

Refinery Events

March 8, 2013—March 14, 2013

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

Marathon Reports Vapor Release at Its 76,000 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery March 6

Marathon Petroleum Corp. reported it was performing a procedure to move caustic solution from a caustic tank to the merox unit at its Texas City refinery Wednesday afternoon when the flow reversed due to a pressure difference, causing the merox unit to send liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) material back into the caustic tank, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This caused vapor to release to the atmosphere from both the merox unit and the caustic tank. Operators isolated the system and halted the flow of LPG to the caustic tank within 5 minutes.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=180123>

Posted to DOE website 3-8-13.

PBF Reports Unspecified SRU Shutdown at Its 180,000 b/d Paulsboro, New Jersey Refinery by March 8

PBF Energy Inc. reported emissions due to a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) shutdown at its Paulsboro refinery, according to a filing with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. SRU No. 3 was shut for about 30 minutes.

Reuters, 10:21 March 8, 2013. Posted to DOE website 3-8-13.

Cumene Unit Valve Failure Releases Unknown Material at Marathon's 226,000 b/d Catlettsburg, Kentucky Refinery by March 4

Marathon Petroleum Corp. reported a failed valve in a cumene unit at its Catlettsburg refinery released an unknown material, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The release was discovered Sunday afternoon. Operators isolated the valve but were unsure at the time of the filing whether this had secured the release.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1040033 Posted to DOE website 3-8-13.

Phillips 66 Restarts Its 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery after Power Loss Shuts Several Process Units March 10; Says It Will Take Several Days to Resume Normal Operations

Phillips 66 on Monday said it would take several days to resume normal operations at its Sweeny refinery after a loss of power from a third-party power supplier resulted in a temporary shutdown on Sunday. Several process units shut down or experienced operational difficulties due to the power loss, resulting in flaring and excess emissions, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Plant safety systems functioned properly during the upset. Operators began restart procedures Sunday night.

Reuters, 12:21 March 11, 2013

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=180220>

Posted to DOE website 3-11-13.

Shell Reports Equipment Failure, Brief Fire at Its 329,800 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery March 9; Unclear Whether Incidents Were Related

Shell Oil Co. reported an unspecified equipment failure at its Deer Park refinery during normal operations on Saturday resulted in a release of acid gas to the flare stack, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators later reported a small fire was quickly extinguished at the plant on Saturday, without specifying the units involved. The cause of the incident is under investigation.

Reuters, 01:36 March 11, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1040507 Posted to DOE website 3-11-13.

CHS Plans 15,000 b/d Expansion at Its 85,000 b/d McPherson, Kansas Refinery

CHS Inc. today announced plans to boost refining capacity at the National Cooperative Refinery Association facility

in McPherson, Kansas from the current 85,000 b/d to 100,000 b/d. The multi-faceted project will be executed in phases during the second half of 2015 and early 2016, with the new production capacity coming online in early 2016. The expansion project will occur concurrently with the construction of a replacement coker, which is already in progress. The McPherson refinery will continue to operate normally during both construction projects.
<http://chsinc.mediaroom.com/2013-03-12-CHS-announces-plans-to-boost-McPherson-Kan.-refinery-production>
Posted to DOE website 3-12-13.

Chevron Restarts Major Electrical Unit at Its 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery March 11

Chevron Corp. restarted a major electrical unit at its Richmond refinery on Monday, according to a filing with the Contra Costa County Health Department Hazardous Materials Program. The filing does not indicate why the unit was shut.

Reuters, 11:20 March 12, 2013. Posted to DOE website 3-12-13.

Update: BP Completes Restart of 102,500 b/d FCCU at Its 265,000 b/d Carson, California Refinery March 11 – Sources

BP Plc completed the restart of the 102,500 b/d fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Carson refinery on Monday, according to sources familiar with operations. The FCCU and a related alkylation unit recently underwent an 8-week overhaul, originally scheduled to complete by February 22, which was extended due to unexpected repairs.

Reuters, 15:50 March 11, 2013. Posted to DOE website 3-12-13.

Hydrogen Plant Upset Shuts 36,000 b/d HCU at Valero's 144,000 b/d Benicia, California Refinery March 11

Valero Energy Corp. shut a 36,000 b/d hydrocracking unit (HCU) at its Benicia refinery on Sunday due to an unspecified upset at the facility's hydrogen plant. There is no estimate on when the unit will be restarted.

