

Refinery Events

May 2, 2013—May 9, 2013

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

Citgo Shuts Hydrotreater at its 167,000 Lemont, Illinois Refinery Due to Fire May 1

Citgo Petroleum Corp. said it shut a diesel hydrotreater at its Lemont, Illinois refinery on Wednesday after a small fire broke out at a valve. No injuries were reported, and the company is expecting repairs to take one or two days. Reuters, 10:56 May 2, 2013. Posted to DOE website 5-3-13.

BP Reports Unit Upset, Release at Its 405,000 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery May 2

According to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center, there was a glitch at BP Plc's Whiting refinery in Indiana, which caused a release. BP is in the process of stabilizing the system. Reuters, 4:34 May 3, 2013. Posted to DOE website 5-3-13.

Flaring Reported at Marathon's 226,000 b/d Catlettsburg, Kentucky Refinery May 2

Marathon Petroleum filed a report with the U.S. National Response Center Thursday stating that there was a release of benzene from a flare after a relief valve lifted at its Catlettsburg, Kentucky refinery. The company said it had blocked the relief valve.

Reuters, 4:09 May 3, 2013. Posted to DOE website 5-3-13.

CVR Shuts Catalytic Cracker at Its 70,000 b/d Wynnewood, Oklahoma Refinery Due to Malfunction May 2

CVR Energy Inc. said Thursday that it shut a catalytic cracker at its Wynnewood, Oklahoma, refinery on Sunday due to a malfunction. Repairs are estimated to take up to 16 days, the company said during an earning call with investors.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/05/02/energy-markets-products-gasoline-idUSL2N0DJ1GZ20130502>

Posted to DOE website 5-3-13.

Update: ExxonMobil, Union Workers Reach Tentative Agreement to Avert Strike at ExxonMobil's 572,000 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery

The United Steelworkers (USW) Local 13-2001 at ExxonMobil's Baytown refinery reported it has reached a tentative agreement over contract language on safety after a dispute that the union said earlier last week could lead to a strike if not resolved. A USW spokesman said ExxonMobil agreed to implement a fatigue management system regulating how many days in a row someone can work and to accept a process safety representative position in the new 3-year contract. An ExxonMobil spokeswoman confirmed the two sides had reached a tentative agreement, but declined to provide additional details. The facility's 850 union employees will vote on the deal May 14 and 15.

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3201490/Latest-News/Exxon-union-workers-reach-safety-deal-toavert-Baytown-refinery-strike.html> Posted to DOE website 5-6-13.

Electrical Supply Problems Cause Emissions at Phillips 66's 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery May 3

Phillips 66 reported emissions of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides from its Wood River refinery on Friday were caused by electrical power supply problems, according to a filing with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Reuters, 12:19 May 5, 2013. Posted to DOE website 5-6-13.

Update: Motiva Resumes Full Rates at Its 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery by May 6 – Sources

Motiva Enterprises returned its Port Arthur refinery to full rates on Monday after completing a plant-wide restart last week following an April 14 power outage, according to sources familiar with operations at the refinery. The return had been delayed late last month due to the loss of a plant that produces part of the steam and hydrogen needed to

operate parts of the refinery.
Reuters, 12:13 May 6, 2013. Posted to DOE website 5-6-13.

BP Starts Operation of New Hydrogen Production Unit, Diesel Hydrodesulfurization Unit at Its 225,000 b/d Cherry Point, Washington Refinery in April

BP Plc reported that startup procedures on a new hydrogen production unit and diesel hydrodesulfurization unit (DHDS) began in early April, and that the DHDS began producing final product by April 17, according to a filing with the Northwest Clean Air Agency. The refinery completed the construction of the two new units and the retrofitting of existing hydrocracker heaters as part of its “Clean Diesel Project,” which was launched in May 2011 to meet Federal air quality regulations. The new and upgraded units produce ultra low-sulfur diesel fuel, which is expected to address or exceed federally mandated on-road diesel specifications.

Reuters, 17:54 May 3, 2013

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/BP-caps-clean-diesel-work-at-Washington-refinery.html>

Posted to DOE website 5-7-13.

BP Could Begin Startup Procedures on Upgraded CDU at Its 413,000 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery at the End of May – Sources

BP Plc plans to begin the startup of an upgraded crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Whiting refinery at the end of May or in early June, according to sources familiar with refinery operations. BP shut the CDU, called Pipestill 12, in November to begin the project, which will increase the refinery’s capacity to process Canadian crude oil from 80,000 b/d to 350,000 b/d. Two other CDUs at the Whiting refinery remain in operation. A BP spokesman said the project remains on schedule for completion in the second half of this year.

Reuters, 16:57 May 6, 2013. Posted to DOE website 5-7-13.

Flint Hills Reports Coker Unit Fire at Its 280,500 b/d Saint Paul, Minnesota Refinery May 3

Flint Hills Resources reported a fire in the coker unit at its Saint Paul refinery Friday morning caused a release of hydrogen sulfide, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were investigating the incident and were unsure whether the release had been secured at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1045896 Posted to DOE website 5-7-13.

Update: Motiva Confirms Its 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery Resumed Planned Rates by May 6

Motiva Enterprises confirmed reports that its Port Arthur refinery was operating at planned production rates Monday after completing a plant-wide restart last week following an April 14 power outage. Sources familiar with operations at the refinery had reported the news yesterday.

