PETROLEUM
REFINER
REFINING, PETROCHEMICALS, NATURAL GASOLINE

Volume 33, No. 1 January, 1954

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Box 2608, Houston (1), Texas
PETROLEUM REFINER and The REFINERY CATALOG for the refining-natural gasoline-petrochemical industry
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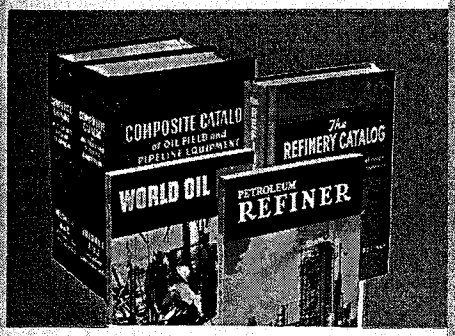
Single copies 50 cents (except special issues) for U. S. and Canada; $1 for all other countries. Subscription rates—U. S. and Canada $2 a year; Latin America and overseas $5 a year. PETROLEUM REFINER, published on the 12th of every month, entered as second class matter June 16, 1923, at the post office at Houston, Texas, under act March 3, 1879. Advertising rates on application. Copyright 1954 by The Gulf Publishing Company.

Petroleum Refiner is Indexed by Industrial Arts Index, Chemical Abstracts and by Engineering Index, Inc. Microfilm copies available through University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, Michigan.



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North Star Oil, Ltd., will build a $7 million refinery with a capacity of 8000 barrels a day at St. Boniface, Manitoba. It is to be completed in 1955.

Royal Dutch Shell Group still refuses to state definitely whether it will build a $210 million oil refinery at Mombasa, East Africa, even though an announcement by East Africa Power & Lighting Company that the latter company is constructing power stations in and around Mombasa seems to indicate that the project is a certainty.

Southern Chemical Corporation has put on stream a 4000-barrel-a-day UOP platformer integrated with a 3490-barrel-a-day Udex unit at its Corpus Christi, Texas, refinery. Designed for continuous aromatic hydrocarbons production, the unit is producing nitration grade benzene and toluene.

Oil Group Will Build Two Plants in Wyoming

A gas processing plant and a sulfur recovery plant will be built at Manderson, Wyo., by a group of oil companies. Both are scheduled to go into operation late this year. Ralph M. Parson Company has confirmed reports that it will build the plants but said construction details have not been completed.

Participating oil companies are Socony-Vacuum Oil Company, Inc. (through General Petroleum Corporation, its western affiliate), Gulf Oil Corporation, Stanolind Oil & Gas Company, The Standard Oil Company (Ohio), Roy Booth Shannon Oil Company, G. & N. Oil Company and Mule Creek Oil Company. Socony-Vacuum will operate the gas plant at Manderson, where gas will be dehydrated and supplied to Jefferson Lake Sulfur Company, which will build the sulfur plant nearby.

Construction is scheduled to begin as soon as weather permits.

Ashland Plans New Units And Refinery Revamping

A catalytic reforming unit is planned for Ashland Oil & Refining Company's Catlettsburg, Ky., refinery, a large catalytic cracking unit for The National Refining Company's Findlay, Ohio, refinery, and complete modernization and enlargement of Aetna Oil Company's Louisville, Ky., refinery. Plans for the projects were contained in Ashland's annual report for the year ended September 30, 1953.

However, since units of the desired size cost millions of dollars, sufficient funds for only one or two processing units per year can be budgeted for the Refining department, Paul G. Blazer, Ashland chairman said. The decision as to which of the principal projects will be scheduled for 1954 is yet to be made.

Blazor noted that the newly modernized Frontier Oil Refining Corporation refinery at Buffalo, N. Y., will begin producing asphalt within a few months.

Three New Refineries Are Scheduled For Early Construction in India

India will be able to produce about 60 percent of its gasoline and, a little less than half its kerosine requirements when three refineries currently under construction or in the design state are completed.

India has a small, privately-owned refinery at present at Digboi, in Assam. Now under construction in the country are two more refineries—one by Standard-Vacuum Oil Company and the other by Burmah-Shell Refineries Ltd.—on Trombay Island in Bombay harbor. California-Texas Oil Company will construct yet another refinery at Vizagapatan. Construction of this 10,000-barrel-a-day plant is expected to commence in 1955.

