

## **Refinery Events**

**July 13, 2012—July 19, 2012**

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

### **Exxon Mobil Reports Emissions at Its 238,600 b/d Refinery in Channahon, Illinois July 15**

Exxon Mobil filed a report with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency July 16, and indicated there was a release of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, and nitrogen dioxide from a flare stack due to equipment overpressure at its 238,600 b/d Channahon, Illinois refinery.

Reuters, 4:16 July 16, 2012. Posted to DOE website 7-16-12.

### **Phillips 66 Reports Flange Leak from Its Westlake, Louisiana Refinery July 14**

The National Response Center reported that there was a spill of Naphtha from Phillips 66's Westlake, Louisiana refinery due to a flange leak.

Reuters, 8:45 July 16, 2012

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1017783](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1017783) Posted to DOE website 7-16-12.

### **Sunoco Restarted Vacuum Unit at Its 330,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery July 11**

According to a July 14 filing with the City of Philadelphia Air Management Service, Sunoco Inc. restarted the T-5 vacuum tower at the 137 crude unit in the Girard Point section of its 330,000 b/d Philadelphia refinery on July 11.

Reuters, 12:35 July 14, 2012. Posted to DOE website 7-16-12.

### **Update: Motiva Looks to Rebuild the 325,000 b/d CDU at Its 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery**

Motiva's new 325,000 crude distillation unit (CDU) has cooled down after a month, but the unit is still estimated to be offline for up to a year. Operators shut the CDU for repairs after a fire on June 9. While the fire damage was negligible, operators then discovered extensive corrosion in the CDU's vessels and piping. Investigators now believe that when the CDU was idled for repairs after the fire, a few gallons per day of caustic was inadvertently seeping into the unit. Several days later, when operators began heating up the unit in an attempt to resume operations, the undiluted caustic vaporized into a highly corrosive agent. Motiva says it will rebuild much of the unit, including the atmospheric section.

Reuters, 8:45 July 16, 2012. Posted to DOE website 7-16-12.

### **Hydrocracker and Alkylation Unit 2 Resume Normal Operations at ExxonMobil's 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery July 17**

ExxonMobil Corp said that a hydrocracking unit at its Beaumont, Texas refinery resumed normal operations following a compressor restart. The alkylation Unit 2 at the refinery also resumed normal operations after replacement of a malfunctioning valve.

Reuters, 10:36 July 17, 2012. Posted to DOE website 7-17-12.

### **Citgo Reports Flash Fire; Leak at Its 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery July 16**

Citgo Petroleum Corp. reported a flash fire at its Corpus Christi refinery in the East plant Monday. Firefighters put the fire out and were investigating the cause. Officials said it was likely started with a compressor. The company also reported a tube leak in a process cooler at the East plant, but there was no impact to production. Operators isolated the exchanger and began maintenance work immediately.

Reuters, 23:41 July 16, 2012

Reuters, 17:43 July 16, 2012. Posted to DOE website 7-17-12.

### **Petrobras Restarting Units at Its 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery July 17 after Weather-Related Power Outage**

Petrobras said it was bringing units back online on Tuesday after experiencing a brief power outage, which shut the refinery. The power interruption was caused by bad weather.

Reuters, 20:33 July 17, 2012. Posted to DOE website 7-18-12.

**Update: Citgo Says Two Units Remain Shut at Its 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery July 17 after Flash Fire**

Citgo Petroleum Corp. said Tuesday that units at the East plant of its 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery remain shut due to a flash fire that occurred Monday evening. However, the company said there was minimal impact to production. Firefighters put the fire out and were investigating the cause. Officials said it was likely started with a compressor.

Reuters, 16:53 July 17, 2012. Posted to DOE website 7-18-12.

**Valero Reports No Material Impact to Production after SRU Malfunction at Its 171,000 b/d McKee, Texas Refinery July 17**

Valero Energy Corp. said there was no material impact to production after a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) tripped offline at its McKee refinery Monday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were repairing a sulfur recovery system after a malfunction, the filing said.

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=1018015](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1018015)

Reuters, 14:41 July 17, 2012. Posted to DOE website 7-18-12.

**SRU Upset Reported at Shell's 145,000 b/d Anacortes, Washington Refinery July 8**

Shell Oil Co. reported that an analyzer was down in sulfur recovery unit 3 on July 8, according to a filing made July 17 with the Northwest Clean Air Agency.

Reuters, 15:22 July 17, 2012. Posted to DOE website 7-18-12.

**Update: Motiva Targeting Early 2013 Restart of 325,000 b/d Crude Distillation Unit at Port Arthur, Texas Refinery**

Inspection activities and repairs continue on the crude distillation unit at the expansion of Motiva's refinery in Port Arthur, Texas. The original Port Arthur refinery, which has 275,000 barrels per day distillation capacity, continues to operate normally. The crude unit, which is part of the recently completed 325,000 barrels per day expansion project at the refinery, was safely shut down without any injuries in early June after it experienced operational issues. Preliminary inspection found that part of the unit had been accidentally contaminated with high levels of caustic (sodium hydroxide), which resulted in cracks in stainless steel piping and other parts of the crude unit. All seven of the other expansion units built in the expansion project are fully operational, though some are running at reduced capacity. Motiva is targeting to restart the crude unit in early 2013.

[http://www.motivaenterprises.com/home/content/motiva/media\\_center/2012/07192012\\_par.html](http://www.motivaenterprises.com/home/content/motiva/media_center/2012/07192012_par.html)

Posted to DOE website 7-19-12.

**Update: Citgo Restarts Units at Its 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery July 18**

Citgo Petroleum Corp. said Thursday that the two units affected by a flash fire earlier in the week were restarted Wednesday at its 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi refinery in Texas. The flash fire occurred Monday evening, and the company said there was minimal impact to production.

Reuters, 11:16 July 19, 2012. Posted to DOE website 7-19-12.