

Refinery Events

January 24 – January 30, 2014

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

Philadelphia Energy Reports 55 Barrel Crude Oil Spill at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery January 23

Philadelphia Energy reported 50 barrels of crude oil discharged from its Philadelphia refinery onto the ground and into a storm drain, according to the National Response Center. In addition, about 5 barrels of oil discharged into the Delaware River.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1071934

Reuters, 1:07 January 24, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-24-14.

Total Reports Flaring at Its 233,500 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery January 22

Total reported flaring at its Port Arthur refinery when a pressure safety valve lifted in the delayed coker unit. The upset condition was corrected and returned to normal operation.

Reuters, 16:08 January 23, 2014 http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1071782

Posted to DOE website 1-24-14.

ExxonMobil Reports Normal Operations After Valve Snag at Its 348,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery January 24

ExxonMobil Corp. reported that operations at its Beaumont, Texas, refinery were brought to normal following a valve malfunction on Friday, according to a notice filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The malfunction led to emissions from the fluid catalytic cracker unit flare, the filing said. The refinery anticipated no impact to production due to the incident, it added.

Reuters, 17:10 January 24, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-27-14.

Total Cuts Rates at Its 233,500 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery After FCCU Compressor Shuts January 24

Total reported it reduced refinery rates at its Port Arthur, Texas, refinery on Friday, following the unexpected shutdown of a wet gas compressor in a fluid catalytic cracker unit (FCCU), according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The company had earlier reported flaring at the refinery, according to a message posted on a community information line.

Reuters, 14:26 January 24, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-27-14.

Power Failure Shuts CDU at Chevron's 279,000 b/d El Segundo, California Refinery January 25

One of two crude distillation units (CDU) was shut on Saturday by a power failure at Chevron Corp's Los Angeles-area refinery in El Segundo, California, according to a notice filed with the National Response Center. The CDU, designated crude unit no. 4 by Chevron, performs atmospheric and vacuum distillation of crude oil as it initially enters the refinery. According to the refinery's operating permit, it is the only unit performing vacuum distillation at the refinery.

Reuters, 15:51 January 26, 2014

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1072079. Posted to DOE website 1-27-14.

Tesoro Reports Unit Upset at Its 100,000 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery January 27

Tesoro Corp. on Monday reported an unspecified process unit upset at its Wilmington refinery in the Los Angeles area, according to a filing with the California Emergency Management Agency. Flaring resulted in a release of about 811 pounds of sulfur dioxide, according to the filing.

Reuters, 8:45 January 27, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-27-14.

ExxonMobil Reports No Impact on Operations After Equipment Failure at Its 238,600 b/d Joliet, Illinois Refinery January 26

Exxon Mobil Corp. said there was no impact on operations from an equipment failure at its Joliet refinery in Channahon, Illinois, on Sunday. The failure led to hydrogen sulfide emissions, the company said in a filing with the National Response Center. It did not specify which unit was involved.

Reuters, 7:04 January 27, 2014

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1072176 Posted to DOE website 1-27-14.

Philadelphia Energy Reports Startup, Shutdown of Units at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery January 24

Philadelphia Energy Solutions reported the startup and shutdown of various units at the Point Breeze and Girard Point sections of its refinery in Philadelphia, according to a filing with state regulators made public on Friday. The company reported that the 1733 unit at the Girard Point section was taken offline for 'process concerns' and returned to service on January 22. Separately, unit 1732 at Girard Point was pulled out of circulation for maintenance and brought back online on January 21, the filing said. It also reported the shutdown of unit 210B for crude charge pump replacement at the Point Breeze terminal, on January 19.

Reuters, 15:40 January 24, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-27-14.

Monroe Energy Reports Crude Oil Spill at Its 185,000 b/d Trainer, Pennsylvania Refinery January 27

Monroe Energy LLC reported a discharge of an unknown amount of crude oil from its refinery in Trainer, Pennsylvania, a filing with the National Response Center showed on Tuesday. Another filing on Monday reported an unknown sheen from an unknown source on the Delaware River, to which contractors from Monroe Energy were responding. Upon further investigation it was determined that the source of the discharge was Monroe's refinery at Trainer, an updated National Response Center report, made public on Tuesday, said.

Reuters, 00:58 January 28, 2014

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1072237

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1072243 Posted to DOE website 1-28-14.

Update: Chevron Working to Restore Process Unit After Power Blip at Its 279,000 b/d El Segundo, California Refinery

Chevron Corp. said on Monday it was working to bring a process unit at its refinery in El Segundo, California, back to normal operating rates after it was hit by a power disruption on Saturday. Utility service to that portion of the refinery was quickly re-established, a statement from the company said. Yesterday, the company reported that one of two crude distillation units was shut on Saturday by a power failure at the refinery, according to a notice filed with the U.S. National Response Center.

Reuters, 15:42 January 27, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-28-14.

Shell Reports Coker Unit Start-up at Its 156,400 b/d Martinez, California Refinery January 27

Royal Dutch Shell Plc reported the start-up of a coking unit at its refinery in Martinez, California, on Monday, according to a filing with the California Emergency Management Agency. A separate filing had reported the startup of an unspecified unit at the refinery.

