

Refinery Events

February 4, 2011—February 10, 2011

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

BP Returns SRU to Service at 405,000 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery by February 4

The sulfur recovery unit (SRU) shut due to a leak on February 1.
Reuters, 10:36 February 4, 2011. Posted to DOE website 2-4-11.

Update: Amid Power Supply Issues, Valero to Continue Running 171,000 b/d McKee, Texas Refinery at Reduced Rates February 4

Valero expects to continue running the facility at reduced rates until “external electrical power issues are resolved,” a company spokesman said on February 4.
Reuters, 09:52 February 4, 2011. Posted to DOE website 2-4-11.

After Freeze-Induced Shutdowns, Pasadena Refining Restarting Unidentified Units at 100,000 b/d Houston, Texas Refinery February 4

Cold temperatures led to a loss of steam and forced Petrobras to shut unidentified units on February 2, the company said. It was restarting those units on February 4.
Reuters, 11:17 February 4, 2011. Posted to DOE website 2-4-11.

Two Line Leaks Lead to Emissions at ExxonMobil's 567,000 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery by February 4

The company was working to fix the second line, according to a regulatory filing. It was not clear if the leaks had any impact on production.
<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/02/04/refinery-operations-exxon-baytown-idUSWNAB933820110204>
Posted to DOE website 2-4-11.

Fire, Compressor Shutdown at ConocoPhillips' 362,000 b/d Wood River, Illinois Refinery February 3

It was not clear if the incidents had any impact on production.
<http://tier2.iema.state.il.us/FOIAHazmatSearch/HazmatDetails.aspx?RptNum=H-2011-0093>
Reuters, 05:47 February 4, 2011. Posted to DOE website 2-4-11.

Equipment Failure to Impact Production at ExxonMobil's 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery February 3

It was not clear how much of an impact the company expected, or when it planned to resume normal production.
Reuters, 15:50 February 3, 2011. Posted to DOE website 2-4-11.

Valero Reports Combustor Shutdown at 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery February 3

A Thermal Oxidizer Combustor went offline “during barge loading” at Valero’s 315,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery on February 3, the company said in a filing with state regulators. Valero stopped loading until it could restart the affected unit. The combustor is located at the facility’s docks.
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/occeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=150250>
Posted to DOE website 2-4-11.

Malfunctions Lead Citgo to Adjust Rates at 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery February 3

Citgo adjusted rates at the East Plant of its 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery after an apparent Unibon malfunction caused a “carryover of hydrocarbons” that “overwhelmed the amine system” and led to a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) upset, the company said in a filing with state regulators. It was not clear if the incident impacted production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=150252>
<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110203-720406.html> Posted to DOE website 2-4-11.

BP Postpones Portions of Modernization Project at 405,000 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery

BP had expected to finish the modernization project by the end of 2012, but the company said on February 1 that it did not plan to complete portions of the work until mid-2013. The project would expand the facility’s gasoline production capacity and enhance its ability to process heavier crudes. BP expects to open a revamped distillation unit in the second quarter of 2012, but does not plan to launch a new gas oil hydrotreater or a new coker until mid-2013.

http://www.nwitimes.com/business/local/article_c98c0121-0056-5c14-a8ac-4a5d97917da0.html

Posted to DOE website 2-4-11.

Update: ExxonMobil Resumes Planned Rates at 348,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery by February 7

An equipment malfunction impacted production on February 3. Reuters, 11:35 February 7, 2011. Posted to DOE website 2-7-11.

Valero Reports RTO Shutdown, Restart at 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery February 5-6

A regenerative thermal oxidizer (RTO) associated with a wastewater treating unit tripped for unspecified reasons at the refinery, but the company restarted the RTO within less than 24 hours, according to a filing with state regulators. It was not clear if the incident had any impact on production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=150321>

Posted to DOE website 2-7-11.

