Mike Gardner

From: Mike Gardner
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2022 5:18 PM
To: Fischer - DNR, Alex
Cc: John Heil; Aaron Trujillo - DNR; Anna O'Malley - DNR; Shawn Brennan
Subject: McPhearson A well pad

Alex,

Just following up on the leak that was reported earlier today … here are the details:

The source of the fluid observed on the ground is produced water that was contained within the angled piece of black, carbon-steel 4-inch pipe shown in the first photo below to the left of the stainless steel riser. The purpose of this "jumper line" is to connect a recently installed water line from the McPhearson A pad to the larger 10-inch water gathering lines. The dimensions of the jumper line are 4-inches in diameter pipe by 7-feet long (total), and has a capacity of 4.57 gallons.

Neither the large (10-inch) water transfer lines or the water tie-in from the McPhearson A pad are currently in service. The 10-inch lines were previously installed by URSA, and TEP is working to make sure these gathering lines are properly permitted. In preparation to begin use of these lines in the near future, the water tie-in from the McPhearson A pad was recently constructed last fall (November 2021), but has not yet been put into service. All production water from the McPhearson A pad has been trucked off location since that time.

The cause of the leak is differential settlement as shown in the second and third photos below, which shows an offset of approximately 6 inches from the riser to the tie-in point on the 10-inch water line. This settlement / lateral movement placed a bind on the jumper line which caused a portion of the threaded jumper line and nipple to pull apart and separate at the hammer union / valve body assembly on riser. This separation allowed the limited volume of water that was trapped within the jumper line to leak. The water from the jumper line mixed with snow melt water and accumulated in a small earthen berm located below the tie-in point (see last photo).

A soil sample was collected from soils impacted by the water and the PetroFlag field screening test result for this soil was 59 ppm TPH. TEP dispatched a vac truck to the location and recovered the water that had collected within the berm, and removed soils that were visibly stained a yellow–red color which is believed to be attributed mostly to rust (iron oxide) coming from the new carbon steel jumper line. The jumper line has been removed and both the riser line and the tie-in point to the 10-inch line have been capped. As stated above, the gathering lines will not be placed into service until all permitting for the lines has been finalized and approved.

In summary, this leak does not appear to meet the requirements for a reportable spill as found at Rule 912.b.(1).A-J based upon the following reasons:

- The volume of water that leaked is a known amount, and could not have exceeded the volume/capacity of the jumper line which was 4.57 gallons.
- The water was contained within a shallow earthen berm and was confined to the area immediately around, and below the riser.
- The water released from the jumper line and the impacted soils were recovered with a vac truck.
- Field screening results indicate that hydrocarbon impacts are well below the COGCC 915-1 cleanup standard for TPH.

I plan to collect another soil sample tomorrow and field screen it again (after the area was cleaned up with the vac truck), just to confirm that there are no residual TPH impacts. Please let me know if you need any additional information.

Mike Gardner
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From: Fischer - DNR, Alex <alex.fischer@state.co.us>
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2022 1:14 PM
To: Mike Gardner <MGardner@terraep.com>
Cc: John Heil <john.heil@state.co.us>; Aaron Trujillo - DNR <aaron.trujillo@state.co.us>; Anna O'Malley - DNR <anna.omalley@state.co.us>
Subject: Fwd:

Mike,

I believe that this is Location ID: 335539 and the Spill/Release appears to be off of the Location.

Alex

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: <3035013900@vzwpix.com>
Date: Mon, Mar 7, 2022 at 1:01 PM
Subject:
To: <9707870029@vzwpix.com>, <9706234875@vzwpix.com>, <alex.fischer@state.co.us>

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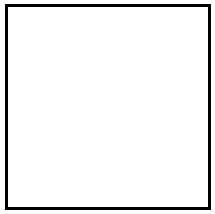
Alex Fischer, P.G.
Environmental Supervisor, Western Colorado



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