

Refinery Events

October 5, 2012—October 11, 2012

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

Update: Fire at ExxonMobil's 572,000 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery Impacts Production

ExxonMobil Corp. said Thursday that a fire at its 572,000 b/d Baytown, Texas refinery will impact production, although the loss was contained to the hydrotreater unit. According to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center, the fire on Wednesday was caused by a hole in the reactor. The company is depressurizing the unit but has made no estimate on when operations would be restored. The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating the fire.

Reuters, 16:14 October 4, 2012. Posted to DOE website 10-5-12.

ExxonMobil Reports Flaring at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery October 4

According to a filing with the California Emergency Management Agency, ExxonMobil Corp.'s 149,500 b/d Torrance, California refinery experienced flaring on Thursday, causing emissions of sulfur dioxide. The company did not specify which unit was involved, but said the refinery continued to operate normally. Exxon is in the process of restoring operations at the refinery following a plant-wide power outage on Monday.

Reuters, 22:57 October 4, 2012. Posted to DOE website 10-5-12.

Phillips 66 Reports Unplanned Hydrocracker Shutdown at Its 120,000 b/d Rodeo, California Refinery October 4; Reports Oil Line Leak October 8

Phillips 66 on Monday reported a leak in a "recovered oil line," according to a filing with the Contra Costa Health Services. Operators were assessing the leak at the time of the filing. Last Thursday the refinery reported an unplanned shutdown of a hydrocracker and flaring, according to a filing with the Contra Costa Health Services. The company had also reported planned maintenance was underway at the refinery on Thursday.

Reuters, 19:41 October 5, 2012 Reuters, 10:25 October 9, 2012. Posted to DOE website 10-9-12.

Update: Valero Restarts CDU at Its 120,000 b/d Meraux, Louisiana Refinery October 8; Unit Had Been Shut Since a July 22 Fire

Valero Energy Corp. on Monday reported it has restarted a crude distillation unit (CDU) that has been shut since a July 22 fire. The company said it would take "several days" to return the unit to full rates. The company shut the entire refinery after the fire, before restarting some process units at reduced rates on August 6. Operators again shut the refinery by August 28 ahead of Hurricane Isaac's landfall, and restarted at reduced rates all main production units except the CDU by September 13. All process units will advance to full rates with the crude unit, Valero said.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-10-08/valero-meraux-oil-refinery-restarts-crude-unit-after-july-fire.html>

Posted to DOE website 10-9-12.

Update: HollyFrontier Says Its 125,000 b/d Tulsa, Oklahoma Refinery at Normal Rates by October 5 after Diesel Hydrotreater Repairs

HollyFrontier Corp. on Friday said it had returned its Tulsa East refinery in Oklahoma to normal rates after the company completed repairs on a diesel hydrotreater damaged by a fire August 2. The company had reported crude rates would be 30,000–40,000 b/d less in the third quarter due to the repairs.

Reuters, 13:14 October 5, 2012. Posted to DOE website 10-9-12.

Update: Motiva May Restart 325,000 b/d CDU at Its 600,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery in December – Sources

Motiva Enterprises may restart a damaged 325,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Port Arthur refinery in December, at least a month ahead of its target date of early 2013, according to sources familiar with operations at the refinery. A spokeswoman said the company was still targeting early 2013 for a restart. The unit has been shut

since a June 9 fire, after which extensive corrosion was discovered in the CDU's vessels and piping due to a caustic leak.

Reuters, 18:43 October 5, 2012. Posted to DOE website 10-9-12.

Update: Marathon Petroleum to Purchase BP's 455,790 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery and Related Logistics and Marketing Assets

Marathon Petroleum Corporation on Monday announced it has signed a definitive agreement to purchase BP's Texas City refinery, three intrastate natural gas liquids pipelines originating at the refinery, an allocation of BP's Colonial Pipeline Company shipper history, four terminals, retail marketing contract assignments for approximately 1,200 branded sites, and a 1,040 MW cogeneration facility. The base purchase price is \$598 million, plus inventories estimated at \$1.2 billion. The acquisition is expected to close early in 2013, subject to customary closing conditions and regulatory approvals.

http://www.marathonpetroleum.com/News/News_Releases/Press_Release/?id=1742579

Posted to DOE website 10-9-12.