Reuters, 18:25 January 27, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-28-14.

Update: Shell Says Operations Returned to Normal After Fire at Its 329,800 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery January 27

Royal Dutch Shell Plc said on Monday its refinery in Deer Park, Texas, had returned to normal operations after a fire on January 22.

Reuters, 17:16 January 27, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-28-14.

Alon Postpones Turnaround at Its 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery January 27

Alon USA Energy Inc. on Monday said it had postponed a planned turnaround at its refinery in Big Spring, Texas, to the second quarter of this year from the first quarter. The delay allows Alon to better integrate the implementation of the vacuum tower project with the turnaround, reducing the down time required to complete the work while also reducing costs, the company said. The vacuum tower project would increase the refinery's ability to handle lighter shale crude oils and also its distillate production by an estimated 2,000 b/d, it added. Alon said that due to the postponement, throughput at the refinery was expected to average 73,000 b/d for the first quarter. Reuters, 18:55 January 27, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-28-14.

Update: Clean-up Continues From 1,000 Gallon Crude Oil Spill at Monroe Energy's 185,000 b/d Trainer, Pennsylvania Refinery

The Coast Guard said about 1,000 gallons of crude oil spilled into the Delaware River from Monroe Energy's Trainer refinery in Pennsylvania on Monday. Monroe Energy reported the spill occurred when a pipe ruptured as crews were off-loading crude oil. The company said it took the necessary actions to minimize environmental impacts. Responders used skimmers and special vacuums to remove the oil from the water. A Coast Guard pollution response team was also on scene to verify safe and thorough cleanup operations. Reuters, 00:58 January 28, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-29-14.

Philadelphia Energy Solutions Begins Turnaround After Unplanned Outage at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery January 29

Philadelphia Energy Solutions' Philadelphia refinery began a turnaround Wednesday that was originally scheduled for February, after an unplanned outage shut units, according to a person familiar with operations at the site. The turnaround maintenance includes 38 days of work on the no. 868 fluid catalytic cracker at the Point Breeze section of the plant. Other 860-series units, including an alkylation unit and distillate hydrotreater, will also shut as part of the planned work, according to the person. Crews will remove the no. 210 crude unit from service for 28 days of work that will boost the plant's ability to process Bakken oil. The refinery was trying to restart units at the larger Girard Point section. That plant lost steam to power its units earlier yesterday when its three boilers shut down, a second person familiar with the situation said. The refinery was able to restart a boiler and has been attempting to start units with the one boiler in operation, the person said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-01-29/philadelphia-refinery-said-to-begin-turnaround-after-outage.html?cmpid=yahoo> Posted to DOE website 1-30-14.

Citgo Delays Restart of Vacuum Unit at Its 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery Due to Cold Weather

The restart of a repaired vacuum distillation unit (VDU) at Citgo Petroleum Corp.'s Lemont, Illinois, refinery has been delayed by cold weather until this coming weekend at the earliest, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said on Thursday. Citgo had been authorized by the agency to complete the restart of the VDU by Wednesday, but that was delayed due to the extreme cold weather this week across the Chicago metropolitan area, an Illinois EPA spokesperson said.

Reuters, 11:39 January 30, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-30-14.

Phillips 66 Reports Process Unit Upset at Its 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery January 30

Phillips 66 reported a process unit upset at its Wood River refinery in Roxana, Illinois, which led to sulfur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide emissions, a filing with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency pollution regulator showed. The incident led to a processor trip which caused flaring, the filing said.

Reuters, 4:13 January 30, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-30-14.

Valero Reports Unspecified Shutdown at Its 85,000 b/d Ardmore, Oklahoma Refinery January 27

Valero Energy Corp. reported there was an unspecified shutdown on Monday at its refinery in Ardmore, Oklahoma, according to a filing with the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality that was made public on Wednesday. The filing did not specify the unit that was shut down or the cause of the incident.
Reuters, 13:55 January 29, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-30-14.

**Suncor Says Unit Closed after Fire at Its 93,000 b/d Commerce City, Colorado Refinery
January 28**

Suncor Energy Inc. said on Wednesday it had closed a unit at its Commerce City, Colorado, refinery after a fire on Tuesday. A spokeswoman for the company said that one person suffered minor injuries in the fire but it was quickly extinguished. The affected unit, which was not specified, was shut down.
Reuters, 16:01 January 29, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-30-14.

**Alon Says Operations Normal After Sulfur Unit Snag at Its 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas
Refinery January 28**

Alon USA Energy Inc. reported that operations were brought to normal following a malfunction in sulfur recovery unit no. 1, at its refinery in Big Spring, Texas, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality on Wednesday. An electrical failure led to the incident, the filing said.
Reuters, 15:02 January 29, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-30-14.

**PBF Reports Sulfur Dioxide Emissions at Its 190,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery
January 29**

PBF Energy Inc. reported sulfur dioxide emissions due to a freeze-up of a control switch at its refinery in Delaware City, Delaware, on Wednesday, according to a filing with state pollution regulators.
Reuters, 11:03 January 29, 2014. Posted to DOE website 1-30-14.