP's 455,790 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery after Electrical Short January 11

BP Plc reported the No. 1 fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Texas City refinery was resuming normal operations Friday night after an electrical short that morning had caused a temporary loss of steam, which caused the unit to become unstable and caused emissions from the electrostatic precipitator (ESP) stack and the FCCU No. 1, according to filings with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. On Saturday, operators reported they were investigating why emissions from the ESP stack and FCCU No. 1 had exceeded permitted levels for 18 minutes early that morning. On Sunday, operators reported they were pumping down Tank 19 at the facility after discovering a pinhole leak.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=177951>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=177958>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=177981>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=177989>

Posted to DOE website 1-14-13.

Flint Hills Shuts Unspecified Unit after a Brief Seal Pump Fire at Its 288,468 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery January 14

Flint Hills Resources on Monday said an unspecified unit was shut in the East Plant section of its Corpus Christi refinery after a seal pump fire was quickly extinguished, according to a spokeswoman. The shutdown caused a

flaring, which had been reported to local emergency officials.

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3140872/Latest-News/Flint-Hills-reports-seal-pump-fire-at-Corpusrefinery.html> Posted to DOE website 1-14-13.

Chevron Expects No Impact to Customers after Power Outage Shuts Several Units at Its 45,000 b/d Salt Lake City, Utah Refinery January 10

Chevron Corp. said it was restarting processing units at its Salt Lake City refinery after several units were shut down by a power outage on Thursday night, a spokesman said in an email. Units were coming back online as operators confirmed their readiness, the spokesman said. The refinery did not anticipate the incident to impact customer orders.

Reuters, 02:02 January 14, 2013. Posted to DOE website 1-14-13.

BP Shuts Hydrocracker and Hydrotreating Unit at Its 265,000 b/d Carson, California Refinery after Fire January 14 – Traders

BP Plc shut a hydrocracking unit and a jet fuel hydrotreating unit at its Carson refinery Monday night after a small fire, according to trade sources. A company spokesman declined to discuss operations at the refinery.

Reuters, 01:02 January 15, 2013. Posted to DOE website 1-15-13.

Phillips 66 Restarts an Unspecified Unit at Its 120,000 b/d Rodeo, California Refinery January 9

Phillips 66 reported an unspecified unit restart at its Rodeo refinery early on January 9, according to a filing with local environmental regulators. No further detail is provided in the filing.

<http://www.nasdaq.com/article/refinery-status-flint-hills-shuts-unit-at-corpus-christi-refinery-20130114-00815>
Posted to DOE website 1-15-13.

Fire Damages FCCU-Related Equipment at Chevron's 279,000 b/d El Segundo, California Refinery January 13; Repairs Expected to Take 2 Weeks – Sources

A fire Sunday evening at Chevron Corp.'s El Segundo refinery damaged selective catalytic reduction equipment associated with the plant's fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU), according to a person with knowledge of the refinery's operations. Repairs are expected to take up to two weeks, another market source said. A Chevron spokesman said that an "incident" in one of the refinery's process units caused a power failure at the plant Sunday, resulting in the slowdown of several units. Aside from scheduled maintenance and the unit involved, the refinery was running normally; there was no significant fire; and there was nothing that would impact the process unit, the spokesman said. Local fire officials on Sunday responded to an incident at the refinery, where "a small ground fire" had been extinguished and gases were flaring. The refinery had reported flaring due to a failure in the FCCU in a filing with the California Emergency Management Agency on Sunday. The company had earlier reported planned flaring was scheduled at the refinery between January 13–23, according to a filing with the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Reuters, 22:11 January 13, 2013

Reuters, 01:31 January 15, 2013

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-01-14/fire-at-chevron-el-segundo-oil-refinery-said-to-damageequipment.html?cmpid=yhoo> Posted to DOE website 1-15-13.

Update: Repairs to Leaking Pipe That Shut CDU at Motiva's 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery January 10 Expected to Continue Until January 17–20 – Sources

Work continued on Monday to fix a leaking pipe that has twice halted the restart of a new 325,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) at Motiva Enterprises' Port Arthur refinery, according to sources familiar with refinery operations. The repairs began on January 10 and were expected to take 7–10 days to complete. Two sections of the 60-inch pipe will be cut out and replaced in an effort to fix the leaks. Earlier attempts using patches were unsuccessful. The company still expects for the CDU to be fully re-started in the early part of this year, a spokeswoman said. Operators began attempts to restart the unit in December after it was shut in June to repair extensive damage caused by a caustic leak.

Reuters, 15:25 January 14, 2013. Posted to DOE website 1-15-13.