Sunoco Shuts Isomerization Unit for Repairs at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery October 3

Sunoco Inc. reported it shut an isomerization unit for mechanical repair at the Girard Point section of its Philadelphia refinery on October 3, according to a filing with local pollution regulators.

Reuters, 15:26 October 5, 2012. Posted to DOE website 10-9-12.

Valero Reports Flaring at Its 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery October 5

Valero Energy Corp. on Friday reported flaring at its Corpus Christi refinery, according to a filing with the Corpus Christi Local Emergency Planning Committee. The filing did not indicate which unit or units were involved in the flaring.

Reuters, 17:37 October 5, 2012. Posted to DOE website 10-9-12.

United Refining Company Affiliate to Purchase Phillips 66's 5 Million-Barrel Long Island Petroleum Terminal

Phillips 66 and United Riverhead Terminal, Inc. (URT), an affiliate of United Refining Company, on Tuesday announced they have entered into an agreement for URT to purchase Phillips 66's Riverhead, New York 5 million barrel marine petroleum terminal and associated assets. Upon regulatory approval, the transaction is expected to close at the end of October. The marine terminal is currently used to store and ship crude oil, heavy fuels, diesel, and gasoline. Its offshore marine platform is the only deepwater loading and unloading facility on the U.S. East Coast. An executive said that while the company was not making public its intentions for the terminal, it had no immediate plans to send the crude oil it receives at the terminal to the company's Warren, Pennsylvania refinery.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/09/us-marine-terminal-phillips-united-idUSBRE89815820121009>

<http://www.sacbee.com/2012/10/09/4895249/united-refining-company-affiliate.html>

Posted to DOE website 10-10-12.

Update: OSHA Cites Sinclair Oil for Safety Violations That Likely Factored into Flash Fires at Its 74,000 b/d Sinclair, Wyoming Refinery in May

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the Wyoming Department of Workforce Services has cited Sinclair Oil for 11 violations at its Sinclair, Wyoming refinery after an investigation revealed hazards about which the employer knew or should have known likely factored into a May 8 flash fire in a gas recovery unit that injured 4 employees. In September, OSHA similarly cited the refinery for a May 25 flash fire that injured 2 employees. OSHA is requiring Sinclair to bring in external independent safety contractors to perform audits and investigations.

<http://www.wyomingbusinessreport.com/article.asp?id=63984> Posted to DOE website 10-10-12.

Update: ExxonMobil Expects No Impact to Production from Flaring, Planned Work at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery

ExxonMobil Corp. on Tuesday said that production at its Torrance refinery will not be impacted by planned work expected to trigger flaring between October 10 and October 31, according to a statement. Wholesale prices in Los Angeles on Tuesday jumped by 26 cents a gallon after ExxonMobil submitted a filing to state pollution regulators warning that the planned work could lead to flaring.

Reuters, 18:28 October 9, 2012. Posted to DOE website 10-11-12.

Third-Party Power Outage Causes Minor Problems, Flaring at Valero's 199,500 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery October 9

Valero Energy Corp. reported its Texas City refinery experienced minor problems and flaring after a power outage Tuesday night. Texas-New Mexico Power reported 3,083 of its customers lost power for about an hour and 15 minutes after an equipment failure at the utility's Tejas substation, which is located across the street from BP Plc's refinery. BP and Marathon Petroleum Corp. said their Texas City refineries were not affected by Tuesday's power outage. Utility crews rerouted power from the downed substation and were investigating the cause of the outage.

Reuters, 08:34 October 10, 2012

Reuters, 23:18 October 9, 2012

<http://galvestondailynews.com/story/353570> Posted to DOE website 10-11-12.

Small Fire Forces Platformer Unit Shutdown at Citgo's 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery October 9

Citgo Petroleum Corp. reported a small fire broke out at its Corpus Christi refinery at 9:00 p.m. local time Tuesday, forcing operators to shut down platformer Unit 4. An investigation into the cause of the fire is still ongoing.

<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3101040/Latest-News/Citgo-reports-fire-at-Corpus-Christi-refineryin-Texas.html> Posted to DOE website 10-11-12.