

Refinery Events

September 14, 2012—September 20, 2012

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

Crude Light Ends Unit Upset Causes Flaring at ExxonMobil's 572,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery September 13

ExxonMobil Corp. reported flaring at its Baytown refinery overnight Thursday was due to an upset in a fractionation tower on the crude light ends (CLE) unit, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators reduced unit feed rates and later restored normal operating conditions, the filing said. The incident had no impact on production.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=173493>

Posted to DOE website 9-14-12.

Equipment Failure Causes Emissions at Total's 232,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery September 12

Total Petrochemicals Inc. reported equipment within Unit 812 at its Port Arthur refinery shut down Wednesday afternoon, causing emissions, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators were investigating the cause of the shutdown.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=173473>

Posted to DOE website 9-14-12.

ExxonMobil Reports Flaring at Its 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery September 14

ExxonMobil reported unspecified operating conditions at its Beaumont refinery on Friday required operators to flare, according to a message on a community information line.

Reuters, 12:06 September 14, 2012. Posted to DOE website 9-14-12.

Valero Reports No Material Impact to Production after SRU Upset Leads to Emissions at Its 270,000 b/d Norco, Louisiana Refinery September 13

Valero Energy Corp. said there was no material impact to production after a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) upset at its Norco refinery Wednesday afternoon. Earlier in a filing with the U.S. National Response Center, the refinery had reported a release of material after a tailgas incinerator unit on the SRU stopped functioning. Operators were attempting to bring that unit back online at the time of the filing.

Reuters, 11:19 September 14, 2012

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1024363 Posted to DOE website 9-14-12.

Update: Hydrotreater Breakdown at BP's 225,000 b/s Cherry Point, Washington Refinery September 12 Not Expected to Affect Output – Sources

BP Plc reported a hydrotreater breakdown at its Cherry Point refinery on Wednesday was not expected to affect production, according to sources familiar with refinery operations. In an earlier filing with regulators, the refinery had reported that a sulfur dioxide release at its refinery overnight Wednesday was due to an unspecified process unit upset. A BP spokesman declined to discuss operations at the refinery.

Reuters, 11:26 September 13, 2012. Posted to DOE website 9-14-12.

Unspecified Breakdown Leads to Flaring at ExxonMobil's 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery September 13

ExxonMobil reported unplanned flaring at its Torrance refinery Thursday was due to an unspecified breakdown, according to a filing with the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Reuters, 20:20 September 13, 2012. Posted to DOE website 9-14-12.

Update: Utah Issues Air Permit to Tesoro for 4,000 b/d Expansion Project at Its 57,000 b/d Salt Lake City, Utah Refinery

The Utah Division of Air Quality on Thursday signed a request from Tesoro Corp. to expand crude oil throughput capacity at its Salt Lake City refinery by about 4,000 b/d and to process greater volumes of black wax and yellow wax crude from the Uinta Basin. Tesoro in December 2011 announced the project, which also includes capital for conversion unit upgrades to increase product yield at the refinery. Tesoro expects to complete the project in two stages in 2013 and 2014.

<http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=79122&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=1636034>

<http://www.sltrib.com/sltrib/politics/54891612-90/refinery-utah-increase-pollution.html.csp>

Posted to DOE website 9-14-12.

Phillips 66 Says It's Restarting Its 139,000 b/d Wilmington, California Refinery after Power Outage, Flaring September 15

Phillips 66 reported it was in the process of restarting its Wilmington, California refinery following a power outage that occurred on Saturday. The refinery expected to have the majority of its units back online by the middle-to-end of this week. Phillips had reported an upset and flaring at the refinery on Saturday, according to a filing with California pollution regulators. The cause of the flaring was under investigation, the filing said.

Reuters, 10:36 September 17, 2012

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1024553

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1024556

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1024584 Posted to DOE website 9-17-12.

Update: ExxonMobil Restores Normal Operations at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery September 15 after Unspecified Malfunction September 14

ExxonMobil Corp. reported it had restored normal operations at its Torrance, California refinery on Friday after a malfunction Thursday, according to a spokeswoman. The refinery had reported an unspecified breakdown had led to flaring Thursday in a filing with state pollution regulators. The spokeswoman declined to identify the units involved in Thursday's malfunction.