It has been estimated that the three new refineries will have a total capacity of about 3,710,000 tons of crude oil, equivalent to a yearly yield of about 147 million gallons of gasoline and about 120 million gallons of kerosine. Foreign investments in the new Indian refineries will total about $75 million. The refineries will be owned and operated by companies incorporated under a relatively new Indian law. About 25 percent of the capital shares of the companies will be made available to nationals of the country.

Present construction plans call for completion of the Standard-Vacuum and Burmah-Shell refineries in Bombay harbor in 1955. The former will have a capacity of 25,000 barrels a da latter a capacity of 40,000 barrels

Standard-Vacuum, which is inve about $33 million in its refinery been a major petroleum market India since the 1890's.

The Burmah-Shell refinery is pa a five-year expansion plan which provides for a distribution pla Kandla, a new port in the sta Cutch, additional and improved s facilities throughout the country a new lubricating oil plant in Bo Burmah-Shell's refinery is estima cost $56 million and will be own a subsidiary of Royal Dutch Group and Burmah-Shell Refi Ltd.

Unidentified Interests Will Build Tacoma Plant

A 25,000-barrel-a-day oil refinery will be built at Tacoma, Wash., according to L. P. Moore, who has been described as a New York investor. The new refinery is scheduled for completion in 1955.

Name of the refinery has not been given. However, Washington Processing Company of Washington State, which owns the land, will be involved. Moore said ground will be broken early this year and the plant will go on stream 14 months later.

Financing of the project involves unidentified Texas, California and New York interests. Cost of the refinery, which will include catalytic processing units, has been set at $10 million by Washington Processing Company, which completed the financial arrangements for the construction.

Plans call for initial thruput of 10,000 barrels a day of crude, with an increase eventually to 25,000 barrels a day, using crude oil brought in by tanker probably from a terminal of Trans Mountain Oil Pipe Line near Vancouver, B. C. Alaska has been mentioned as a possible future source of crude supply.

Other organizations which have talked of building a refinery in the Tacoma area are Pacific Oil & Refining Company of Delaware and Pacific Oil & Refining Company of Washington. Presumably neither is involved in this venture, though plans of these two companies are not known.

Shell Chemical Starts U Ventura Ammonia Plant

A new $10 million plant at Ve Calif., has started production of needed anhydrous ammonia. The plant is Shell Chemical Corpora second ammonia plant, its other being at Pittsburg, Calif.

The plant will have a productiv pacity of 150 tons a day. The amm manufactured will be largely used fertilizer. The bulk of Shell Chem ammonia production, from this plant the one at Pittsburg, is earmarke western agriculture. The Ventura will also produce ammonia for u industry for refrigeration, and fo manufacture of synthetic fibers, e sives, pulp and nitric acid.

The 27-acre plant site was chose cause of the rapidly growing need ammonia fertilizer in California and zona and because Shell's operatio the Ventura oil field offer an supply of natural gas.

Stanolind Selects Lumm To Aid in Carthage Stud

The Lummus Company has bee lected by Stanolind Oil and Gas pany as consulting contractor to carry out investigations of the pl condition of the Carthage Hyd Inc., synthetic gasoline plant at Br ville, Texas.

(Stanolind recently announced had signed an agreement with th construction Finance Corporation gave it the right to undertake stud all circumstances surrounding the thage properties. Under the agre if, on the basis of these studies, S lind wants to acquire the plant, secure the stock of Carthage Hy and will assume its obligations.)

Stanolind engineers will work Lummus personnel who have arrived at the plant in carrying o investigation, which will probabl several months to complete. E. lard, Stanolind president, empha that the investigation does not the resumption of operations at th thage plant, which was shut dow June.

