

NCRA SKYLINE



ur refinery skyline is a familiar landmark for McPherson. For many of us, when we finally see the lights on the horizon after a long drive – we know we’re almost home.

But what’s going on behind the lights? What do all of those lights represent? We want to take a little time to recognize the many people and processes behind the lights and maybe even give ourselves a little pat on the back.

The People

First of all, those lights aren’t just there for decoration. Most of the lights are there to help light the way for refinery employees. On any given night there are close to

120 employees performing specific duties. Some of those duties include regularly walking and climbing up and down towers and through pipe lanes to make their necessary visual and physical checks. Tower decks, ladders, and other walkways are lighted to provide greater safety and efficiency for plant personnel.

NCRA has a full-time workforce of close to 650 people. Ten years ago our workforce was at 600. And 50 years ago NCRA had about 450 employees. In addition, on any given day there might be hundreds of contractors performing various services both onsite and offsite to help keep us moving forward.

“We all have our jobs to do here at NCRA,” says Jim Loving, NCRA Presi-

dent, “and it’s up to each one of us to do our part. I’m continually impressed with the quality and the caliber of our people. We know that when we help out a fellow employee, or others in the communities where we live, there is a real benefit to all of us. That understanding is rare today and is probably one of our employees’ biggest strengths.”

The Process

The refinery operates twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. Close to

85,000 barrels, 3.57 million gallons, of raw crude oil is fed into the refinery every day. Raw crude oil is a mixture of light to heavy hydrocarbon molecules. Most of the refining process involves separating, cracking, or combining those molecules in ways that gradually purify the streams until they become what we call “finished” gasoline and diesel fuel ready to be used in cars, trucks and tractors.

After processing and blending, about 89,000 barrels of finished product is produced per day – consisting of about half

gasoline and half diesel fuel. All of our finished product is sold to our Member-Owners according to their percentage of ownership; CHS 74.43%, Growmark is 18.62% and MFA Oil Company is 6.95%.

About 57% of our crude supply comes from Kansas. The rest comes from the Gulf of Mexico, west Texas, Canada and the U.S. Rocky Mountain Region. In Fiscal 2009, NCRA processed 32.47 million barrels of crude oil and sold 31.08 million barrels of finished product.

Pat on the Back

Just as the NCRA Skyline has been growing and evolving since 1943, NCRA employees have also been advancing, learning, and adapting to market changes and technological innovations. Today it

takes a dedicated 650 employees and 24 hours each day to continue to build on our success.

Any time we start our car in the morning, see a truck delivering products or a tractor working a field, we can all take pride in knowing that we help produce a quality product that the world depends on - each and every day.

Pictured Left to Right: Charlie Wedel overlooks the Benzene Reduction Project and part of the OIP; Gayle Seibel and Debbie Ratzloff sell tickets for prize drawings at the pink softball game; skyline continued; Leah Zweigle and Karen Peavy were two of the many supporting the pink softball game on May 26; Terry Monroe visits with Scott Swanson and Jim Stevens prior to the All Schools Day Parade.

