Refinery Events

September 28, 2012—October 4, 2012

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

Update: Sunoco Announces Plans to Re-Purpose Its Shuttered Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania Refinery to Process, Store, and Distribute NGLs from the Marcellus Shale

Sunoco Logistics Partners L.P. on Wednesday announced it will re-purpose its Marcus Hook refinery site to process, store, and distribute natural gas liquids (NGLs) from the Marcellus Shale in Western Pennsylvania. Sunoco had idled the refinery in December due to poor economics. The 70,000 b/d Mariner East pipeline project will deliver propane and ethane from the Marcellus Shale to Sunoco's facility in Marcus Hook. The company will construct a pipeline from MarkWest Energy Partners L.P.'s Houston, Pennsylvania processing and fractionation complex to an interconnection with an existing, idled Sunoco Logistics pipeline at Delmont, Pennsylvania and then to the Marcus Hook site. Sunoco is reversing the existing pipeline, which used to ship refined products from east to west. Upon approval from the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Mariner East is expected to be transporting propane by the second half of 2014 and to be fully operational to deliver both propane and ethane in the first half of 2015.
http://www.sunocologistics.com/SiteData/docs.pdf
http://www.delawareonline.com/Pa-refinery-gets-new-life-as-fracking-gas-facility
http://www.downstreamtoday.com/news/article.aspx?a_id=37317 Posted to DOE website 9-28-12.

Update: Chevron Restores Normal Operations at Its 330,000 b/d Pascagoula, Mississippi Refinery by September 28 after Repairing Equipment Damaged by Hurricane Isaac

Chevron Corp. said its Pascagoula refinery was operating normally on Friday after making repairs to equipment damaged during Hurricane Isaac, according to a spokesman. The refinery had run at reduced rates since August 30 due to the storm.
Reuters, 10:06 September 28, 2012. Posted to DOE website 9-28-12.

Brief Loss of Power Leads to Emissions at Flint Hills' 288,468 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery September 27

Flint Hills Resources reported emissions from its Corpus Christi refinery overnight Thursday were caused when a temporary loss of power disrupted steam injection to the cogeneration unit, 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=174130
Posted to DOE website 9-28-12.

Unspecified Process Upset Causes Emissions at Phillips 66's 146,000 b/d Borger, Texas Refinery September 26

Phillips 66 reported an unspecified process upset caused emissions at its Borger refinery Wednesday afternoon, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. A company spokesman could not provide further information.
Reuters, 12:41 September 27, 2012
http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174107
Posted to DOE website 9-28-12.

Shell Restarts SRU at Its 156,400 b/d Martinez, California Refinery September 23

Royal Dutch Shell Plc restarted sulfur recovery unit (SRU) No. 3 at its Martinez refinery on September 23, according to a filing with the Contra Costa County Hazardous Materials Program.
Reuters, 12:24 September 27, 2012. Posted to DOE website 9-28-12.

Update: United Steelworkers Union Ends 4-Month Strike at Husky's 155,000 b/d Lima, Ohio Refinery September 27

Members of United Steelworkers union (USW) Local 624 ended a four-month strike at Husky Energy Inc.'s Lima refinery late on Thursday night. The refinery has continued to operate without interruption during the strike. The 230 USW workers began the strike on May 25, alleging that Husky management had failed to negotiate in good faith for a contract to replace the one that expired on April 14.
http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/09/28/refinery-labor-husky-lima-idUSL1E8KS26J20120928
Posted to DOE website 9-28-12.

CVR Resumes Turnaround Maintenance at Its 70,000 b/d Wynnewood, Oklahoma Refinery September 29 after Fatal Boiler Explosion September 28

CVR Energy, Inc. reported an explosion occurred at its Wynnewood refinery at approximately 6:20 p.m. local time Friday evening as operators were restarting a boiler that had been temporarily shut down as part of the refinery's turnaround process, according to a statement. One employee was fatally injured by the blast, and another was injured. The company is investigating the cause of the explosion. Damage at the refinery was limited to the boiler. Process units and other areas of the facility were unaffected. Turnaround procedures resumed Saturday.
http://www.cvrenergy.com/NewsRoom/092812.pdf
http://www.cvrenergy.com/NewsRoom/093012.pdf Posted to DOE website 10-1-12.

Power Outage Impacts Most Operating Units at Phillips 66's 247,000 b/d Sweeny, Texas Refinery September 30

Phillips 66 reported most units affected by a power outage Sunday morning had been restarted as of Monday after power was restored. The refinery had reported a power outage at a Texas-New Mexico Power Company substation caused the failure of an energized gas circuit breaker, which resulted in a power loss to most operating units at the refinery, according to a spokesman and a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.
Reuters, 12:07 October 1, 2012
http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174195
Posted to DOE website 10-1-12.