ExxonMobil Reports No Impact to Production at Its 572,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery after Two Workers Are Injured During a Delayed Coking Unit Overhaul January 12

Reuters, 16:23 January 14, 2013. Posted to DOE website 1-15-13.

Mechanical Malfunction Causes Butadiene Release at Shell's 329,800 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery January 11

Shell reported an unspecified mechanical malfunction caused a release of butadiene from a vent at its Deer Park refinery very early last Friday morning, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were working to secure the unit but had not yet contained the release at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1035393 Posted to DOE website 1-15-13.

Update: Flint Hills Reports Emissions after a Brief Fire at Its 288,468 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery January 14

Flint Hills Resources reported a release of materials to the flare at its Corpus Christi refinery early Monday morning was due to unknown causes, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The report indicated a fire was involved in the incident but had been extinguished. Operators were working to restart a blower at the time of the filing. A refinery spokeswoman had on Monday said an unspecified unit was shut in the East Plant section of the refinery after a seal pump fire was quickly extinguished.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1035619 Posted to DOE website 1-15-13.

BP Reports Sulfur Dioxide Emissions in Separate Incidents at Its 225,000 b/d Cherry Point, Washington Refinery January 11 and January 12

BP Plc reported an unspecified malfunction caused sulfur dioxide emissions from the No. 2 tail gas unit at its Cherry Point refinery Saturday night, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were working to restart the unit at the time of the filing. A subsequent filing indicated a release of sulfur dioxide may have also occurred on Friday, January 11, due to a leaky valve. The exact cause of that release, however, was unknown at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1035557

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1035712 Posted to DOE website 1-15-13.

Monroe Energy Shuts FCCU at Its 185,000 b/d Trainer, Pennsylvania Refinery December 30; Unit May Be Down for Almost Two Weeks – Traders

Monroe Energy shut a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Trainer refinery on December 30, according to a jet fuel trader. The unit may be down for almost two weeks.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2013/01/07/refinery-status-fcc-unit-to-undergo-maintenance-2/>

Posted to DOE website 1-15-13.

Transformer Failure Leads to Flaring at United Refining's 65,000 b/d Warren, Pennsylvania Refinery January 14

United Refining reported a transformer failure caused flaring at its Warren refinery early Monday morning, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The flaring was ongoing and was expected to continue until the transformer could be replaced, expected later that morning.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1035630 Posted to DOE website 1-15-13.

Instrument Malfunction Causes Sulfur Dioxide Emissions at Marathon's 204,000 b/d Robinson, Illinois Refinery January 13

Marathon Petroleum Corp. reported an unspecified instrumental malfunction caused sulfur dioxide emissions at its Robinson refinery Sunday night, according to a filing with state pollution regulators.

Reuters, 04:16 January 14, 2013. Posted to DOE website 1-15-13.

Electrical Failure Causes Sulfur Dioxide Emissions at Citgo's 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery January 11

Citgo reported an unspecified electrical failure caused sulfur dioxide to release from a flare at its Lemont refinery

very early last Friday morning, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The release had not yet been secured at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1035397 Posted to DOE website 1-15-13.

Update: MDU Resources, Calumet Refining Moving Forward with Joint Venture to Build 20,000 b/d Diesel Refinery in North Dakota

WBI Energy, a subsidiary of MDU Resources Group, and Calumet Refining LLC are moving forward with plans to build near Dickinson, North Dakota a crude oil topping refinery designed to process 20,000 b/d of Bakken Shale oil into diesel and kerosene fuels. The North Dakota Department of Health has published notice of its intent to issue an air pollution control permit for the refinery, and has opened a 30-day public comment period that will end February 4. Barring any delays, construction of the plant could begin this spring and is expected to take up to 20 months.

<http://www.prairiebizmag.com/event/article/id/13367/> Posted to DOE website 1-15-13.

Valero to Buy 2,000 Railcars to Increase Shipments of Inland Crude, Build Topper at Its 83,000 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery to Process More Light Eagle Ford Shale Oil

Valero Energy Corp. plans to buy 2,000 railcars to increase shipments of inland crude, the company announced at an investor presentation. The company said it also plans to build a crude oil topper at its Houston refinery to process more of the lighter crude coming out of the Eagle Ford Shale region in South Texas. Operators hope to finish installing the topper in early 2015.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/sanantonio/news/2013/01/16/valero-expanding-houston-refinery.html>

Posted to DOE website 1-16-13.

Update: Phillips 66 Returns CDU to Service at Its 363,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery by January 15 after Repairs Due to a Fire Last Weekend

Phillips 66 on Tuesday said it has returned a crude distillation unit (CDU) to service at its Wood River refinery after repairs over the weekend. The unit was temporarily shut following a brief electrical fire on Saturday.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-01-15/west-texas-sour-strengthens-amid-permian-pipeline-expansions.html>

Posted to DOE website 1-16-13.