Reuters, 14:05 March 11, 2013

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2013/03/11/valero-benicia-calif-refinery-unit-in-unplanned-closure-no-restartestimate/> Posted to DOE website 3-12-13.

ExxonMobil Reports Unplanned Flaring at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery March 12

ExxonMobil Corp. reported unplanned flaring at its Torrance refinery Tuesday, according to a filing with the South Coast Air Quality Management District. The filing does not specify what caused the flaring, but notes that it continued for about 9.5 hours.

Reuters, 6:16 March 12, 2013. Posted to DOE website 3-12-13.

Marathon Restarts SRU at Its 102,000 b/d Detroit, Michigan Refinery March 12 after Control System Malfunction Trips It Offline March 11

Marathon Petroleum Corp. reported it restarted a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) at its Detroit refinery on Tuesday and restored normal operations. The SRU tripped offline on Monday when a control system malfunction occurred during some maintenance work, a spokesman said. Operators had reported a process unit upset at the refinery Monday morning, possibly due to a loss of power, had caused sulfur dioxide emissions, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

Reuters, 8:29 March 12, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1040662 Posted to DOE website 3-12-13.

PBF Reports Flaring at Its 190,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery March 9

PBF Energy reported unspecified flaring at its Delaware City refinery on Saturday, according to a filing with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

Reuters, 17:55 March 10, 2013. Posted to DOE website 3-12-13.

Update: New 42,000 b/d Reformer Fully Operational at Husky's 155,000 b/d Toledo, Ohio

Refinery by March 8

BP-Husky Refining LLC on Thursday announced that a new processing unit, Reformer 3, went online at its Toledo refinery in early February and is now fully operational. The reformer can produce 42,000 barrels of gasoline per day. It replaces two older catalytic reformers and a hydrogen plant, making the refinery more efficient, and produces 3 percent more gasoline from the same amount of crude oil. Commissioning the unit was part of a greater investment by the operators to attract Canadian crude oil to market in the United States. With crude from the Utica Shale in eastern Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, and West Virginia coming on, and access to Canadian crude, the refinery now has the flexibility to work with different types and grades of crude.

<http://www.toledoblade.com/Energy/2013/03/08/400M-gas-processing-unit-boosts-refinery-s-operation.html>

Posted to DOE website 3-12-13.

Mechanical Problem Shuts Alkylation Unit at Philadelphia Energy Solution's 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery March 5

Philadelphia Energy Solutions reported an alkylation unit shut down due to an unspecified mechanical problem at the Girard Point section of its Philadelphia refinery on March 5. Operators reported also that they had on March 5 restarted a reformer after turnaround work at Girard Point, and a hydro-desulfurization unit after turnaround work at the Point Breeze section of the refinery.

Reuters, 17:06 March 8, 2013. Posted to DOE website 3-12-13.

Marathon Reports Emissions from Alkylation Unit at Its 451,000 b/d Galveston Bay, Texas Refinery March 11

Marathon Petroleum Corp. reported emissions from alkylation unit No. 3 at its Galveston Bay refinery on Sunday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environment Quality. Operators placed a backup pump in service to prevent the unit from a shutdown.

Reuters, 16:23 March 11, 2013. Posted to DOE website 3-12-13.

Valero Shuts 57,000 b/d HCU to Repair Compressor Seal at Its 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery March 11

Valero Energy Corp. on Monday said it shut a 57,000 b/d hydrocracking unit (HCU) at its Port Arthur refinery to repair a compressor seal. A second hydrocracker continues to operate at the refinery.

Reuters, 17:31 March 11, 2013. Posted to DOE website 3-12-13.

Unit Boiler Trip Causes FCCU Emissions at ExxonMobil's 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery March 7; Operators Restart Boiler March 8, Restart Compressor March 9

ExxonMobil Corp. reported a unit boiler tripped offline at its Beaumont refinery on March 7, causing emissions from a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU), according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators restored normal operations by the following morning, and expected no impact to production. On March 9 operators reported flaring at the refinery Saturday afternoon was caused when operators restarted a compressor, according to another TCEQ filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=180206>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=180193>

Posted to DOE website 3-12-13.

