

Refinery Events

January 10 – January 16, 2014

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

Shell Reports Crack in Process Line at Its Facility in Deer Park, Texas January 9

Royal Dutch Shell Plc reported a crack in a process line at its facility in Deer Park, Texas, according to a filing with the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality. The incident resulted in emissions, the source of which was identified as a coker unit, the filing said.

Reuters, 21:15 January 9, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-10-14.

Husky Says Operations Suspended Due to Power Outage at Its 146,200 b/d Lima, Ohio Refinery January 12

Husky Energy Inc. said operations at its Lima, Ohio, refinery were suspended due to a power outage that occurred on Sunday. The company said it expects the refinery to be back online within a couple of days. The incident caused a release of 100 pounds of hydrogen sulfide to the flare, according to a filing with the National Response Center.

Reuters, 11:46 January 13, 2014

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1070936 Posted to DOE website 1-13-14.

Update: Valero Returns Its 180,000 b/d Memphis, Tennessee Refinery to Full Rates January 13 After Cold Weather System Shutdown

Valero Energy's Memphis, Tennessee refinery was operating at normal rates after a system shutdown on January 6 because of low temperatures, a person familiar with the company's operations said. The plant ran some equipment at lower rates after instruments froze, water lines on process units burst, and units tripped because of the weather.

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3296388/Latest-News/Valero-returns-Memphis-refinery-to-full-rates-after-frigid-air-shutdown.html> Posted to DOE website 1-13-14.

Citgo Cuts CDU Rates to Repair Leak at Its 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery January 11

Citgo Petroleum Corp. cut back production on a crude distillation unit in the East Plant of its Corpus Christi, Texas, refinery on Saturday to repair a leak, according to a notice filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Measures were being taken to reduce the pressure in the overhead receiver to allow the safe removal of insulating material around the possible leak location, according to the notice. The leak came in the overhead piping taking highly volatile refined products produced by the crude unit, according to the notice.

Reuters, 17:50 January 12, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-13-14.

Energy Assurance Daily, January 14, 2014 Phillips 66 Reports Coker Unit Malfunction at Its 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery January 10

A coking unit malfunctioned on Friday at Phillips 66's Wood River, Illinois refinery, according to a notice posted online Saturday by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Liquid running down the hydrogen line triggered a malfunction in the north coker at the refinery, setting off the plant's safety flare system, according to the notice.

Reuters, 18:15 January 12, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-14-14.

Platformer Online at Planned Rates After Repairs at Citgo's 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery January 13

Citgo Petroleum Corp. on Monday said the no. 4 platformer unit at its Corpus Christi, Texas, refinery, was back online at planned rates. On December 19, 2013, the company said a 20,000 b/d gasoline-additive platformer unit would remain offline for repairs after a small fire broke out at the refinery. In a notice filed with Texas pollution regulators, the company had reported it cut back production on a crude distillation unit in the East Plant of the refinery on Saturday to repair a leak.

Reuters, 18:06 January 13, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-14-14.

Motiva Restarts FCCU Boiler at Its 600,250 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery January 11

Motiva Enterprises restarted a carbon monoxide (CO) boiler on the refinery's sole fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU), according to a notice filed on Saturday with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The CO boiler on the 90,000 b/d FCCU was expected to complete restarting by Wednesday, according to the filing. Reuters, 17:24 January 12, 2014 . Posted to DOE website 1-14-14.

Chevron Reports Unplanned Flaring, Breakdown at Its 279,000 b/d El Segundo, California Refinery January 11

Chevron Corp. reported unplanned flaring due to a breakdown at its refinery in El Segundo, California, according to a filing with the South Coast Air Quality Management District. Reuters, 15:50 January 11, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-14-14.

Dakota Oil Processing's Proposed 20,000 b/d Trenton, North Dakota Refinery Moves Forward After Commission's Approval

The Williams County Planning and Zoning Commission on Thursday recommended its approval for a proposed diesel hydro-skimming plant and tank storage facility in Trenton, North Dakota. Dakota Oil Processing has requested a conditional use permit for a refinery in Hardscrabble Township, southwest of Trenton. The plant will have the capacity to process 20,000 b/d of crude oil into diesel, naphtha, residual fuel, and other primary distillation products. The construction of the refinery would last at least 24 months.

http://www.willistonherald.com/news/proposed-trenton-refinery-moves-forward/article_5769fd0e-7c6d-11e3-84a1-001a4bcf887a.html Posted to DOE website 1-14-14.

Update: Husky Says Crude Unit Back Online After Power Outage at Its 146,200 b/d Lima, Ohio Refinery January 14

Husky Energy Inc. said a crude unit was brought back online Tuesday night and its Lima, Ohio, refinery was ramping up to normal production. Operations at the refinery were suspended due to a power outage on Sunday. Reuters, 11:14 January 15, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-15-14.