Flint Hills Reports Weather-Induced Shutdowns at 305,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery February 4-5

An apparent “level transmitter malfunction” led to a boiler shutdown that caused Flint Hills Resources to partly lose steam production at the refinery on February 4-5, the company said in a filing with state regulators. Some fifteen minutes after the initial snag, “an instrument malfunction associated with the blower discharge” forced offline a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC), according to the filing. The company suspected that “inclement weather” had factored into the problems. Operators restarted the affected boiler within hours; it was not clear if the FCC remained offline, as of latest reports.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=150290>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-06/flint-hills-corpus-christi-refinery-shuts-cat-cracker-update1-.html> Posted to DOE website 2-7-11.

Nitrogen Outage Nearly Forces Shut Motiva’s 285,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery February 6

A disruption in nitrogen supply nearly forced shut the refinery on February 6 – operators “cut back very sharply” – but the company returned the facility to full rates on February 7, sources familiar with the site’s operations said. Operators had been forced (the remainder of the sentence was not listed).

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=150314>

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/02/06/refinery-operations-motiva-portarthur-idUSWEN712920110206>
Reuters, 13:16 February 7, 2011. Posted to DOE website 2-7-11.

Tank Collapse Leads to Shutdown of Valero’s 235,000 b/d Aruba Refinery February 4

The facility shut after a 20,300-barrel freshwater storage tank collapsed, toppled a concrete barrier, and broke numerous product-carrying pipes, a Valero spokesman said. The incident did not cause a fire or

explosion and no one was injured. The facility remained offline as workers performed repairs. The spokesman did not anticipate a lengthy shutdown.
DJN, 12:57 February 7, 2011. Posted to DOE website 2-7-11.

Update: Valero Resumes Planned Rates at 171,000 b/d McKee, Texas Refinery by February 7

Valero was running the facility "at reduced rates due to issues with crude supply via pipeline," a company spokesman said on February 3.
Reuters, 10:29 February 7, 2011
Reuters, 09:14 February 3, 2011
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=150176>
Posted to DOE website 2-7-11.

Citgo Shuts Unit after Valve Failure at 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery February 4

Citgo shut a unit after a control valve malfunction in the "Coker Wet Gas compressor system" at the west plant of its 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas refinery, the company said in a filing with state regulators. The incident triggered flaring, according to the filing. It was not clear if there was any impact on production.
<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=150276>
Posted to DOE website 2-7-11.

Update: Inclement Weather Postpones Holly Corporation's Bid to Resume Normal Service at 100,000 b/d Artesia, New Mexico Refinery

Inclement weather was postponing Holly Corporation's efforts to return its 100,000 b/d Navajo refinery in Artesia, New Mexico refinery to planned operating levels, the company said on February 4, about nine days after an interruption in power supply from the company's local utility led to a plant-wide power failure. Holly was operating the facility at reduced rates – about 40,000 b/d, or 60,000 b/d less than full capacity – as plant personnel worked to restart certain downstream processing units. Citing poor weather conditions, the company said it could take at least another week (from February 4) to return the facility to planned operating levels. The company said on February 7 that it planned to resume normal rates in about one more week.
http://www.hollycorp.com/press_release.cfm?id=350
Reuters, 09:44 February 7, 2011. Posted to DOE website 2-7-11.

After Weather-Induced Shutdown, Lion Resumes Normal Operations at 75,000 b/d El Dorado, Arkansas Refinery February 3-4

Cold weather led to the shutdown of a furnace related to a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) on February 3, but the company resumed normal operations by February 4, a spokesman said. It was not clear if the incident had any impact on production.
<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110204-709885.html> Posted to DOE website 2-7-11.

After Weather-Related Snag, Delek Resumes Normal Operations at 60,000 b/d Tyler, Texas Refinery February 5-6

Cold weather led to a mechanical equipment snag on February 5, but the company returned the facility to normal operations by February 6.
Reuters, 23:29 February 6, 2011. Posted to DOE website 2-7-11.

Pump Failure Leads to Hydrogen Sulfide Release at Chevron's 330,000 b/d Pascagoula, Mississippi Refinery February 3

Reuters, 00:06 February 5, 2011. Posted to DOE website 2-7-11.

Line Leak Leads ExxonMobil to Shut Unidentified Unit at 504,500 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana Refinery by February 8

ExxonMobil stopped the leak and shut the unit for repair, a spokesman said. The leak led to hydrogen sulfide emissions, the company said earlier.
Reuters, 12:06 February 8, 2011. Posted to DOE website 2-8-11.