Alon Restarts Units at Its 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery September 28; Reports Emissions Due to Power Outage Caused by Heavy Rains September 29

Alon USA Energy restarted a Sulfur Recovery Unit (SRU) at its Big Spring refinery after it tripped during heavy rain on Friday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The SRU-2 and the Shell Clause Off-Gas Treating Unit 2 are listed as sources of emissions. In a separate TCEQ filing, the refinery reported it was restarting a boiler on Friday as well. The boiler had tripped after the boiler feed water pump went down due to a discharge check valve upset. The filing listed a Cat Light Ends Unit and an Alkylation Unit as sources of emissions. The refinery reported emissions overnight Saturday occurred when a power failure resulting from heavy rains shut a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) and off gas compressor, according to a third TCEQ filing. The filing lists the refinery's two SRUs, as well as diesel hydrotreaters and gasoil hydrotreaters as sources of emissions.
http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174163
http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174165
http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174177
Posted to DOE website 10-1-12.

Emergency Officials Respond to an Unspecified 'Operating Condition' at Flint Hills's 288,468 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery October 1

Emergency services were responding to an operating condition at the west plant of Flint Hills Resources' Corpus Christi refinery Monday morning, according to an advisory from the Corpus Christi/Nueces County Local Emergency Planning Committee. The advisory said only that no community action was required at that time, without specifying the nature of the emergency.
Reuters, 10:32 October 1, 2012. Posted to DOE website 10-1-12.

Instrumental Malfunction Results in Emissions at Valero's 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery September 29

Valero reported an unspecified instrumental malfunction resulted in emissions at its Corpus Christi refinery Saturday morning, 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=174169
Posted to DOE website 10-1-12.

Petrobras Reports Emissions from ESP Stack, FCCU at its 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery September 29 and September 30

Petrobras reported unspecified process upsets caused emissions from the electrostatic precipitator (ESP) stack and the fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Pasadena refinery Saturday and Sunday morning, according to filings with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Emissions lasted for about four hours Saturday morning and three hours Sunday morning, the filings said.
http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174196
http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174176
Posted to DOE website 10-1-12.

Unspecified Breakdown Leads to Flaring at ExxonMobil's 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery October 1

ExxonMobil Corp. reported unplanned flaring due to an unspecified breakdown at its Torrance refinery Monday morning, according to a filing with the South Coast Air Quality Management District.
Reuters, 11:21 October 1, 2012. Posted to DOE website 10-1-12.

Update: ExxonMobil Restarts FCCU at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery after Power Outage Shuts All Processing Units October 1 − Sources

ExxonMobil Corp. was restarting the 87,800 b/d fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Torrance refinery on Tuesday, according to sources familiar with refinery operations. A plant-wide power outage on Monday morning knocked all of its units out of production. The refinery had reported unplanned flaring due to an unspecified breakdown Monday morning in a filing with regulators.
Reuters, 10:48 October 2, 2012. Posted to DOE website 10-2-12.

Motiva Quickly Extinguishes CDU Fire at Its 235,000 b/d Convent, Louisiana Refinery October 1

Motiva Enterprises reported a fire broke out in a crude distillation unit (CDU) at its Convent refinery around 4:10 a.m. CDT Monday morning and was contained within 35 minutes by onsite emergency response crews. A spokeswoman would not say whether the CDU was shut or when it would restart. She said there was no impact to other refinery process units. The refinery had been operating at reduced rates for several weeks after being shut on August 30 in advance of Hurricane Isaac. Motiva had issued no updates since a September 5 statement that said the refinery had not returned to normal operations.
http://uk.finance.yahoo.com/news/2-motiva-distillation-unit-fire-224438951.html
Posted to DOE website 10-2-12.

Placid Refining Reports Hydrofluoric Acid Release at Its 56,000 b/d Port Allen, Louisiana Refinery October 1

Placid Refining Co. reported a release of hydrofluoric acid at its Port Allen refinery on Monday, according to a filing with regulators. The filing did not identify the unit involved.
Reuters, 00:09 October 2, 2012. Posted to DOE website 10-2-12.

Update: FCCU Back to Normal Operation at Petrobras' 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery by October 1 after Upset Caused Emissions September 30

Petrobras returned a fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) to normal operations after a process upset at its Pasadena refinery over the weekend, according to a spokeswoman. The event resulted in the release of some catalyst into the atmosphere. The refinery had reported an unspecified process upset had resulted in emissions at the refinery on Sunday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

Reuters, 13:31 October 1, 2012

http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174240

Posted to DOE website 10-2-12.

Electric Trip Results in Emissions from FCCU, Wet Gas Compressor at Alon's 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery October 1

Alon USA Energy reported an electrical trip at its Big Spring refinery Monday night resulted in emissions from a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) and a wet gas compressor, 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=174251

Posted to DOE website 10-2-12.

Unspecified Unit Upset Causes Hydrogen Sulfide Emissions at Valero's 310,000 b/d Port Arthur, Texas Refinery October 1

Valero reported an unspecified unit upset caused hydrogen sulfide to release from Tank 88 at its Port Arthur refinery overnight Monday, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Operators were investigating to determine the source of the hydrogen sulfide.

http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174245

Posted to DOE website 10-2-12.