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What's Ahead for '54

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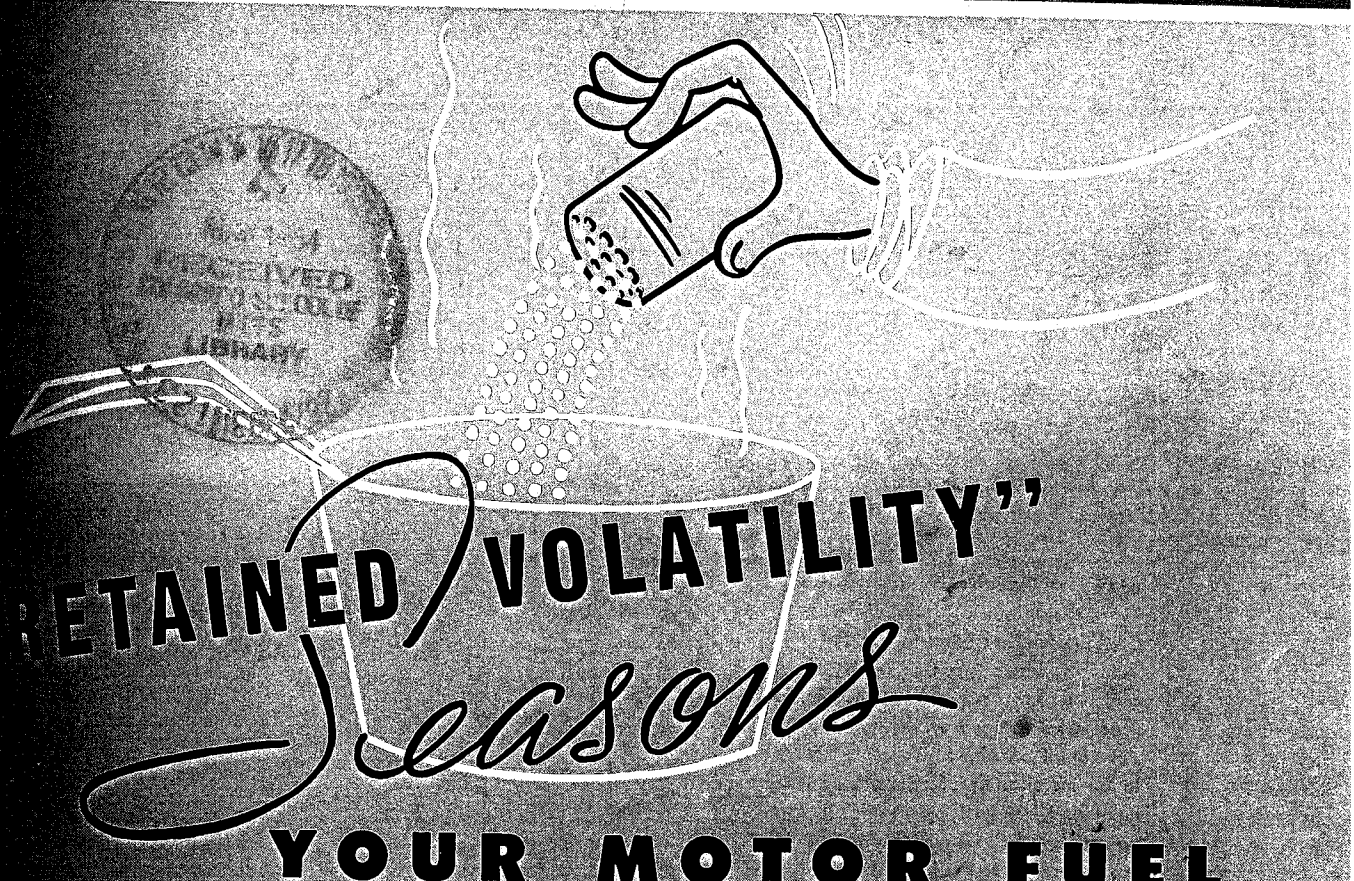

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Sinclair Plans Addition Of Para-Xylene Plant

Plans for broadening its petrochemical activities to include marketing para-xylene have been announced by Sinclair Chemicals, Inc., a subsidiary of Sinclair Oil Corporation. As part of a program to expand petrochemical production at Sinclair Refining Company's Marcus Hook, Pa., refinery, a special unit will be built to recover para-xylene from a new catalytic reformer already under construction there.

Initial operation of a para-xylene unit, to have a capacity of 10 million pounds a year, is scheduled for first quarter of 1955. Sinclair has contracted to supply the synthetic fiber raw material to The Hercules Powder Company.

