

Refinery Events

October 25, 2013—October 31, 2013

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

CDU, VDU Shutdown at Flint Hills' 260,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery October 24 – Genscape

Energy information provider Genscape reported that the 104,000 b/d crude distillation unit (CDU) and associated vacuum distillation unit (VDU) were shut down on Thursday at Flint Hills' Corpus Christi refinery. All other units monitored by Genscape continue operating normally.

Reuters, 8:30 October 25, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-25-13.

Update: Repairs on Fire-damaged CDU Will Take Up to 6 Months at Citgo's 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery - Sources

The fire-damaged crude distillation unit (CDU) at Citgo's Lemont, Illinois, refinery is expected to be shut five to six months for repairs, sources familiar with operations at the refinery said on Friday. The CDU was heavily damaged by a fire that broke out on October 23.

Reuters, 16:29 October 25, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-28-13.

Philadelphia Energy Restarts Cumene and Isomerization Units at Its 335,000 b/d Girard Point, Pennsylvania Refinery

Philadelphia Energy Solutions reported the restart of a 1733 cumene unit after resolving an operational issue at its Girard point refinery on October 18, according to a notice with the state regulator made public on Friday. It also restarted a 331 isomerization unit on October 21.

Reuters, 17:18 October 25, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-28-13.

Valero Reports System Leak in FCCU at Its 88,000 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery

Valero Energy Corp. reported a heat exchange system leak causing hydrocarbon emissions from a cooling tower in the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) area at its Houston, Texas, refinery, according to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Reuters, 19:00 October 25, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-28-13.

Valero Reports Flaring From Wet Gas Compressor at Its 290,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery October 27

Valero Energy Corp. reported flaring from a wet gas compressor and emissions from a saturated gas recovery unit at its Port Arthur, Texas, refinery on Sunday.

Reuters, 8:34 October 28, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-28-13.

Valero Reports Emissions at Its 290,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery October 24

Valero Energy Corp. reported the shutdown of the thermal oxidizer caused by a variable frequency drive blower trip at its Port Arthur, Texas, refinery. The variable frequency drive blower was repaired and the thermal oxidizer was returned to normal operations.

Reuters, 14:21 October 25, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-28-13.

Phillips 66 Reports Process Upset, Emissions at Its 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery

Phillips 66 reported a process upset and emissions from a unit at its refinery in Borger, Texas, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Reuters, 19:02 October 25, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-28-13.

ExxonMobil Fixes Minor Equipment Leak at Its 503,000 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana Refinery October 24

Exxon Mobil Corp. said it identified and stopped a minor leak on a piece of equipment at its Baton Rouge, Louisiana, refinery on Thursday.
Reuters, 10:03 October 28, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-28-13.

Valero Reports Oil Released From Unit at Its 125,000 b/d Meraux, Louisiana Refinery

Valero Energy Corp. said a small amount of oil was released from an unspecified unit at its Meraux, Louisiana, refinery.
Reuters, 17:20 October 25, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-28-13.

Update: Citgo to Partially Reopen CDU at Its 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery After Fire

Citgo is planning to reopen part of the crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Lemont refinery after a fire broke out in the unit on October 23. The fire was limited to the vacuum distillation section of the CDU and that section has been isolated. The company will restart the atmospheric section of the CDU at reduced rates by the end of next week after it undergoes safety reviews.

<http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=news/local&id=9304938>

Reuters, 19:42 October 28, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-29-13.

Monroe Energy Reports FCCU Shut at Delta's 185,000 b/d Trainer, Pennsylvania Refinery October 27

A fluid catalytic converter unit (FCCU) at Delta Air Lines' refinery in Trainer, Pennsylvania, came offline on Sunday and was expected to be down for 48 to 60 hours, Monroe Energy said on Monday. Monroe Energy is a subsidiary of Delta, which bought the refinery last year.

Reuters, 13:07 October 28, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-29-13.

Valero Reports Heavy Oil Cracker Startup at Its 200,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery October 29

Valero Energy Corp. reported the startup of a heavy oil cracker unit at the West plant of its refinery in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Reuters, 10:22 October 29, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-29-13.

ExxonMobil Reports Unplanned Flaring, Breakdown at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery October 28

Exxon Mobil Corp. reported unplanned flaring due to a breakdown at its refinery in Torrance, California, according to a filing with the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Reuters, 00:28 October 29, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-29-13.

Phillips 66 Building New Rail Facilities at Its 238,000 b/d Bayway, New Jersey Refinery, 100,000 b/d Ferndale, Washington Refinery

Phillips 66 said on Wednesday it was building a new rail offloading facility at its Bayway refinery in Linden, New Jersey, to handle 75,000 b/d of crude deliveries via train. The Bayway refinery already can receive up to 90,000 b/d of North Dakota Bakken crude via rail. The company also said on Wednesday that it had received all necessary permits for a rail offloading facility at its refinery in Ferndale, Washington, to handle 30,000 b/d of North American crude. Both rail facilities are expected to be operational in the second half of 2014, the company said.

Reuters, 8:35 October 30, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-30-13.

Phillips 66 Cut Railed Crude to Its 238,000 b/d Bayway, New Jersey Refinery in Third Quarter, Ramping Back Up After Recent Declines in U.S. Crude Prices

Phillips 66 cut rail shipments of North Dakota Bakken crude to its Bayway refinery in New Jersey during the third quarter when higher U.S. crude prices eroded the cost benefit of replacing imports with domestic oil, the company's chief executive said on Wednesday. He added that at one point the company was railing as much as 100,000 b/d to Bayway, but cut that to 30,000 b/d in August or September and started importing West African crude. Recent declines in U.S. crude prices compared to imports prompted Phillips 66 to ramp up those rail shipments again to a little less than 100,000 b/d, executives said.