Update: Citgo Says CDU Back Online After Repairing Leak at Its 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery January 14

Citgo Petroleum Corp. said on Tuesday that the crude distillation unit (CDU) at the East Plant of its Corpus Christi, Texas, refinery was back online and that operations were normal. In a notice filed with Texas pollution regulators, the company reported it cut back production on a CDU in the East Plant on Saturday to repair a leak. Reuters, 17:53 January 14, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-15-14.

Operations Normal After Power Outage That Caused Excessive Flaring at Marathon's 451,000 b/d Galveston Bay, Texas Refinery January 15

Units at Marathon Petroleum Corp.'s Galveston Bay, Texas, refinery were operating normally following a power outage Tuesday afternoon, energy intelligence firm Genscape reported. A power outage had caused excessive flaring at the refinery on Tuesday, local news website The Daily News said on Wednesday. Reuters, 8:32 January 15, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-15-14.

ExxonMobil Reports Emissions, Leak at Its 503,000 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana Refinery January 14

Exxon Mobil Corp. reported a release of benzene due to an overhead stream flaring early Tuesday at its Baton Rouge, Louisiana, refinery, according to a filing with regulators. In a separate filing with the National Response Center, the refinery reported a leak in an exchanger which led to hydrogen sulfide and benzene emissions. The leak was discovered on Tuesday afternoon and the company was investigating the cause of the incident. Reuters, 2:40 January 15, 2014

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1071065 Posted to DOE website 1-15-14.

Valero Cuts Planned Expansion of Its 205,000 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery January 14

Valero Energy Corp. has cut a planned expansion of its Norco, Louisiana, refinery by 15,000 b/d, according to a public notice filed with the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) on Tuesday. According to the

notice, the company had planned to expand the refinery's crude oil throughput capacity to 290,000 b/d, but has cut that back to 275,000 b/d. No date was given for the start of construction for the expansion, but in an earlier filing with the LDEQ, Valero requested the issuance of air permits for the refinery under its revised plans be issued by February 28, 2014.

Reuters, 15:18 January 14, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-15-14.

Chevron Delays Repairs at Its 245,000 b/d Richmond, California Refinery Until Late 2014 Despite Orders from Cal/OSHA – U.S. Congressman

Chevron Corp. is delaying repairs to its San Francisco Bay refinery in Richmond, California that was hit by a fire in 2012. The repairs are being delayed until late 2014 despite orders from the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA), a U.S. congressman said in a letter on Wednesday. The letter said Chevron was using clamps to keep refinery units in operation until repairs could be made during a planned overhaul scheduled for late 2014. The congressman said Cal/OSHA ordered the clamps, put in place to stop leaks on the units, be replaced by repaired equipment by March 4, 2013. Chevron was appealing the citations issued by Cal/OSHA ordering the replacement of the clamps. In a report issued in April, the Chemical Safety Board (CSB) found a leak in piping on the refinery's sole crude distillation unit that triggered a fire on August 6, 2012. The leak was caused by corrosion from sulfur in crude oil, which dangerously thinned the wall of the pipe. Chevron chose not to replace the pipe during refinery overhauls prior to the fire, according to the CSB. No workers were injured in the fire, but in the days following, 15,000 San Francisco Bay area residents sought treatment for respiratory irritation due to the smoke plume.

Reuters, 1:04 January 16, 2014 . Posted to DOE website 1-16-14.

Update: Chevron Says Normal Operations Continued Despite Process Unit Snag at Its 279,000 b/d El Segundo, California Refinery Over Weekend

Chevron Corp. said on Wednesday its refinery in El Segundo, California, continued to operate normally following minor operational issues related to a process unit over the last weekend. The company reported unplanned flaring on January 11 due to a breakdown at the refinery, according to a filing with state pollution regulators.

Reuters, 19:00 January 15, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-16-14.

Tesoro Reports Unit Start-up at Its 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery January 15

Tesoro Corp. reported the start-up of an unspecified unit at its Golden Eagle refinery in Martinez, California, according to a filing with Contra Costa Health Services.

Reuters, 11:42 January 16, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-16-14.

Phillips 66 Reports 'Start-up Issues' at Its 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery January 15

Phillips 66 reported "start-up issues" with units at its Wood River refinery in Roxana, Illinois, a filing with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency said.

Reuters, 4:29 January 16, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-16-14.

Shell Reports Operational Upset at Its 327,000 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery January 16

Royal Dutch Shell Plc said one or more of its units experienced an operational upset due to a power blip at the refinery on Thursday, which resulted in flaring, according to a message posted on a community information line. The Deer Park facility, which is a 50-50 joint venture between Shell and Pemex, houses the refinery and a chemical plant.

Reuters, 11:01 January 16, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-16-14.