Reuters, 17:11 May 6, 2013. Posted to DOE website 5-7-13.

Alon Reduces Feed to DHT, FCCU after Valve Malfunction Shuts Both SRUs at Its 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery May 6

Alon USA Energy Inc. reported that a plugged instrument at its Big Spring refinery caused the acid gas feed valve to the No. 1 sulfur recovery unit (SRU) to shut Monday afternoon, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. This caused the acid gas flow to shift toward the No. 2 SRU, increasing the flow rate to that unit, which caused SRU-2 to trip, causing emissions from the flare and both incinerators. Operators reduced charge at the diesel hydrotreater (DHT), LDH, and fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) and shut the sour water stripper.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1046212

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=182483>

Posted to DOE website 5-7-13.

Compressor Trip Causes Sulfur Dioxide Emissions at ExxonMobil’s 503,000 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana Refinery May 5

ExxonMobil reported a compressor trip at its Baton Rouge refinery Sunday morning caused a release of sulfur dioxide to the flare, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1046075 Posted to DOE website 5-7-13.

Crude Oil Discharges from Marine Loading Dock at Shell's 145,000 b/d Anacortes, Washington Refinery May 5

Shell Oil Products USA reported that crude oil discharged from a marine loading dock at its Puget Sound Refinery in Anacortes just past midnight on Sunday, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators had applied boom and were "pumping the arm down," but had not yet contained the release, the filing said.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1046070 Posted to DOE website 5-7-13.

Chevron Reports Flaring at Its 245,271 b/d Richmond, California Refinery May 2

Chevron Corp. reported flaring at its Richmond refinery Thursday, according to a filing with the Contra Costa Health Department Hazardous Materials Program. The refinery resumed the operation of a crude distillation unit on April 26 following an extended shutdown due to a fire last August, and operators expect to resume full operations sometime in the second quarter.

Reuters, 15:24 May 3, 2013. Posted to DOE website 5-7-13.

FCCU Resumes Planned Rates at Valero's 135,000 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery May 6

Valero Energy Corp. reported a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Wilmington refinery resumed planned rates on Monday.

Reuters, 10:18 May 6, 2013. Posted to DOE website 5-7-13.

Chevron Reports Minor Lube Oil Leak at Its 279,000 b/d El Segundo, California Refinery by May 6

Chevron Corp. reported that lube oil leaked from a line at its El Segundo refinery into a reservoir used as an emergency fire suppression water supply, according to a filing with the California Emergency Management Agency. Reuters, 14:36 May 6, 2013. Posted to DOE website 5-7-13.

Tesoro Idles FCCU at Its 120,000 b/d Anacortes, Washington Refinery to Repair Slide Valve May 6

Tesoro Corp. on Monday began idling a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Anacortes refinery after discovering a catalyst leak on a slide valve, according to a person familiar with operations. Operators were still working to determine the extent and duration of the unplanned repairs, the person said. A company spokeswoman confirmed only that unscheduled work was underway on an unspecified unit. The company doesn't expect the maintenance to affect supply commitments, she said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2013-05-07/gasoline-gains-to-7-month-high-in-portland-on-tesorowork.html?cmpid=yhoo> Posted to DOE website 5-8-13.

Shell Shuts Unspecified Unit Due to Leak at Its 156,400 b/d Martinez, California Refinery May 6

Royal Dutch Shell Plc reported it shut down an unspecified unit at its Martinez refinery on Monday after operators discovered an isolation valve was leaking a "pitch-like material," according to a filing with the Contra Costa Health Department Hazardous Materials Program.

Reuters, 10:11 May 8, 2013. Posted to DOE website 5-8-13.

Compressor Power Failure Causes Sulfur Dioxide Emissions at PBF Energy's 190,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery May 7

PBF Energy Inc. reported a release of sulfur dioxide due to a power failure that impacted a compressor at its Delaware City refinery, according to a filing with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

Reuters, 19:27 May 7, 2013. Posted to DOE website 5-8-13.

Update: Hyperion's Proposed 400,000 b/d Elk Point, South Dakota Refinery Unlikely after Company Lets Land Options Expire at Construction Site

Hyperion Resources has let land options expire at the site in Elk Point where it proposed to build a 400,000 b/d refinery, casting doubt on the fate of the project. South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard said it's unlikely that the refinery will be built, local media reported. Hyperion first proposed the project in 2007 and was originally scheduled to begin construction in February 2011, but financing problems caused delays. In September 2011, South Dakota's Board of Minerals approved the company's request to delay the project by up to 18 months, and construction was then slated to begin by March 2013.

<http://www.keloland.com/newsdetail.cfm/daugaard-says-oil-refinery-near-elk-point-unlikely/?id=147726>

Posted to DOE website 5-8-13.

PBF Energy Reports Emissions at Its 180,000 b/d Paulsboro, New Jersey Refinery May 9

PBF Energy Inc. reported emissions at its Paulsboro refinery on Thursday, according to a filing with state pollution regulators. The filing describes billows of black and grey smoke and audible alarms, and associated odors unlike any other at the facility.

Reuters, 11:19 May 9, 2013. Posted to DOE website 5-9-13.