



ASK PETE



Q: *If you refine and produce gasoline at your facility, why are local gasoline prices higher than areas that are hundreds of miles away from a refinery?*

Dan Dickson, Torrance Resident

A: Dan, Thanks for your question ... gas prices are a “hot topic” lately and I regularly receive similar questions from my family and friends.

The short answer to your question is that stations close to our refinery aren't necessarily “saving” money with their locations because 1) their costs of transporting gas from refineries to their stations are small parts of their total costs and 2) many variable factors affect gas prices at the pump. I'll explain additional details below.

Several things impact the price you pay at the pump, including:

- price of crude oil
- gas stations' ownership structures, traffic patterns, rents, and sources

of supply

- fuel specifications
- government regulations
- taxes
- supply and demand forces

It surprises some people that ExxonMobil cannot set prices at all stations with “Exxon” or “Mobil” signs. ExxonMobil actually owns/operates fewer than 900 stations in the U.S. (out of more than 14,000 Exxon and Mobil stations in the country.) And we only own about 15 stations in all of Los Angeles County. Even the Mobil station next to our refinery is operated by an independent dealer. At independent stations, it is up to the dealer to set gasoline pricing, conduct facility maintenance, and decide whether to sell food and convenience items.

You may also be interested to know

that California prices are more variable than others because there are relatively few supply sources of its unique blend of gasoline. This keeps me and my employees in Torrance very busy — California refineries need to be running near their fullest capabilities in order to meet the state's fuel demands.

PUBLISHER'S BOX

Neighbor to Neighbor is published periodically as a community service by the ExxonMobil Torrance Refinery
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Pondering Career Options? Think Outside the Office

Hands-on careers in process technology offer great office-job alternatives. New PTEC scholarships help pave the way for an exciting career!

As more and more students are realizing that a four-year college degree is not a guarantee of an immediate, well-paying job, companies such as ours are helping high school graduates learn about the PTEC field. With annual starting salaries of over \$55,000, plus steady work and benefits, the field offers a great option for many students.

In September, we plan to award PTEC scholarships to eight graduates from the Torrance Unified School District. This summer, students may apply for scholarships that cover nearly all the tuition costs for two semesters of process technology courses at LATTC, along with school fees, books and transportation costs.

“ExxonMobil has a tradition of supporting our students in Torrance, particularly in the areas of mathematics, science, technology and engineering,” notes Torrance Refinery Process Manager John McCall. “The PTEC scholarships are a great way to support the city's workforce and the students of Torrance.”

The process technology field is expected to grow by as much as 17 percent according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Long before “Pomp and Circumstance,” many students are trying to figure out the right career path, not to mention a way to pay for training and education. The ExxonMobil Torrance Refinery is making that search a little easier for some students by spotlighting the exciting field of process technology, also called PTEC.

At local trade schools such as Los Angeles Trade Tech College (LATTC) the process technology program prepares students to work as process operators in the California chemical, oil and gas, wastewater treatment, pharmaceutical, manufacturing and power generating industries.

A process technician controls and monitors the systems that run various plants. Technicians work both indoors and outdoors alongside chemical engineers, chemists and maintenance professionals.

For more information on the PTEC scholarship program, please call Renee Madyun of LATTC at (213) 763-7318 or visit www.TorranceRefinery.com.

ASK PETE

Pete Trelenberg, Torrance Refinery Manager, wants to hear from you! Please submit questions you have about the refinery. Questions not printed in the newsletter will be addressed by direct mail or by phone. If you have an immediate concern, please contact Public Affairs at (310) 212-4756.

Q: _____

Name*: _____ Daytime phone number*: (____) _____

Address*: _____
Street City Zip Code

To submit your questions tear off this form and mail to:
ExxonMobil • Public Affairs/Ask Pete • 3700 West 190th Street • Torrance, CA 90509

* By submitting your name, you agree to be identified in *Neighbor to Neighbor* as the author of the question you submitted. Only questions submitted with name and contact information will be considered for publication. Addresses and phone numbers are required for verification purposes and follow-up and will not be published.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO IN A CHEMICAL EMERGENCY?

Community Alert Sirens

You hear — sirens wailing continuously for several minutes, followed by a short break, followed by continuous wailing

You should — “Shelter in Place” by going indoors immediately, closing all windows and doors and turning off heaters and air conditioners. Watch

CitiCABLE 3 or listen to local AM radio stations (Torrance CitiSOUNDS 1620AM) for additional information.

You hear — chimes (such as the Westminster Abbey chimes)
You should — air out your home during this “all clear” period

SIRENS ARE TESTED ON

THE FIRST WEDNESDAY

OF EACH MONTH AT

APPROXIMATELY 11:30 A.M.