Valero Reports FCC-Related Snag at 287,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery February 7

The loss of steam pressure in a gasoline-producing fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC) led to the release of hydrogen sulfide and sulfur dioxide, Valero said in a filing with the National Response Center. Reuters, meanwhile, reported that the incident caused the company to shut the unit.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-08/valero-texas-refinery-flares-gases-on-pressure-loss-nrc-reports.html>

<http://www.forexyard.com/en/news/Oil-rebounds-on-refinery-crude-outages-2011-02-08T161254Z-UPDATE-6> Posted to DOE website 2-8-11.

Update: Weather Conditions, Power Disruptions Led Western Refining to Halt Operations at 125,000 b/d El Paso, Texas Refinery February 2

Harsh weather and related electricity issues led Western Refining to temporarily halt refining operations at the facility on February 2, the company said on February 7. The refinery also experienced some freeze-related damage. The company was working to repair the damage and expected to begin restarting certain processing units in about three to five days, as of February 7.

<http://ir.westernrefining.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=194293&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1526050&highlight=>

<http://www.wnr.com/Refining.aspx> Posted to DOE website 2-8-11.

Update: Valero Restarts FCC at 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery February 8

The gasoline-producing fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC) shut on February 7 due to "a loss of steam pressure," Dow Jones reported.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110209-712380.html> Posted to DOE website 2-9-11.

Citgo Shuts FCC at 163,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery February 7

Citgo shut the No 1. fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCC) "to conduct repairs to the expansion joint above the Regenerator Slide Valve," it said in a filing with state regulators. The joint sprung a leak, and that led to "the release of regenerated catalyst," according to the filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/occeer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=150491> Posted to DOE website 2-9-11.

Update: Alon to Return 70,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas to Full Rates by End of February 8

Citing "extreme weather," Alon reduced rates by 15,000-20,000 b/d by February 2, according to a previous source. The company expected to return the facility to full rates by the end of yesterday, it said.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/BT-CO-20110208-713479.html>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-02/alon-cuts-rates-at-texas-plant-after-extreme-weather-update2-.html> Posted to DOE website 2-9-11.

Tesoro Sees No Impact on Production after Process Upset at 93,500 b/d Kapolei, Hawaii Refinery February 6

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-08/tesoro-hawaii-plant-operating-normally-after-process-upset-.html> Posted to DOE website 2-9-11.

Transformer Failure Forces Shut Compressor at Flint Hills' 305,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery February 9

A coker wet gas compressor shut unexpectedly on February 9 due to "the failure of the compressor's constant voltage transformer," Flint Hills said in a filing with state regulators. The company installed a temporary transformer and restarted the compressor within hours, according to the filing. It was not clear if the incident had any impact on production.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-02-10/flint-hills-texas-refinery-shuts-coker-gas-compressor-update1-.html>

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=150570> Posted to DOE website 2-10-11.

Cold Weather Triggers Upset at ConocoPhillips' 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery February 8-10

“Freezing weather” led to a “process upset” and triggered emissions on February 8-10, the company said in a filing with state regulators. It was not clear if there was any impact on production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=150544> Posted to DOE website 2-10-11.

Valero to Process More Domestically-Derived Crude at 93,000 b/d Three Rivers, Texas Refinery

Valero plans to process more crude from the Eagle Ford Shale in Texas – and subsequently less crude from foreign sources – at its 93,000 b/d Three Rivers, Texas refinery, its Chief Executive said on February 10.

The company is processing 27,000 b/d of crude from the Eagle Ford at present; it expects to raise that number to 40,000 b/d by May 2011 and 60,000 b/d the end of 2011.

Reuters, 13:47 February 10, 2011. Posted to DOE website 2-10-11.

Compressor Shuts at ExxonMobil's 504,500 b/d Refinery in Baton Rouge, Louisiana February 9

<http://www.automatedtrader.net/real-time-dow-jones/46062/refinery-status-exxon-reports-compressor-trip-at-baton-rouge> Posted to DOE website 2-10-11.