

Refinery Events

March 22, 2013—March 28, 2013

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

Update: BP Returns 102,500 b/d FCCU to Normal Operation at Its 265,000 b/d Carson, California Refinery by March 22

BP Plc returned a 102,500 b/d fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) to normal operation on Friday at its Carson refinery, according to sources familiar with refinery operations. The refinery completed repairs to a compressor on the FCCU on Thursday evening, allowing operators to restore normal operation on the unit. Work on the compressor began on March 11, when operators began restart procedures following an extended overhaul. Reuters, 12:15 March 22, 2013. Posted to DOE website 3-22-13.

PBF Reports Crude Unit Upset at Its 180,000 b/d Paulsboro, New Jersey Refinery March 25

PBF Energy Inc. on Monday reported a crude unit upset at its Paulsboro refinery, according to a filing with state pollution regulators. Reuters, 09:40 March 25, 2013. Posted to DOE website 3-25-13.

Compressor Malfunction Causes Sulfur Dioxide Emissions at ExxonMobil's 238,600 b/d Joliet, Illinois Refinery March 22

ExxonMobil Corp. reported a compressor at its Joliet refinery failed on Friday, causing emissions of sulfur dioxide, according to a filing with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, which did not indicate on which unit the malfunctioning compressor was located. Reuters, 16:50 March 24, 2013. Posted to DOE website 3-25-13.

Unspecified Unit Restart Causes Nitrogen Oxide Emissions at Chevron's 330,000 b/d Pascagoula, Mississippi Refinery March 25

Chevron Corp. reported its work to restart an unspecified unit at its Pascagoula refinery was causing the ongoing release of nitrogen oxide on Saturday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The filing does not specify which unit operators were planning to restart, but energy industry intelligence service Genscape on Thursday said that the refinery was preparing to restart a coking unit after a planned overhaul. Reuters, 17:14 March 24, 2013. http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1041936 Posted to DOE website 3-25-13.

Unit Malfunction Causes SRU Emissions at Total's 232,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery March 22

Total Petrochemicals Inc. reported a malfunction on Unit No. 833 at its Port Arthur refinery Friday afternoon resulted in elevated emissions from "Area 5," Unit 833, sulfur recovery unit (SRU) No.1, and the No. 3 tail gas thermal oxidizer, 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=180762> Posted to DOE website 3-25-13.

Valero Reports Flaring Due to Work on Propane Valve at Its 135,000 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery March 25

Valero Energy Corp. on Monday reported flaring at its Wilmington refinery was related to work on a propane valve. Operators had reported planned flaring at the refinery earlier on Sunday. Reuters, 10:31 March 25, 2013. Posted to DOE website 3-25-13.

Alon Reduces Feed to DHT, FCCU, Other Units at Its 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery after High Reactor Outlet Temperature Trips SRU March 25

Alon USA Holdings reported that acid gas emissions from sulfur recovery unit (SRU) No. 1 at its Big Spring refinery on Monday were due to a trip caused by high reactor outlet temperature, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators shut a sour water stripper and reduced feed to the diesel hydrotreater (DHT), fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU), and unspecified other units to minimize emissions. Operators also rerouted feed to SRU No. 2.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=180844>

Posted to DOE website 3-26-13.

Control Valve Failure Shuts Coker Wet Gas Compressor at Phillips 66's 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery March 25

Phillips 66 reported that the coker wet gas compressor at its Sweeny refinery tripped offline for 29 minutes on Monday after a control valve failed, causing elevated emissions from Flare 29 and the No. 29.2 delayed coker unit, 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=180817>

Posted to DOE website 3-26-13.

Flare Gas Compressor Trip Causes Emissions at Phillips 66's 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery March 25

Phillips 66 reported a flare gas recovery compressor tripped at its Wood River refinery on Monday, causing sulfur dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions, according to a filing with state pollution regulators.

Reuters, 04:00 March 26, 2013. Posted to DOE website 3-26-13.

Update: MDU Resources and Calumet Start Construction on 20,000 b/d Dakota Prairie Refining Diesel Refinery in North Dakota March 26

MDU Resources Group, Inc. and Calumet Specialty Products Partners, L.P. on Tuesday broke ground to officially begin construction on the Dakota Prairie Refining diesel refinery in Stark County, North Dakota. Construction is expected to take approximately 20 months. The refinery will process 20,000 b/d of Bakken crude oil.

<http://www.mdu.com/News/Pages/NewsArticle.aspx?article=332> Posted to DOE website 3-27-13.

ExxonMobil Expects No Impact to Production after Compressor Trip Causes FCCU Emissions at Its 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery March 26

ExxonMobil Corp. reported a process compressor tripped at its Beaumont refinery on Tuesday, resulting in emissions from the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) and the FCC flare, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators returned the refinery to normal operations within 4 hours and anticipated no impact to production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=180890>

Posted to DOE website 3-27-13.

Update: ExxonMobil Reports Normal Operations at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery after Completing Repairs by March 27

ExxonMobil Corp. reported its Torrance refinery was operating normally on Wednesday after operators completed work on a unit that malfunctioned on March 12, according to a company spokeswoman. Operators had reported a "temporary equipment mechanical issue" on an unspecified unit.

Reuters, 20:22 March 27, 2013. Posted to DOE website 3-28-13.