

NOVA Chemicals Joffre Site

About Ethylene 1 (E1)

Following two years of planning and negotiation, and three years of construction the first ethylene plant was brought into operation at the Joffre Site in August 1979. Over the years this facility has been continually maintained and improved to increase production capacity and energy efficiency.

Responsible operations - The Joffre Site has a comprehensive equipment leak detection and repair program that monitors literally thousands of valves, flanges and seals each year for excessive leakage. This program resulted in an equipment 'leak rate' decline from 9% in 1991 to less than 1% by 1997. E1 is upgrading the program even further with bar coding capability to reduce leak detection monitoring and maintenance repair time.



Officially opened October 22, 1979 by then Premier Lougheed.



Production capacity 1.6B pounds / 726,000 metric tonnes per year (increased from original 1.2B pounds).



Identifiable corkscrew spirals (to reduce wind sway) on top of the original natural draft furnaces are 220 feet high (67.1m). Two of the six original furnaces have been converted to increase capacity.



A 230 feet high (70.1m) bright red/white banded tower -- the C2 splitter -- separates uncracked ethane from the ethylene product and recycles it back into the process.