Update: Valero Reports No Material Impact to Production after SRU Snag Caused Flaring at Its 142,000 b/d Corpus Christi, Texas Refinery September 29

Valero Energy Corp. said a valve issue at a sulfur recovery unit (SRU) led to flaring at its Corpus Christi refinery on Saturday. The refinery had reported an unspecified instrumentation malfunction had resulted in emissions in a filing with state regulators. The incident caused no material impact to production, a spokesman said.

Reuters, 13:26 October 1, 2012. Posted to DOE website 10-2-12.

Loss of Flare Gas Compressor Causes Sulfur Dioxide Emissions at Citgo's 167,000 b/d Lemont, Illinois Refinery October 1

Citgo Petroleum Corp. reported the loss of a flare gas compressor led to emissions of sulfur dioxide at its Lemont refinery Monday morning, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. Operators were working to restart the compressor at the time of the filing.

http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1026058

Posted to DOE website 10-2-12.

Update: ExxonMobil Says Operations Normalizing at Its 149,500 b/d Torrance, California Refinery by October 3 after Power Outage October 1

ExxonMobil Corp. said operations at its Torrance refinery were getting back to normal following a plant-wide power outage Monday morning. The power interruption, which was caused by an outage at a Southern California Edison substation, resulted in refinery unit shutdowns and slowdowns, which caused flaring. ExxonMobil said flaring associated with the normalization process could continue through October 9, according to a filing with the Southern California Air Quality Management District. The refinery anticipated only minimal impact to production, and expected to meet all its contractual commitments.

DJN, 09:13 October 3, 2012. Posted to DOE website 10-3-12.

Update: Alon Reduces FCCU Rates Following Electrical Trip at Its 67,000 b/d Big Spring, Texas Refinery October 1

Alon USA Energy reported it reduced rates on a fluid catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) after an electrical trip late Monday night resulted in emissions, according to a filing with the U.S. National Response Center. The refinery had reported the electric trip resulted in emissions from an FCCU and a wet gas compressor in an earlier filing with state regulators.
http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1026151
Posted to DOE website 10-3-12.

Unspecified Process Upset Causes Emissions from FCCU, ESP Stack at Petrobras' 100,000 b/d Pasadena, Texas Refinery October 1

Petrobras reported an unspecified process upset briefly resulted in emissions from an electrostatic precipitator stack and fluidic catalytic cracking unit (FCCU) at its Pasadena refinery Monday night, according to a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The refinery had reported process upsets resulting in FCCU emissions on September 29 and September 30, as well.
http://www11.tceq.state.tx.us/oce/eer/index.cfm?fuseaction=main.getDetails&target=174281
Posted to DOE website 10-3-12.

ExxonMobil Reports Flaring at Its 344,500 b/d Beaumont, Texas Refinery October 3

ExxonMobil Corp. reported that operating conditions at its Beaumont refinery overnight Wednesday required it to flare, according to a message on a community information line.
Reuters, 02:44 October 3, 2012. Posted to DOE website 10-3-12.

Hydrotreater Fire Reported at ExxonMobil's 572,500 b/d Baytown, Texas Refinery October 3

ExxonMobil Corp. said in a filing with the National Response Center that a fire at its 572,500 b/d Baytown, Texas refinery has been confined to its hydrotreater production unit. According to the filing, the fire was caused by a hole in a reactor, which caused a blaze and triggered flaring. There were no injuries, and operations at the rest of the refinery were not impacted.
http://www.marketwatch.com/story/exxonmobil-fire-at-baytown-refinery-confined-2012-10-04
http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/reports/rwservlet?standard_web+inc_seq=1026383
Reuters, 11:07 October 4, 2012. Posted to DOE website 10-4-12.

Phillips Reports Flaring at Its 120,000 b/d Rodeo, California Refinery October 4

According to a filing with the California Emergency Management Agency, Phillips 66's 120,000 b/d Rodeo, California refinery experienced flaring due to a sulfur dioxide leak on Wednesday. The filing did not specify which unit was involved in the incident.
Reuters, 1:05 October 4, 2012. Posted to DOE website 10-4-12.

Hess Reports Emissions at Its 70,000 b/d Port Reading, New Jersey Refinery October 3

Hess Corp. reported on Wednesday that emergency service personnel responded to a vapor cloud release at its 70,000 b/d Port Reading, New Jersey refinery.
Reuters, 12:02 October 3, 2012. Posted to DOE website 10-4-12.

Update: United Steelworkers to Return to Husky's 155,000 b/d Lima, Ohio Refinery Monday

Members of the United Steelworkers Union (USW) Local 624 are scheduled to return to work at Husky Energy Inc.'s 155,000 b/d Lima, Ohio refinery October 8 after a four-month strike. The refinery has continued to operate without interruption during the strike. The 230 USW workers began the strike on May 25, alleging that Husky management had failed to negotiate in good faith for a contract to replace the one that expired on April 14.

http://www.cleveland.com/business/index.ssf/2012/10/oil_refinery_workers_in_ohio_e.html
Posted to DOE website 10-4-12.