



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

March 14, 2012

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED: 7010 2780 0002 4357 3889

W. S. Stewart
Environmental Coordinator
ExxonMobil Refining and Supply Company
P.O. Box 3311
Beaumont, TX 77704-3311

Re: Consent Decree - United States of America, State of Illinois, State of Louisiana, and the State of Montana v. Exxon Mobil Corporation and ExxonMobil Oil Corporation—November 2, 2011, Acid Gas Flaring Incident – Beaumont Refinery, Beaumont, Texas

Dear Mr. Stewart:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received a report dated December 12, 2011, regarding the November 2, 2011, acid gas flaring incident (AGI) at the ExxonMobil Beaumont Refinery (EMBR) located in Beaumont, Texas. In the report, EMBR stated that the acid gas flaring incident lasted for 1.23 hours and resulted in the release of 2.0 tons of SO₂.

In the incident report, EMBR reported that during planned maintenance, electricians were attempting to isolate Transformer 9624 when several breakers tripped due to a false command from the partial differential relay on busbar B2N. This resulted in a shutdown of several pieces of equipment across the refinery, including electrical equipment at the South Regenerator, North Regenerator, and Sulfur Recovery Unit #1, leading to the flaring.

EMBR identified the root cause of the flaring incident as an incorrect project drawing for busbar B2N, which showed reverse polarity on one of the current transformers connected to the partial differential relay. To prevent recurrence of the root cause, EMBR committed to: create a work plan to determine the proper method of correcting the current transformer polarity on the partial differential relays on Busses B1S and B2N; review drawings on all other substations with partial differential relays to ensure that the transformer polarity is correct; and, perform field verification to verify the correct current transformer polarity on partial differential relaying schemes.

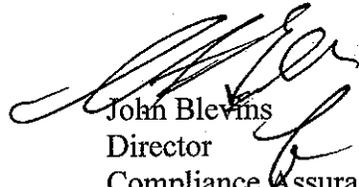
EPA has determined that the reported AGI was due to failure of equipment that was due to failure by EMBR to operate and maintain their equipment in a manner consistent with good engineering practice. Therefore, in accordance with Paragraph 83(iii) of the CD, EPA assesses a penalty of \$1,000.00. The penalty should be paid in accordance with Paragraph 165 of the CD. EPA notes that this is the third AGI in a rolling 12-month period. To expedite the processing of the payment of stipulated

Re: Flaring Report
ExxonMobil – Beaumont Refinery

penalties, please clearly identify the incident date and amount of the penalty both on the check, if paying by check, and in the letter accompanying payment by check or wire transfer. Please also send a copy of the letter accompanying the payment to braby.sharon@epa.gov.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Clint Rachal of my staff at (214) 665-6474.

Sincerely,



John Blevins
Director
Compliance Assurance and
Enforcement Division

cc: Bruce Gelber, Chief
Environmental Enforcement Section
Environment and Natural Resources Division
U.S. Department of Justice

Phillip Brooks, Director
Air Enforcement Division
Office of Regulatory Enforcement
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Claire Sullivan
Matrix New World Engineering, Inc.

Richard Hyde, Deputy Director
Office of Compliance & Enforcement
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Jack Balagia
Assistant General Counsel, Litigation
Law Department
Exxon Mobil Corporation

Mike McWilliams
Downstream Environment and Global Compliance Manager
Exxon Mobil Corporation

cc (electronically): Sharon Braby, U.S. EPA, Region 6
Pam Elder-Schweers, U.S. EPA, Region 6
Michelle Angle, U.S. EPA, CINC
Claire Sullivan, Matrix Engineering