

## Refinery Events

January 28, 2011—February 3, 2011

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

### **Update: Alon to Resume Fuel Production in June 2011 at Newly-Purchased 70,000 b/d Refinery in Bakersfield, California**

Alon expects to operate the facility as an integrated unit with its refinery in Paramount, California, the company said previously. It plans to deliver vacuum gas oil from Paramount to Bakersfield and then process that vacuum gas oil, primarily, into diesel and gasoline, according to a local news source. The site would not refine crude oil.

<http://www.bakersfield.com/news/local/x1818937117/Refinery-event-elicits-talk-of-jobs-June-reopening>  
<http://www.alonusa.com/index.cfm?FuseAction=Page&PageID=1000024&ArticleID=158>

Posted to DOE website 1-28-11.

### **Coffeyville Resources Secures Hydrogen Sulfide Release at 115,700 b/d Coffeyville, Kansas Refinery January 28**

Reuters, 00:22 January 28, 2011. Posted to DOE website 1-28-11.

### **Holly's 100,000 b/d Navajo Refinery in Artesia, New Mexico Running at 40 Percent Capacity Following Plant-Wide Power Failure January 26**

The power failure on January 26 was caused by an interruption in supply from the local utility. The refinery has been operating at the reduced rate of 40,000 b/d while operators work to restart various units. It will likely be several more days until the facility is able to return to normal rates of production.

[http://www.hollycorp.com/press\\_release.cfm?id=349](http://www.hollycorp.com/press_release.cfm?id=349) Posted to DOE website 1-31-11.

### **Leaking Valve Leads to Brief Fire at Gasoline-Making FCCU 2 at Flint Hills Resources' 290,078 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery January 30**

The company reported that the fire lasted about 15 minutes and combusted about 840 gallons of oil. According to a filing with state regulators, a leaking valve likely caused the fire at fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) 2. On January 31, the FCCU was reported to be operating normally.

Reuters, 09:35 January 31, 2011

Reuters, 12:56 January 31, 2011

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-01-31/flint-hills-corpus-christi-plant-has-cat-cracker-fire-update1-.html> Posted to DOE website 1-31-11.

### **Crude Residue Leak Sparks Fire at ConocoPhillips' 120,200 b/d Rodeo, California Refinery January 30**

The company reported on January 31 that the fire has been extinguished. It is not clear if there was any impact on production.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/01/31/refinery-operations-conoco-rodeo-idUSWNAB786620110131>

Reuters, 07:25 January 31, 2011. Posted to DOE website 1-31-11.

### **Isobutane Vapor Leak at Marathon's 76,000 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery Prompts Evacuations January 29**

Initial reports indicated hydrogen gas was leaking, but officials later confirmed that it was vapor of the hydrocarbon isobutane that was leaking. The leak, which has now been stopped, did not cause any injuries, nor did it impact production at the facility. About 12 homes were briefly evacuated as a precautionary measure.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110130-702963.html>

<http://galvestondailynews.com/story.lasso?ewcd=fa8ef36b122d3af0>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/01/29/us-refinery-leak-idUSTRE70S39420110129> Posted to DOE website 1-31-11.

**SCOT Tail Gas Unit to Be Taken Out of Service for Unscheduled Maintenance at Delek's Tyler, Texas Refinery January 31**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=149962> Posted to DOE website 1-31-11.

**Process Upset at FCC Unit at ConocoPhillips' Borger, Texas Refinery January 29**

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=149982> Posted to DOE website 1-31-11.

**Power Failure Leads Marathon to Reduce Production at 81,500 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery January 31**

Marathon "cut back production and was "repairing the power supply," the company said in a filing with the National Response Center.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-01/marathon-cuts-production-after-texas-power-failure-update1-.html> Posted to DOE website 2-1-11.

**Process Vessel Crack Leads to Leak at BP's 405,000 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery**

BP was investigating the incident and working to isolate the leak, it said in a regulatory filing. It was not clear if the incident had any impact on production.

Reuters, 00:52 February 2, 2011. Posted to DOE website 2-2-11.

**Shell Sees No Impact on Production after Weather-Induced Snag at 329,800 b/d Deer Park, Texas Refinery February 2**

"Freezing conditions" led to flaring, but the incident did not impact production, a company spokesman said.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/02/02/refinery-operations-shell-deerpark-idUSWEN678920110202> Posted to DOE website 2-2-11.