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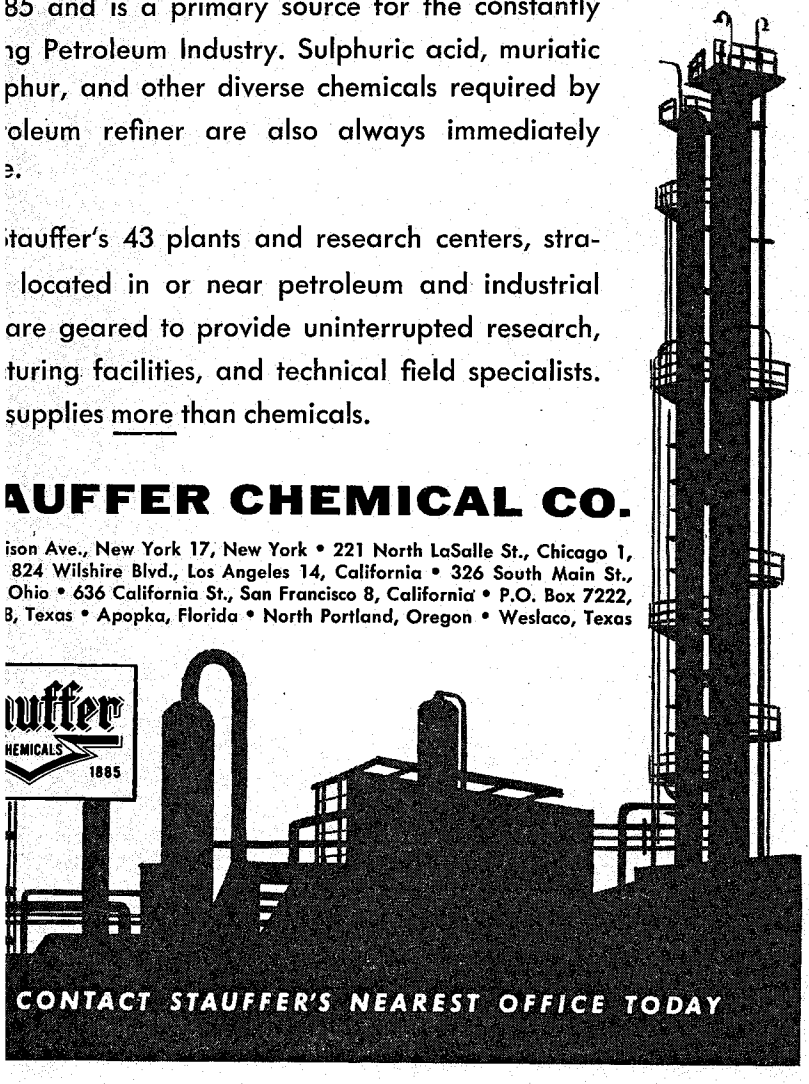

Oil Group Sets Start of Work on Wyoming Plants

Construction is scheduled to get under way the middle of next month on a jointly owned dehydrating and sweetening plant at Manderson, Wyo., which will process Manderson field sour gas (PETROLEUM REFINER, January, 1954, page 200).

Socony-Vacuum Oil Company, Inc., will operate the gas plant at Manderson, which it will own jointly with Gulf Oil Corporation, Stanolind Oil & Gas Company, The Standard Oil Company (Ohio), Roy Booth Shannon Oil Company, G. & N. Oil Company and Muddy Creek Oil Company.

A concentrated hydrogen-sulfide stream from the gas plant will go to a sulfur-recovery plant to be built by Jefferson Lake Sulphur Company near Manderson. Ralph M. Parsons Company, Los Angeles, will erect both plants.

Completion of construction of both plants is scheduled for this autumn.

Braun Gets Contract for Engineering Brea Plant

C. F. Braun & Company has been awarded the engineering contract for planning a new nitric acid and ammonium nitrate plant at Brea, Calif. To cost about $2.5 million, the proposed plant will be located adjacent to the $13 million ammonia plant now under construction at Brea for Ammoniaco Corporation. The ammonia plant, which is leased and will be operated by Brea Chemicals, Inc., subsidiary of Union Oil Company of California, is scheduled for completion early in April.