Reuters, 11:58 October 30, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-30-13.

Update: Petrobras Says FCCU Back in Production at Its 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery October 29

Petrobras said the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) was brought back into production overnight after the unit shut down on Sunday due to a process upset at its refinery in Pasadena, Texas.
Reuters, 15:54 October 29, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-30-13.

ExxonMobil to Delay Restarting Units Until November 8 at Its 503,000 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana Refinery – IIR Energy

ExxonMobil Corp. will delay the restart of units that were offline for planned maintenance at its Baton Rouge, Louisiana, refinery until November 8, industry intelligence group IIR Energy said on Tuesday. The company had planned to restart the units this weekend following repairs that began in mid-September, IIR said.
Reuters, 16:10 October 29, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-30-13.

Flint Hills Reports Units Shut at Its 260,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery October 29

Flint Hills Resources reported a power failure resulting in flaring and the shutdown of a coker wet gas compressor unit at the West plant of its Corpus Christi, Texas, refinery, according to a filing with state pollution regulators. The power failure took the cogeneration unit offline which caused the coker wet gas compressor to shut down leading to flaring.
Reuters, 18:17 October 29, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-30-13.

ExxonMobil Reports Emissions at Its 348,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery October 29

ExxonMobil Corp. reported that an open pressure relief valve led to flaring at its Beaumont, Texas, refinery, according to a notice filed with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The emissions stopped after the valve was blocked.
Reuters, 18:34 October 29, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-30-13.

ExxonMobil Reports Piping Failure, Minor Release at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery October 30

ExxonMobil Corp. reported that a piping failure led to the release of 30 gallons of a crude oil and processed water mixture at its refinery in Torrance, California, according to a notice with the California Emergency Management Agency on Wednesday. Booms have been placed to contain the release, the filing said.
Reuters, 7:27 October 30, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-30-13.

Tesoro Making Repairs to Its 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery After Minor Damage From October 26 Fire

Tesoro Corp. is performing repairs on a crude unit at its Golden Eagle refinery in Martinez, California, and expects to bring it back online today, a person familiar with plant operations said. A fuel burner at the unit caught fire on Saturday, causing minor damage, according to a source. The company said there was no impact on supply commitments.
<http://www.hydrocarbonprocessing.com/Article/3272643/Latest-News/Tesoro-repairs-California-refinery-crude-unit-after-minor-fire-damage.html>

Reuters, 12:55 October 29, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-30-13.

Update: Citgo Expects to Restart Its 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery at Reduced Fuel Output After Fire

Citgo said it is set to restart some units at its Lemont, Illinois refinery but will keep the fire-damaged vacuum distillation unit (VDU) shut. As a result, fuel output will be much lower and the plant may need to seek lighter, sweeter crude in order to reduce residual fuel output from its typical processing of Canadian crude oil, sources said. The October 23 fire at Citgo's Lemont, Illinois, refinery is thought to have been caused by a leak of combustible fluid that workers found while replacing a pump in the bottoms section of the 75,000 b/d VDU. As the flow of leaking fluid increased, workers hoping to prevent a fire began spraying water on the unit. Despite the water spray,

the fluid found an ignition source. The fire burned for three hours at the base of the VDU, causing heat distress to the supports. The blaze caused no injuries, but heavily damaged the VDU and some of its supports, while doing lighter damage to the piping connecting the VDU with the crude distillation unit (CDU). Initially, it appeared that the CDU would be out of commission with the VDU for up to six months of repairs. However, further inspection over the weekend showed the CDU could likely resume production. The VDU, however, may still need up to six months of repairs, the sources said. Along with the CDU and the VDU, most of the refinery's other units, including the 69,000 b/d fluidic catalytic cracker and 40,000 b/d coker were shut after the fire. These units are expected to restart sometime after the CDU resumes production, the sources said.
Reuters, 17:53 October 30, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-31-13.

PBF Expanding Rail Offloading Infrastructure to Receive 125,000 b/d of Bakken Crude at Its 190,000 b/d Delaware City, Delaware Refinery

PBF is expanding crude-by-rail offloading infrastructure at its Delaware refinery to receive 125,000 b/d of North Dakota Bakken oil by May next year. The refinery can now take up to 105,000 b/d of Bakken crude, but can only process up to 100,000 b/d. The rest can be barged to the company's 160,000 b/d refinery in Paulsboro, New Jersey. PBF Energy Inc. also reported that it is ramping up Bakken crude shipments via rail to its Delaware refinery after cutting those runs in the third quarter when higher U.S. crude prices eroded the cost benefits of the shipments, the company said on Thursday. The company cut Bakken crude rail deliveries to 60,000 b/d and took imports instead. But prices have since fallen compared with London's Brent, so the company expects to increase Bakken rail deliveries to 90,000 b/d or more in the fourth quarter.

Reuters, 9:20 October 31, 2013

Reuters, 9:48 October 31, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-31-13.

Update: Monroe Energy Restarts FCCU at Delta's 185,000 b/d Trainer, Pennsylvania Refinery October 30

Monroe Energy reported a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at Delta Air Line Inc.'s refinery in Trainer, Pennsylvania, was restarted on Wednesday. The FCCU went offline on Sunday and was expected to be down for 48 to 60 hours.

Reuters, 17:10 October 30, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-31-13.

ExxonMobil Stops Equipment Leak at Its 503,000 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana Refinery October 31

Exxon Mobil Corp. said it has identified and stopped a leak from equipment at its Baton Rouge, Louisiana, refinery. The equipment has been isolated for repair, the company said.

Reuters, 9:16 October 31, 2013. Posted to DOE website 10-31-13.