

Flint Hills shuts Texas steam cracker until April 5 for repairs: filing

Platts.com, 29th March 2016

Flint Hills Resources shut its Port Arthur, Texas, steam cracker after discovering a process leak, the company said in a filing with state regulators.

The company expects to complete the repairs by April 5, Flint Hills said in a Tuesday filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The company expects to flare 120,000 lb of ethylene, 40,000 lb of propylene and 40,000 lb of propane during the repairs, the filing added. The cracker produces an estimated 634,000 mt/year of ethylene and 317,000 mt/year of chemical-grade propylene.

In the US spot ethylene market Tuesday, March was bid at 25.25 cents/lb Mont Belvieu Williams pipeline, while the April bid-offer range was 25.5-29.5 cents/lb MtB Wms. May was offered at 29 cents/lb MtB Wms.