Corpus Christi Refining Boosts Plant Capacity

An expansion program which raises the crude capacity of its Corpus Christi, Texas, refinery to 8000 barrels a day has been completed by Corpus Christi Refining Company. The project included installation of a 6500-barrel-a-day topping unit and a 2000-barrel-a-day vacuum unit. Service Boiler Works Company and Texas Engineering & Construction Company handled the construction phase of the project.

Esso Standard Building New Fluid Hydroformer

Construction of a $12 million fluid hydroformer refining unit at Esso Standard Oil Company's Baton Rouge, La., refinery was to have gotten under way early this month. The new unit is expected to be completed in November and will convert up to 25,000 barrels a day of low octane petroleum fractions into high octane gasoline components.

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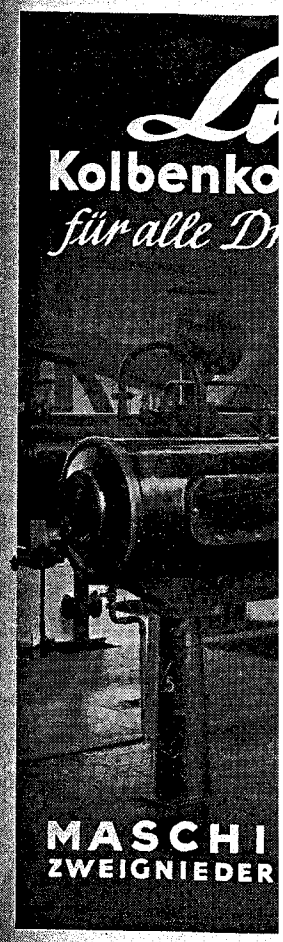
Three Plants Employing ADC Process Start Up

American Development Corporation, New York, has announced the recent



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$12 million refinery proposed by the Greek government. Actually, the government has not decided to whom the concession will be granted, having only recently opened bids called for last year.

But spokesmen from Anglo-Iranian and Socony have reported that their companies are seriously considering the project. The two companies, neither of which was among the original bidders, are said to be considering submitting common bids.

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REFINERY AND OTHER PLANT CONSTRUCTION—*Continued*