Reuters, 13:50 September 14, 2012. Posted to DOE website 9-17-12.

Update: Phillips 66 Reports Emissions September 16 as It Restarts Units at Its 247,000 b/d Belle Chasse, Louisiana Refinery following Hurricane Isaac

Phillips 66 reported a release of sulfur dioxide from a flare stack at its Alliance refinery in Belle Chasse Sunday morning was due to a process upset from units restarting after Hurricane Isaac, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The refinery said it was making progress restarting the refinery and has brought several units back online. Operators expect to have all refinery units back online by the end of the week.

Reuters, 10:36 September 17, 2012

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1024575 Posted to DOE website 9-17-12.

Chevron Reports Benzene Leak from Heat Exchanger at Its 330,000 b/d Pascagoula, Mississippi Refinery September 14

Chevron Corp. reported a benzene leak from a heat exchanger at its Pascagoula refinery Friday morning, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1024412 Posted to DOE website 9-17-12.

Coker Unit Compressor Snag Leads to Flaring at Total's 232,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery September 14

Total Petrochemicals Inc. reported the coker wet gas compressor valves at its Port Arthur refinery were not operating properly Friday afternoon, causing over-pressuring on the compressor and flaring, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Technicians were working to repair the compressor valves at the time of the filing.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=173537>

Posted to DOE website 9-17-12.

Power Interruption Causes Emissions at Delek's 60,000 b/d Tyler, Texas Refinery September 15

Delek US Holdings reported emissions from its Tyler, Texas refinery Saturday night were caused by a power interruption, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The filing does not indicate what caused the power interruption.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=173550>

Posted to DOE website 9-17-12.

Update: Sunoco Restarts Alkylation Unit at Its 335,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery September 6

Sunoco Inc. reported it was restarting alkylation Unit 869 at the Point Breeze section of its Philadelphia refinery on September 6, according to a filing with Philadelphia pollution regulators. The refinery had reported it shut the unit due to a mechanical problem on September 4.

Reuters, 15:13 September 14, 2012. Posted to DOE website 9-17-12.

Coker Damaged in July Fire Running at Normal Rates at BP's 413,000 b/d Whiting, Indiana Refinery – Source

BP Plc is operating the coker unit at its Whiting refinery at normal rates after repairs following a fire in July, according to a source familiar with refinery operations. Industry research group IIR Energy had said last month that operators restarted the coker unit around August 14 but would run it at half capacity for several weeks as they fixed the coker drum, which was damaged in a fire July 23.

Reuters, 12:43 September 18, 2012. Posted to DOE website 9-18-12.

Update: Delta Reaching Units for Restart at Its 185,000 b/d Trainer, Pennsylvania Refinery – Source

Delta Air Lines subsidiary Monroe Energy continues to restart units at its Trainer, Pennsylvania refinery after conducting a plant-wide turnaround. The crude distillation unit at the refinery is heating up and on circulation in preparation for restart, according to a source familiar with the situation. The sulfur recovery unit is also ready for restart, but unforeseen issues with the 53,000 b/d fluid catalytic cracking unit will delay the restart of that unit for at least a week and maybe longer, the source said. The second crude oil heater is undergoing extensive maintenance and is expected to come back up in a week or so, the source said. Delta purchased Phillips 66's idled 185,000 b/d Trainer refinery in June and has been preparing to restart the facility, which has been idle since September 2011.

Reuters, 11:39 September 18, 2012. Posted to DOE website 9-18-12.

FCCU Snag Leads to Flaring at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery September 16

Alon USA Energy, Inc. reported it was flaring from a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Big Spring refinery Sunday night due to over-pressuring, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=173590>

Posted to DOE website 9-18-12.

