



Suncor Energy (U.S.A.) Inc. Update

Commerce City – City Manager’s Report

February 1, 2021 (Submitted Jan. 22)

Emergency alerts and notifications

The Commerce City Refinery is creating enhanced alerts and notifications for the community, in response to local legislation and as part of the settlement agreement with the Colorado Department of Health and Environment (CDPHE). Our enhancements include: emergency alerts for residents in the immediate area (responsive to HB 20-1265); and a notification system that all residents can sign up for related to other incidents or emissions reports (responsive to the settlement). The first is available now, the opportunity to sign up for the second type of alerts is coming in late February. All alerts and notifications will be in English and Spanish.

Emergency alerts: Suncor Energy (U.S.A) Inc., in compliance with HB 20-1265, will use the wireless emergency alert system through Adams County to automatically notify the community surrounding the refinery about incidents meeting emergency criteria as defined by law: hazardous conditions or emergent events that threaten lives or property. In the event of a large-scale emergency such as a large fire, an emergency alert will be sent to cellphones near the refinery. Residents do not need to take any action to receive these alerts.

Sign-up service for other notifications: to respond directly to the needs expressed by residents during our community engagement program in the fall of 2020, the refinery will also be adding an opt-in notification platform to communicate about other types of incidents and emissions exceedances, including those that may seem alarming (for example, if the Suncor Fire Department conducts a fire extinguisher training at the refinery, individuals will receive a notification as the trainings can produce visible flames or smoke). The notification will state what occurred, inform individuals that no action is needed, and provide a link to Suncor’s new Commerce City Refinery webpage, [Suncor.com/Colorado](https://www.suncor.com/Colorado), where they can access more information and updates. A sign-up campaign encouraging residents to opt into these second-tier notifications will be launched in late February, and more updates about this and other refinery initiatives will be made available at [Suncor.com/Colorado](https://www.suncor.com/Colorado).

Turnaround

As discussed in the October 26 Study Session, the refinery is preparing for a turnaround of Plants 1 and 3 currently scheduled to begin this spring. Turnarounds take place approximately every five years for each plant, in alignment with industry best practices. The entire plant is shut down to conduct work that can only be executed while offline such as equipment upgrades, maintenance, and replacements.



During the turnaround, over 1,500 contractors will be on hand to complete the work, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Residents may have already seen tents going up and other increased activity around the refinery. Even with this increased activity, our strong COVID-19 safety protocols (testing, social distancing, masks, temperature checks) remain in place for anyone working on site.

Community air monitoring update

As announced in December, Suncor will be launching a new community air monitoring program in addition to the HCN monitoring that has been started by CDPHE per the settlement agreement (announced in the January 7 Title V permit listening session). Suncor will use an independent expert who will conduct air monitoring in the communities surrounding the Commerce City Refinery and report the results to the public. With the goal of creating something truly accessible and transparent for the community, we are currently having conversations with local stakeholders who are also pursuing air monitoring programs (such as Commerce City and CDPHE), with broader community participation planned to begin later in the first quarter. We will provide updates on timing for community engagement sessions as those details are confirmed.

Permit renewals (Title V and wastewater)

Suncor Energy (U.S.A.) Inc. supports CDPHE's processes and community engagement opportunities for the refinery's Title V and wastewater permit renewals, both beginning during the first quarter of 2021.

- [See more information from CDPHE about the Title V permit for Plant 2](#)
- [Read about water quality permits from CDPHE](#)
- [Learn more about safety and environment information from the refinery](#)

Environmental performance

The Commerce City Refinery reports both events and exceedances to CDPHE as required. A single event may have a variety of emissions exceedances that are measured at different time frames or periods depending on the regulation for that substance (6 minutes, 24 hours, etc.). For this reason, the number of exceedances and exceedance periods may be different than the number of events. An event may cause an initial exceedance, then levels can return below limits, then levels could spike again depending on the type of event. Initial reports to CDPHE may not contain all exceedance periods from a single event, due to the submission timing requirements.



Moving forward in 2021, with a goal of providing the timeliest information publicly available, city staff will report environmental performance from the public records available from CDPHE (as before) and verify any additional exceedance periods with the refinery (new). More detailed analysis and context will be available in the semi-annual reports to CDPHE, and environmental performance data will eventually be available on the refinery's website.

With the conclusion of 2020, we can report that environmental performance improved in 2020 compared to 2019 on multiple fronts:

- The refinery's record of exceedance periods improved by 54 percent between 2019 and 2020, with the number of exceedance periods falling from 425 (2019) to 197 (2020).
- Along with the reduced number of exceedance periods, last year Suncor lowered its SO₂ and H₂S emissions exceedance periods by 48 percent, while total SO₂ emissions fell by 40 percent.
- The total duration of commonly exceeded parameters was 39 percent less in 2020 than 2019.

Opportunities to be informed

Study Session: Refinery leadership will be appearing at the March 8 Study Session to provide more information on the topics above.

Website: How many people work at the refinery? How long has it been in Commerce City? What is flaring? Get answers to these questions and more, in English and Spanish, at [Suncor.com/Colorado](https://www.suncor.com/colorado).