COMPANY	Plant Site	Project	Daily Capacity	Estimated Cost	Status	Probable Completion	Licensor	Engineering	Contractor
General Pet. Corp.	Worland, Wyo.	Gasoline Ext. & Sulfur Recov.	8 Mmcf	$4 million	Under Constr.	.....	.....	Fluor	.....
Jefferson Lake Sulphur Co.	Manderson, Wyo.	Sulfur Recov. Plt.	111 tons	$600,000	Authorized	Autumn, 1954	.....	.....	Parsons
Imperial Refining Co.	Denver, Colo.	Perco Cyclover-sion Unit	1,500 bbls.	.....	Under Constr.	.....	.....	.....	.....
Phillips Chem.	Eunice, N.M.	Sulfur Extrac.	100 tons	$1.5 million	Contracted	.....	.....	.....	.....
Phillips Petroleum	Lea City, N.M.	Natural Gasoline	.....	$27,150	PAD Certified	.....	.....	.....	.....
Phillips Petroleum	Great Falls, Montana	Refining	.....	$3 million	Certified DPA	.....	.....	.....	.....
Phillips Petroleum Co.	Woods Cross, Utah	Expansion	.....	.....	Projected	.....	.....	.....	.....
Phoenix Oil & Refining	Florence, Ariz.	Refinery	15,000 bbls.	$18.3 million	Under Constr.	1955	.....	Ebasco and Lummus	.....
Salt Lake Chemical Co.	Salt Lake City, Utah	Synthetic Ammonia Plt.	120 tons of Ammonia, 30 tons dry ice	$7,800,000	Under Constr.	3rd Qtr., 1955	.....	Tears	Tears, Henry C. Beck Co.
Skelly Oil Co.	Eunice, N.M.	Plt. Expansion	†20 Mmcf	.....	Completing	.....	.....	Skelly	J. E. Carlson
Skell Oil Co.	Mt. Hope, Colo.	Gas Compression Plt.	4.5 Mmcf	$650,000	Planned	.....	.....	.....	Blaw-Knox
Socony-Vacuum Oil Co. et al	Manderson, Wyo.	Gas Processing Plt.	.....	$15,000,000	Under Constr.	Nov., 1954	.....	.....	.....
Standard Oil (Ind.)	Casper, Wyo.	Alkylation Unit	575 bbls.	.....	Under Constr.	Mid 1954	.....	Graver	Graver
Standard Oil (Ind.)	Casper, Wyo.	Ultraformer	3,375 bbls.	.....	Design	Early, 1955	.....	.....	.....
Sullivan Mining Co.	Kellogg, Idaho	Sulfuric Acid Plt.	300 tons	$4,000,000	Under Constr.	June, 1954	.....	Stearns-Rodger, Leonard Constr.	Stearns-Rodger, Leonard Constr.
Sun-Seal Corp.	Salt Lake City	Wax Refinery	.....	$2,000,000	Completed	.....	.....	.....	.....
Utah Chemical Co.	Sanpete Valley, Utah	Ammonia Plt.	278 tons	$18,800,000	Planned	.....	.....	.....	Cat. Constr.
Warren Petroleum	Lea Co., N.M.	Nat. Gaso. Plt.	22 Mmcf.	.....	Complete	.....	.....	Fluor	Fluor
Western States Refg.	Salt Lake City	Topping; Crker.	3,000/2,200 bbls.	$1.1 million	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
WEST COAST									
Brea Chemicals, Inc.	Brea, Calif.	Nitric Acid & Ammonium Nitrate Plt.	.....	$2,500,000	Engineering Contract Awarded	.....	.....	Braun	.....
Brea Chemicals, Inc.	Brea, Calif.	Dry Ice Plt.	70 tons	$750,000	Under Constr.	June, 1954	.....	Braun	Braun
Brea Chemicals	Brea, Calif.	Ammonia Plt.	235 tons	$13,000,000	Completing	.....	.....	Braun	Braun
Calstate Ref. Co.	Signal Hill, Calif.	Hyperformer Unit	1,100 bbls.	$300,000	Under Constr.	.....	Union Oil	.....	Calstate
Caminol	Hanford, Calif.	Petroleum Refining Fac.	.....	$1,600,000	ODM Approved	.....	.....	.....	.....
Caminol	Hanford, Calif.	Poly. Plt.	150 bbls.	$120,000	Completed	.....	U.O.P.	U.O.P.	Caminol
Carbide & Carbon Chemicals Company	Torrance, Calif.	Polyethylene Plt.	60 million lbs./yr.	$36 million	Under Constr.	End, 1954	.....	.....	.....
Commercial Solvents Corp.	Agnew, Calif.	Pentaerythritol	.....	.....	Completing	.....	.....	Staff	Staff
Douglas Oil Co.	Bakersfield, Calif. Calif.	Cat. Reforming Unit	2,500 bbls.	$500,000	Complete	.....	Atlantic	.....	Parsons
Edgar Refining	Long Beach, Cal	Cat. Crker.	6,000 bbls.	$2.2 million	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
General Petroleum	Torrance, Calif.	Therm. Cat. Reform.	19,000 bbls.	$9 million	Under Constr.	Fall, 1954	.....	Soc-Vac., Bechtel	Bechtel