Unspecified Upset Leads to Flaring at Valero's 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery March 8

Valero Energy Corp. reported it was flaring at its Corpus Christi refinery Friday night due to an unspecified upset in the West Plant, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The filing lists the facility's Complex 1, Main Flare, and Unit 49 as sources of emissions. Valero recently completed a planned overhaul of a heavy oil cracker at the refinery and was returning the unit to planned production levels.

Reuters, 17:52 March 10, 2013

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=180198>

Posted to DOE website 3-12-13.

Citgo Reports Distillate Leak on Reformer Unit at Its 429,500 b/d Lake Charles, Louisiana Refinery March 12

Citgo Petroleum Corp. reported the B-reformer unit at its Lake Charles refinery was leaking distillate into the air on Tuesday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were working to secure the release at the time of the filing, and were investigating its cause.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1040872 Posted to DOE website 3-13-13.

Tail Gas Oxidizer Malfunction at Husky's 125,600 b/d Toledo, Ohio Refinery March 10 Had No Impact on Production – Source

BP-Husky Refining LLC reported that emissions due to a problem at the plant's tail gas thermal oxidizer on Sunday had no impact on production, according to a source familiar with operations at the plant. Operators had reported that an unknown amount of hydrogen sulfide and sulfur dioxide released from the tail gas treater thermal oxidizer Sunday was due to an equipment malfunction, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/news/2013/03/12/refinery-status-valero-port-arthur-refinery-2/>

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1040598 Posted to DOE website 3-13-13.

HollyFrontier Reports Sulfur Dioxide Emission at Its 95,000 b/d Artesia, New Mexico Refinery March 12

HollyFrontier Corp. reported sulfur dioxide emissions at its Artesia refinery on Tuesday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators had not yet secured the release at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1040880 Posted to DOE website 3-13-13.

ExxonMobil Reports No Impact to Production after Equipment Malfunction Leads to Flaring at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery March 12

Exxon Mobil Corp. reported flaring at its Torrance refinery Tuesday morning was due to a “temporary equipment mechanical issue” on an unspecified unit. The incident has had no impact on production, and operators expect to meet all contractual commitments.

Reuters, 15:06 March 12, 2013. Posted to DOE website 3-13-13.

Update: Lyondell Says CDU, Coker Overhaul to Process More Heavy Canadian Crude at Its 270,600 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery Should Be Complete by Mid-April

LyondellBasell Industries NV said its work to convert a crude distillation unit (CDU) and a coking unit at its Houston refinery is scheduled for completion by mid-April. The previously announced overhaul will increase the refinery's capacity to run heavy Canadian crude from 60,000 b/d to 175,000 b/d. The work began in February.

Reuters, 11:27 March 13, 2013. Posted to DOE website 3-13-13.

EPA Cleaning Up 5,000 Barrel Oil Spill at Delek's 75,000 b/d El Dorado, Arkansas Refinery March 9

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Delek US Holdings Inc. (DK), are working to clean up a 5,000 barrel oil spill at Delek's 75,000 b/d El Dorado, Arkansas refinery. The EPA has already removed approximately 4,200 barrels of crude from the March 9 spill, and Delek said the spill has not affected delivery of crude to the refinery. The spill was caused by the failure of a pump that transports crude to an underground transmission line.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-03-13/refiner-delek-cleaning-up-5-000-barrel-spill-in-arkansasbayou.html?cmpid=yahoo> Posted to DOE website 3-14-13.

All Units Operating at Valero's 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery Despite Power Dips and Flaring March 13

Valero Energy Corp. said all units were operating at its Port Arthur refinery in Texas despite an electrical upset that led to power dips and caused flaring. Operators reacted immediately, bringing units to safe conditions to minimize impact. There was no impact to production.

Reuters, 15:42 March 13, 2013

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=180351>

Posted to DOE website 3-14-13.

Citgo Reports Coker Compressor Flaring at Its 429,500 b/d Lake Charles, Louisiana Refinery March 13

Citgo Petroleum Corp. reported flaring from a coker unit compressor was due to unknown causes at its Lake Charles, Louisiana refinery, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

Reuters, 00:11 March 14, 2013

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1040895 Posted to DOE website 3-14-13.