

Refinery Events

January 1, 2013—January 10, 2013

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

Update: Motiva Begins Restart of 325,000 b/d CDU at Its 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery by January 4 – Traders

Motiva Enterprises began restarting a new 325,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Port Arthur refinery again this week, according to traders doing business with the refinery. Operators reported last month that the refinery would operate the CDU on partial circulation beginning December 18 to repair a “minor leak.” Operators began attempts to restart the unit in December after it was shut in June to repair extensive damage caused by a caustic leak. <http://www.nasdaq.com/article/crude-oil-unit-in-restart-at-motiva-port-arthur-texas-refinery-20130103-01168>
Posted to DOE website 1-4-13.

Update: Motiva Finds Leak When Restarting 325,000 b/d CDU at Its 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery January 6

Motiva Enterprises reported that it had to shut the new 325,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) at its 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas refinery after finding a leak while restarting the unit January 6. The refinery has been operating the CDU on partial circulation since December 18, when it was reduced to repair a minor leak. Operators began attempts to restart the unit in December after it was shut in June to repair extensive damage caused by a caustic leak. Motiva says it still expects the unit to be fully restarted in the early part of 2013. Reuters, 11:06 January 7, 2013. Posted to DOE website 1-7-13.

Blower Malfunction Shuts FCCU, Causes Emissions at BP’s 455,790 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery January 7

BP Plc reported the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Texas City refinery tripped offline due to the loss of a blower and caused emissions from the electrostatic precipitator stack. <http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=177720>
Posted to DOE website 1-7-13.

Compressor Trip Causes Flaring at Phillips 66’s 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery January 6

Phillips 66 reported a compressor on Unit 26.2 at its Sweeny refinery tripped Monday, 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=177708>
Posted to DOE website 1-7-13.

Update: Utah Regulator Solicits Public Comment on Proposed 29,000 b/d Expansion at HollyFrontier’s 31,000 b/d Woods Cross, Utah Refinery

The Utah Division of Air Quality has extended a public comment period on a proposed expansion of HollyFrontier’s Woods Cross refinery and the evaluation of its impact on air quality by two weeks, until January 18. HollyFrontier began a number of changes to modernize the refinery and increase processing capacity in 2007. Many of those changes have been implemented or are in the process of being implemented. To increase the capability to process crude produced in Utah’s Uintah Basin, HollyFrontier is now seeking to modify previously approved processes that have not been implemented to increase processing of black wax crude from eastern Utah. The proposed revised modification includes the addition of a crude processing unit, a fluid catalytic cracking unit, a poly gasoline unit, a hydroisomerization unit (for lube oils), crude unloading bays, several storage tanks, and additional wastewater treatment. Overall, the processing capacity of the refinery is proposed to increase from a current level of 31,000 b/d to 60,000 b/d. <http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/55566718-90/refinery-holly-state-pollution.html.csp>
http://www.airquality.utah.gov/Public-Interest/Holly_refinery/index.htm Posted to DOE website 1-7-13.

Valero Reports SRU Upset at Its 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery January 3

Valero reported the sulfur recovery unit (SRU) at its Port Arthur refinery experienced an upset last Thursday night, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. All sour water stripper units were placed on circulation and acid gas distributed among other sulfur recovery units, the filing said.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=177692>

Posted to DOE website 1-8-13.

Update: BP Restores Normal FCCU Operations at Its 455,790 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery January 6

BP Plc reported the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Texas City refinery was resuming normal operations Sunday evening after tripping offline that morning due to the loss of a blower, according to filings with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Emissions related to startup procedures were expected to continue until Tuesday night.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=177720>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=177712>

Posted to DOE website 1-8-13

Tesoro to Cease Refining Operations at Its 93,500 b/d Kapolei, Hawaii Refinery in April, Convert Facility into Import, Storage, and Distribution Terminal

Tesoro Corporation on Tuesday announced that it will cease refining operations at its Kapolei refinery during April of this year, and begin the process of converting the refinery to an import, storage, and distribution terminal. Tesoro Hawaii will maintain the existing distribution system to support marketing operations and fulfill its supply commitments while continuing to offer the terminal, distribution, and retail assets for sale. Upon conversion of the refinery to a terminal, Tesoro Hawaii believes third party utilization of the terminal and associated logistics will facilitate ongoing supplies of refined products.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=79122&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1772623>

Posted to DOE website 1-9-13.

Update: FCCU and Alkylation Unit Remain Shut for Repairs at Valero's 135,000 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery January 8

Valero Energy Corp. reported that the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) and alkylation unit at its Wilmington refinery remained shut on Tuesday while operators worked to repair a leak at the plant's alkylation unit. Operators shut both units on December 21 to make repairs, according to a spokesman.

Reuters, 12:26 January 9, 2103. Posted to DOE website 1-9-13.

Unspecified Equipment Failure Causes Flaring at Chevron's 279,000 b/d El Segundo, California Refinery January 8

Chevron Corp. reported an unspecified equipment failure at its El Segundo refinery Tuesday caused nitrogen dioxide to flare, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1035134 Posted to DOE website 1-9-13.

ExxonMobil Reports Flaring at Its 572,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery January 8

ExxonMobil reported flaring at its Baytown refinery on Tuesday was due to unknown causes, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1035078 Posted to DOE website 1-9-13.

Leaking Line Releases Sulfuric Acid at Motiva's 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery January 9

Motiva Enterprises reported a leaking line at its Port Arthur refinery caused a release of sulfuric acid Wednesday afternoon, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1035270 Posted to DOE website 1-10-13.

Heavy Rainfall Causes Oil Spill at ExxonMobil's 503,000 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Refinery January 9

ExxonMobil reported that heavy rainfall that went into a separator at its Baton Rouge refinery Wednesday afternoon had caused an unknown oil to spill and cause a sheen on the Mississippi River, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1035237 Posted to DOE website 1-10-13.

Phillips 66 Reports Sulfur Dioxide Emissions from Unspecified Unit at Its 120,000 b/d Rodeo, California Refinery January 9

Phillips 66 reported emissions of sulfur dioxide from an unspecified unit at its Rodeo refinery very early Wednesday morning, according to a filing with the California Emergency Management Agency. The filing did not specify the cause of the emissions, which lasted for more than seven hours.

Reuters, 16:24 January 9, 2013. Posted to DOE website 1-10-13.