General Pet. Corp.	Ferndale. Wash.	Refinery	35,000 bbls.	$35 million	Under Constr.	August, 1954	.....	Bechtel	Bechtel
General Petroleum	Torrance, Calif.	Depropanizer	.....	$350,000	Engineering	Fall, 1954	.....	E&A	E&A
Gilmore Oil Co.	Long Beach, Calif.	Cat. Crker. & Facilities	4,200 bbls.	$3,500,000	Engineering	Dec., 1954	Soc-Vac	.....	.....
Gilmore Oil Co.	Long Beach, Calif.	Cat. Poly.	500 bbls.	.....	Under Constr.	.....	U.O.P.	.....	.....
Mohawk Petroleum	Bakersfield, Calif.	Cat. Reformer	2,500 bbls.	$600,000	Under Constr.	.....	.....	.....	Parsons
Pacific Oil & Refining Co.	Puget Sound, Wash.	Refinery	10,000 bbls.	.....	Projected	.....	.....	.....	.....
Richfield Oil	Watson, Calif.	Expansion; Cat. Cracker; Aromatics	20,000 bbls.	$43 million	Under Constr.	1954	.....	Braun	Fluor
Richfield Oil	Los Angeles	Ref. Expan.	†20,000 bbls.	$40 million	Under Constr.	Aug., 1954	.....	.....	Fluor
Rosehild Oil	Santa Fe Springs, Calif.	Cat. Cracker	6,000 bbls.	$2 million	.....	.....	.....	.....	Braun
Shell Oil	Anacortes, Wash.	Refinery	50,000 bbls.	$75,000,000	Under Constr. Mid 1954	End, 1955	.....	Bechtel	Bechtel
Shell Oil	Martinez, Calif.	Platform. Unit	4,500 bbls.	$2,300,000	Under Constr.	June, 1954	U.O.P.	U.O.P.	Braun
Shell Oil Co.	Brea, Calif.	Cap. Increase	†16 Mmcf	$600,000	Under Constr.	.....	.....	.....	J. B. Gill Co.
Signal Oil & Gas	Los Angeles, Calif.	Butanes-Iso-butane	.....	$500,000	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Standard (Calif.)	Richmond, Calif.	Cat. Reformer	20,000 bbl.	$20,000,000	Planning	July, 1955	.....	.....	.....
Standard (Calif)	El Segundo, Calif.	Cat. Reformer	20,000 bbl.						
Standard (Calif)	El Segundo, Cal.	Cat Cracker	36,000 bbls.		Under Constr.	Aug., 1954	.....	Fluor	Fluor
		Offsite Fac.		$20,000,000	Under Constr.	Aug., 1954	.....	Fluor	Macco
		Alkylation			Under Constr.	Aug., 1954	.....	.....	.....
		Residuum Stripper	52,000 bbls.		Complete	.....	.....	Kellogg	Kellogg
Stauffer Chemical	Compton, Calif.	Sulfuric Acid	.....	$57,070	Engineering	.....	.....	.....	.....
Stauffer Chemical	Richmond, Calif.	Sulfuric Acid	.....	$283,500	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
The Texas Company	Los Angeles, Calif.	Gaso. Plt.	18 Mmcf	.....	Completing	.....	.....	.....	OFFCO Constr. Co.
The Texas Co.	Wilmington, Calif.	Platforming	10,000 bbls.	.....	Under Constr.	2nd Qtr., 1955	.....	.....	.....
The Texas Co.	Wilmington, Calif.	Hydrotreating	10,000 bbls.	.....	Under Constr.	2nd Qtr., 1955	.....	.....	.....
The Texas Co.	Wilmington, Calif.	Isomerization	1,000 bbls.	.....	Under Constr.	2nd Qtr., 1955	.....	.....	.....
Tide Water Associated Oil	Avon, Calif.	Hydrobon-Platformer	10,000 bbls.	.....	Under Constr.	Dec., 1954	U.O.P.	Braun	Braun
Union Oil (Calif.)	Willbridge, Ore.	Lub. Oil Blending Plt.	.....	$450,000	Under Constr.	2nd Qtr., 1954	.....	Staff, Sweco	.....
Union Oil (Calif.)	Santa Maria, Calif.	Coking Plt.	.....	.....	Site Purchased	.....	.....	.....	.....
Union Oil (Calif.)	Cut Bank, Mont.	Cat. Reform.	$600,000	.....	Engineering & Material Ordering	Sept., 1954	Atlantic	Parsons	Parsons
Union Oil (Calif.)	Oleum, Calif.	Unifining Unit & Auxiliary Fac.	15,750 bbls.		Engineering	Dec., 1954	Union Oil	Braun	Braun
Union Oil (Calif.)	Oleum, Calif.	Site Work and General Fac. for Unifiner & Platformer		$14,900,000	Engineering	Nov., 1954	.....	Bechtel	Bechtel
Union Oil (Calif.)	Oleum, Calif.	Platformer and Auxiliary Fac.	14,500 bbls.	.....	Engineering	Nov., 1954	U.O.P.	Braun	Braun

*Natural gasoline plants under construction or expansion.