Update: BP Restarts Hydrotreating Unit at Its 265,000 b/d Carson, California Refinery by January 15; Hydrocracker Shut by Fire Remains Shut – Sources

BP Plc has restarted a jet fuel hydrotreater at its Carson refinery after a shutdown due to a small fire on Monday, sources familiar with refinery operations said on Tuesday. A hydrocracker was also shut due to the fire on Monday and remains out of production. A BP spokesman declined to discuss operations at the refinery.

Reuters, 18:19 January 15, 2013. Posted to DOE website 1-16-13.

Shell Shuts Alkylation Unit to Repair Propane Line Leak at Its 156,400 b/d Martinez, California Refinery January 10

Shell Oil Co. on January 10 shut an alkylation unit at its Martinez refinery after discovering a leak in a propane line at the unit's reactors, according to a filing with state regulators. No other detail was provided except that the event had no off-site impact.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2013/01/15/refinery-status-united-refining-shuts-unit-at-2/>

Posted to DOE website 1-16-13.

Flint Hills Reports Emissions at Its 288,468 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery January 15

Flint Hills Resources reported unknown amounts of benzene and paraxylene were released into a cooling tower at its Corpus Christi refinery on Tuesday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The release had not been secured and the incident was under investigation, the filing said.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1035770 Posted to DOE website 1-16-13.

Sinclair Reports Upsets on Two SRUs at Its 80,000 b/d Sinclair, Wyoming Refinery January 15

Sinclair Oil Corp. reported upsets on two sulfur recovery units (SRUs) at its Sinclair, Wyoming refinery Tuesday

afternoon, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The No. 3 and No. 4 SRUs were “lined out” in response to the incident, the filing said.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1035792 Posted to DOE website 1-16-13.

PBF Reports Sulfur Plant Emissions at Its 180,000 b/d Paulsboro, New Jersey Refinery January 15

PBF Energy Inc. on Tuesday reported hydrogen sulfide emissions from a sulfur plant at its Paulsboro refinery, according to a filing with state pollution regulators.

Reuters, 14:35 January 15, 2013. Posted to DOE website 1-16-13.

Update: Motiva May Restart 325,000 b/d CDU at Its 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery This Weekend

Motiva Enterprises said it may be ready to attempt to restart a 325,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Port Arthur refinery for the fourth time this weekend, after repairs were done to fix a leak on a pipe carrying heated crude oil to the CDU. Motiva was forced to stop restart procedures January 12 after the leak developed. Operators began attempts to restart the unit in December after it was shut in June to repair extensive damage caused by a caustic leak. Reuters, 18:55 January 16, 2013. Posted to DOE website 1-17-13.

ExxonMobil Reports an Unspecified Leak at Its 238,600 b/d Joliet, Illinois Refinery January 16

ExxonMobil reported an unspecified leak at its Channahon refinery on Wednesday, according to a filing with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Operators removed pressure from the flare line in response, the filing said. Reuters, 4:01 January 17, 2013

<http://tier2.iema.state.il.us/FOIAHazmatSearch/HazmatDetails.aspx?RptNum=H-2013-0052>

Posted to DOE website 1-17-13.

PBF Reports Emissions at Its 190,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery January 16

PBF Energy said an instrument malfunction likely caused a release of hydrogen sulfide, hydrogen cyanide, and ammonia from an incinerator stack that tripped at its Delaware City refinery on Wednesday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators had secured the release and were investigating its cause.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1035893 Posted to DOE website 1-17-13.

Leak Causes Fire Near Delayed Coking Unit at HollyFrontier’s 52,000 b/d Cheyenne, Wyoming Refinery January 16

HollyFrontier Corp. said a leak that occurred in a piece of equipment adjacent to the refinery’s delayed coking unit started a fire at its Cheyenne refinery just after 12:00 p.m. local time on Wednesday and had been extinguished less than 2 hours later. No other units were impacted, the company said.

Reuters, 19:34 January 16, 2013

<http://k2radio.com/leak-causes-fire-at-holly-frontier-refinery/> Posted to DOE website 1-17-13.

Update: BP Restarts Hydrocracker Unit at Its 265,000 b/d Carson, California Refinery by January 16

BP Plc on Wednesday said it restarted a hydrocracking unit at its Carson refinery, after a shutdown due to a small fire on Monday. A hydrotreater was also shut down due to the fire but was restarted Tuesday.

Reuters, 17:12 January 16, 2013. Posted to DOE website 1-17-13.