



Tesoro Anacortes Clean Products Upgrade Project (CPUP)

PROPOSED PROJECT: Frequently Asked Questions

March 2016

What is a Naphtha Hydrotreater unit (NHT)?

NHT units remove certain elements, like sulfur, nitrogen, and metals from the raw materials used to make gasoline. This raw material is called “feedstocks.” The proposed expansion of the Tesoro Anacortes Refinery NHT would help the refinery meet new clean air requirements reflected in Tier 3 standards for gasoline by further reducing the sulfur in the gasoline it produces.

What is an Isomerization unit?

Isomerization units process hydrocarbons in order to produce low sulfur, low benzene, and higher octane blending components that are used to make gasoline. When mixed xylenes are separated from gasoline components, some of the octane is also lost. The Isomerization unit will help replace the octane in gasoline that is lost by removing mixed xylenes.

What is octane?

Octane is often used to describe the performance of gasoline. Essentially, octane helps make gasoline compatible with typical car engines.

What is reformate?

Reformate is a feedstock for gasoline. In other words, reformate is one of the raw materials used to make gasoline. Reformate also contains mixed xylenes.

What is an Aromatics Recovery Unit (ARU)?

The ARU is the primary piece of equipment used to make mixed xylenes. The ARU separates mixed xylenes from reformate through distillation or extraction.

What is the function of the proposed new boiler?

The new steam boiler will provide steam and heat needed for the new pieces of equipment to operate. The boiler will be powered by natural gas.

What is a Marine Vapor Emissions Control (MVEC) system?

The MVEC unit includes a small unit on the dock, and another small unit on the shore. It will be fueled by a natural gas line run along the dock. The MVEC system will capture vapors from marine vessels that come to the dock.

What is the function of the proposed storage tanks?

Tesoro proposes to build three new storage tanks. One of these would be used to hold reformate. The other two would store the mixed xylenes until they leave the refinery grounds as exports.

