

2017-2018 SHAC Committee meeting

Agenda

Friday, August 18, 2017

- I. Welcome
- II. H2S Discussion
- III. Meeting Adjourned

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Minutes

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Members present: Kellie Adams, Lori Alexander, Bonnie Billings, David Bryant, Gary Davis, Billy Moore, Karen Tovar, Robert Romero, Dennis Rice

Mr. Romero called the meeting to order and began an explanation of the location of a well near the Kelley and Dodson campus. He explained that the chance of anything life threatening occurring at the campus was not likely. However, Oxy wishes to be prepared in case any such scenario might occur. Mr. Romero explained how Oxy manages the well, plus what the district should expect if a situation should ever occur. Mr. Romero asked the school to get with him on a date, so that the district and Oxy can go through a mock setup. The school agreed to get the date to Mr. Romero. Several school officials asked questions. Those questions were addressed and then the meeting was adjourned.

Denver City – Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) Fact Sheet

Occidental Petroleum is committed to conducting our business in Denver City in a manner that protects the health and safety of people and the environment at our facilities and in the community. We continuously enhance our programs to prevent and mitigate Health, Environment and Safety incidents and reduce risks to people and the environment.

Hydrogen sulfide gas has been present in the Denver City fields since its discovery in 1936 with the drilling of L.P. Bennett # 1. This fact sheet provides important information about hydrogen sulfide, the potential health effects from exposure and the precautions to take should an unexpected release were to occur.

What is hydrogen sulfide?

Hydrogen sulfide, or H₂S, is a naturally occurring chemical compound that can be found in decaying plant material in swamps, crude oil, human digestion, volcanic gases or natural gas. This invisible gas has a distinctive foul odor of rotten eggs, and is also referred to as sulfur gas, rotten egg gas or sewer gas. A potentially harmful and deadly gas, it is flammable and heavier than air so can accumulate in low-lying areas.

What steps has Occidental taken to detect H₂S at the Denver City field and how will the public be notified in the case of a release?

Occidental's highly trained employees have extensive experience in safely drilling, producing oil and natural gas and handling H₂S. We maintain leak detection equipment and H₂S gas monitors in the Denver City Unit that immediately notifies our operators when there is an H₂S release. This system is monitored 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and provides notification to us before any release would impact the public. In addition, the system activates a shutdown of the lines leading to and from the point of release to minimize any release of gas or liquids.

In the event of an emergency or potential safety risk to the public, Occidental will notify the first responders of Denver City and Gaines County (i.e. fire department, police department, EMS), who will in turn notify the public, as needed.

If I smell the H₂S odor, what should I do?

Dial 911 or contact the Denver City Police department (806) 592-3516, or Denver City sheriff department (806)-592-2727 or Yoakum County Sheriff's department (806)-456-2377, or Gaines County Sheriff's Department: (432) 758-4023, or Occidental Permian emergency number 1-800-532-2587, or any Oxy employee listed on Denver City Asset emergency phone list.

Hydrogen sulfide is potentially harmful. Your nose can detect very low concentrations of H₂S gas. However, longer exposure to low concentrations has a desensitizing effect on the sense of smell; therefore, reliance on smell as a warning measure is not recommended. At high concentrations in the air, the loss of smell can be so rapid that you may not notice at all. Due to this, it is imperative that you dial 911 immediately if you detect an H₂S odor.

What health effects can occur after exposure to hydrogen sulfide?

If you have ever taken a walk near a swamp, visited a farm or horse stable or cracked a rotten egg, you probably have been exposed to hydrogen sulfide. The health effects of H₂S depends on how much you breathe and for how long. Small amounts of H₂S are easily handled by the body without any significant health effects, although some discomfort in the eyes and throat could be experienced. Higher concentrations may cause eye and throat irritation, headache, dizziness, nausea, vomiting, coughing and labored breathing. Much higher concentrations, even for a short time, may cause permanent body organ damage, loss of consciousness or even death. If you have questions about any health effects, you should contact your physician.

For additional information on H₂S, refer to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) website at: www.osha.gov/SLTC/hydrogensulfide/index.html or call (800) 321-OSHA (6742).

Emergency Contact Numbers

911 – Gaines County Emergency Services
Seminole Volunteer Fire Department: (432) 758-9871
Seagraves Fire Department: (806) 387-3086
Gaines County Sheriff's Department: (432) 758-4023