Tesoro Shuts Unspecified Unit at Its 166,000 b/d Martinez, California Refinery September 15 Due to Leak

Tesoro Corp. reported it shut an unspecified unit at its Martinez refinery Saturday due to a leak, according to a filing with the Contra Costa County Health Department Hazardous Materials Program. The refinery was repairing the unit, the filing said.

Reuters, 11:49 September 18, 2012. Posted to DOE website 9-18-12.

Explosion at a Pemex Natural Gas-Reception Facility in Mexico near U.S. Border Kills 26, Injures at Least 46 Others September 18

An explosion at a natural gas-reception facility near Mexico's border with the United States sparked a major fire Tuesday morning, killing 26 maintenance workers and injuring 46 others, officials said. Mexico's state-owned oil company Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) owns the facility, which is near the city of Reynosa, across from McAllen, Texas. The facility receives natural gas and condensates from the company's Burgos production complex for transfer to its gas and petrochemical division, the company said. Pemex said the explosion occurred late Tuesday morning during maintenance work at a part of the facility that wasn't in operation. The ensuing fire was extinguished in 90 minutes and pipelines in the area were shut. The cause of the explosion was under investigation. Mexican imports of natural gas from the United States have not been affected by the incident, Pemex said.

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2012/09/19/26-killed-in-mexico-pipeline-fire-near-us-border/>

http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=37243

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/19/pemex-fire-imports-idUSL1E8KJ00K20120919>

Posted to DOE website 9-19-12.

Philadelphia Energy Solutions Hopes to Process Up to 55 Percent Midcontinent Crudes at Its 330,000 b/d Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Refinery; Announces Other Modification Plans

Philadelphia Energy Solutions, the new Sunoco-Carlyle Group joint venture operating the 330,000 b/d Philadelphia refinery, on Wednesday announced it hopes to rely on Midcontinent crudes for as much as 55 percent of the refinery's capacity in coming years, the company's CEO Phil Rinaldi said. The refinery will slowly ramp up its Bakken inputs from about 20,000 b/d currently to between 140,000–180,000 b/d, Rinaldi said. To do this, it will build a high-speed rail unloader to move the oil from trains. The company also plans to upgrade its residual catalytic cracker and convert an existing moderate distillate desulfurization unit into a mild hydrocracker to increase yields and improve the quality of products, he said. The mild hydrocracker would create "a bridge" that would allow the refinery to better process Marcellus Shale gas. With a steady flow of gas, the company would then build a hydrogen plant, a 600–700 MW cogeneration power plant, and an estimated 1 million ton/year urea ammonium nitrate plant, Rinaldi said. A gas-to-liquids project might follow, he added. Rinaldi estimated plans for these project could take shape in the next 5 years.

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/Oil/6639408> Posted to DOE website 9-20-12.

BP in Advanced Talks to Sell Its 455,790 b/d Texas City, Texas Refinery to Marathon Petroleum Corp. to Help Cover Costs for 2010 Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill – Source

BP Plc is in advanced talks to sell its Texas City refinery to Marathon Petroleum Corp. as part of its efforts to cover costs for the U.S. Gulf of Mexico oil spill in 2010, the *Financial Times* reported on Wednesday, citing a source familiar with the matter. A BP spokesman declined to comment on the specifics of the deal, but said the company remains on track to announce a sale by the end of the year.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hjBgj9c3pXj0mZm2uCGe8ZtdIYwQ?docId=CNG.a135488fc7fc21d5ca0e8f7a41f4fa38.11>

http://articles.marketwatch.com/2012-09-19/markets/33939013_1_texas-city-refinery-bp-spokesman-scott-dean-bpplc Posted to DOE website 9-20-12.

SRU Electrical Malfunction Causes Emissions at Delek's 60,000 b/d Tyler, Texas Refinery September 18

Delek US Holdings reported an electrical malfunction at its sulfur recovery unit (SRU) No. 2 resulted in excess emissions at its Tyler refinery Tuesday morning, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Emissions continued until overnight Wednesday, the filing said.

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=173649>
Posted to DOE website 9-20-12.

Unspecified Malfunction Causes Emissions at Phillips 66's 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery September 18

<http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oc/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=173657>
Posted to DOE website 9-20-12.