**Compressor Failure Triggers Unit Shutdown, Flaring at Motiva's 235,000 b/d Convent, Louisiana Refinery by February 2**

It was not clear if the incident had any impact on production.

Reuters, 00:21 February 2, 2011. Posted to DOE website 2-2-11.

**Update: Valero Returns 235,000 b/d Aruba Refinery to Planned Rates by January 31**

Valero shut the facility in July 2009 due to economic reasons. The company began restarting the site in early January.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/01/31/refinery-operations-valero-aruba-idUSWEN656120110131> Posted to DOE website 2-2-11.

**Blower Trip Results in Flaring at ExxonMobil's 238,600 b/d Joliet, Illinois Refinery February 2 – Incident Does Not Affect Production**

Reuters, 11:02 February 2, 2011. Posted to DOE website 2-2-11.

**ExxonMobil Reports Weather-Induced Problems at 567,000 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery February 2-3**

"Inclement weather" led to problems that caused multiple emissions events at ExxonMobil's 567,000 b/d Baytown, Texas refinery, but the company had resolved most of the issues and the incidents had only "minimal impact on production," it said in a filing with state regulators. Operators were still working to fix a fuel gas imbalance, according to the filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=150173> Posted to DOE website 2-3-11.

### **Pipeline Issues Force Valero to Run 171,000 b/d McKee, Texas Refinery at Reduced Rates February 3**

Valero is running the facility "at reduced rates due to issues with crude supply via pipeline," a company spokesman said. Cold weather forced shut a NuStar Energy pipeline that delivers oil products from the McKee refinery to El Paso, Texas. Separately at McKee, Valero reported a compressor upset and an emissions event on February 2, according to a filing with state regulators.

Reuters, 09:14 February 3, 2011

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=150176>

Posted to DOE website 2-3-11.

### **Valve Malfunction Leads to Hydrogen Sulfide Release at Citgo's 440,000 b/d Sulphur, Louisiana Refinery February 2**

It was not clear if the incident had any impact on production.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-03/citgo-flares-gas-at-sulphur-louisiana-oil-refinery-filing-shows.html>

[http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard\\_web+inc\\_seq=966304](http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=966304)

Posted to DOE website 2-3-11.

### **Cold Weather Leads to Snag at Valero's 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery February 2**

Cold weather led to a "suspected hydrocarbon carryover" that "caused the HR Amine Flash Drum to vent to the flare," Valero said in a filing with state regulators. The company resumed normal operations at the affected unit within hours. In a separate filing – and apparently separate incident – Valero said third-party issues had affected a light ends unit (LEU) and triggered emissions on February 2-3. It was not clear if either incident had any impact on production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=150136>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=150146> Posted to

DOE website 2-3-11.

### **Valero Restarts Compressor at 218,000 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery February 2**

The restart triggered an emissions event, the company said in a filing with state regulators. It was not clear when the compressor shut, but a company spokesman said the event did not impact production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=150148>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-02/valero-texas-city-plant-reports-emissions-related-to-compressor.html>

Posted to DOE website 2-3-11.

### **Storm-Induced Power Outages Lead Western Refining to Reduce Operations at 128,000 b/d El Paso, Texas Refinery February 2**

Western Refining shut all "hydrogen-consuming and hydrogen-producing plants" at its 128,000 b/d El Paso, Texas refinery after a winter storm caused several lines to freeze and reduced electricity production in the area, the company said in a filing with state regulators. The company also reduced or shut boiler operations, and vented gas to flares.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=150167>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/02/03/refinery-operations-western-el-paso-idUSWEN684420110203>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-02/western-el-paso-refinery-hydrogen-units-shut-on-storm-update1-.html>

Posted to DOE website 2-3-11.

### **Citing "Extreme Weather," Alon Reduces Rates to by 15,000-20,000 b/d at 70,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery by February 2**

Alon was operating its 70,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas refinery at 50,000-55,000 b/d, a company official said by February 2. Separately at Big Spring, two incidents led to flaring on February 2, the company said in filings with state regulators. In the first filing, Alon said a condenser had leaked "into the cooling water tower." The company "isolated the exchanger and allowed pressure to bleed down until it could be nitrogen

purged to the flare.” In the second filing, Alon said multiple sulfur recovery units (SRUs) had shut for unknown reasons.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-02/alon-cuts-rates-at-texas-plant-after-extreme-weather-update2-.html>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=150132>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/ee/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=150126>

Posted to DOE website 2-3-11.