

**EVENT SPECIFIC JUSTIFICATIONS FORM****Facility:** North Hobbs Plant**Start Date:** 10/11/2021 @ 12:03 PM**End Date:** 10/11/2021 @ 12:45 PM**Cause:** THE NORTH PLANT FLARED DUE TO TRAIN "H" AND TRAIN "I" SHUTTING DOWN ON CYLINDER LUBE NO FLOW. OPERATIONS FOUND THAT A BREAKER HAD TRIPPED AND CAUSED THE UNITS TO GO DOWN.**Duration of event:** 0:42 hours**Method of Flared Gas Measurement:** Flare Meter

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**1. Reason why this event was beyond Operator's control:**

The emissions event was caused by the unforeseen, unexpected, sudden, and unavoidable breakdown of equipment or process that was beyond the owner/operator's control, and did not stem from activity that could have been foreseen and avoided, and could not have been avoided by good design, operation, and preventative maintenance practices. It is OXY's policy to route all stranded sales gas to a flare during an unforeseen and unavoidable emergency or malfunction, in order to minimize emissions as much as possible. The flare is regularly monitored to ensure flame is lit and meeting opacity requirements.

This event was a sudden and unforeseeable compressor malfunction of the North Hobbs Plant. Oxy operators were alerted to a malfunction of "H" Train and "I" Train compressor units when the units shut down on cylinder lube no flow. Oxy operators found a breaker had tripped causing the malfunction. An alarm started going off indicating no lubrication was going to the compressors and a malfunction of the unit. Operators went out to the unit and noticed that a malfunction alarm was occurring. An Oxy operator quickly arrived at the facility and began to immediately inspect the units and reading the alarm pressures. Oxy operator determined that the compressor units would need to be restarted. With the units shutting down the malfunctioning compressor units triggered a flaring event. After thoroughly inspecting the compressor unit, a lubrication no flow can happen suddenly and without warning, regardless of good preventative maintenance practices and programs. Oxy operators inspected the compressor units thoroughly for any other possible reasons the compressor units might be getting a lubrication no flow to the compressor. After inspecting and troubleshooting the compressor unit, the Oxy operator brought the units back to normal working service. OXY personnel were in place and available at the facility location when compressor units were returned to working service.

Notwithstanding proper gas compressor design and operation, various forms of mechanical or technical issues can be sudden, reasonably unforeseeable and unexpected which can cause

compressor unit malfunctions to occur without warning or advance notice. OXY made every effort to control and minimize emissions as much as possible during this event.

## **2. Steps Taken to limit duration and magnitude of venting or flaring:**

The emissions event was caused by the unforeseen, unexpected, sudden, and unavoidable breakdown of equipment or process that was beyond the owner/operator's control, and did not stem from activity that could have been foreseen and avoided, and could not have been avoided by good design, operation, and preventative maintenance practices. It is OXY's policy to route all stranded sales gas to a flare during an unforeseen and unavoidable emergency or malfunction, in order to minimize emissions as much as possible. The flare is regularly monitored to ensure flame is lit and meeting opacity requirements.

In this case, the steps taken to limit duration and magnitude of flaring was for Oxy operators to quickly respond to the compression equipment malfunction alarms by quickly acknowledging the alarm on the compressor units and that a malfunction alarm was occurring. An Oxy operator quickly arrived at the facility and began to immediately inspect the unit and reading the alarm pressures. Oxy operator determined that the compressor units would need to be restarted, but before he needed to perform a thorough inspection of the units to determine exact cause pressure alarms. OXY operators worked efficiently to the shut down of the malfunctioning compressor units triggering a flaring event. In addition to "H" train and "I" train shutting down, OXY routed all the stranded sales gas to a flare with a 98% combustion efficiency in order to lessen emissions as much as possible. The flare is regularly monitored to ensure the flame is lit and meeting opacity requirements. After thoroughly inspecting the malfunctioning compressor units, Oxy operator determined that the shutdown was caused by no lubrication to the compressors. Lubrication issues can trigger a shutdown by trash or air pockets in the line shutting down a compressor suddenly and without warning, regardless of good preventative maintenance practices and programs. Oxy operators inspected the compressor units thoroughly for any other possible reasons the compressor units might be getting a no flow alarm. After inspecting and troubleshooting the compressor units, the Oxy operators brought the units back to normal working service.

Notwithstanding proper gas compressor design and operation, various forms of mechanical or technical issues can be sudden, reasonably unforeseeable and unexpected which can cause compressor unit malfunctions to occur without warning or advance notice. OXY made every effort to control and minimize emissions as much as possible during this event.

**3. Corrective Actions taken to eliminate the cause and reoccurrence of venting or flaring:**

The emissions event was caused by the unforeseen, unexpected, sudden, and unavoidable breakdown of equipment or process that was beyond the owner/operator's control, and did not stem from activity that could have been foreseen and avoided, and could not have been avoided by good design, operation, and preventative maintenance practices. It is OXY's policy to route all stranded sales gas to a flare during an unforeseen and unavoidable emergency or malfunction, in order to minimize emissions as much as possible. The flare is regularly monitored to ensure the flame is lit and meeting opacity requirements.

Oxy cannot take any corrective actions to eliminate the cause and potential reoccurrence of compressors malfunctions as notwithstanding proper gas compressor design and operation, various forms of mechanical or technical issues can be sudden, reasonably unforeseeable and unexpected which can cause compressor unit malfunctions to occur without warning or advance notice. Oxy continually strives to maintain and operate its facility equipment in a manner consistent with good practices for minimizing emissions and reducing the number of emission events. The compressors were working as designed and operated normally prior to the sudden and without warning malfunction of the compressor units. Oxy has a strong and positive compression equipment preventative maintenance program in place. This incident was completely out of OXY's control to prevent from happening as it was determined the malfunction occurred due to a no flow alarm indicating no lubrication was flowing on the compressors. Trash or air pockets can cause a shutdown suddenly and without warning, regardless of good preventative maintenance practices and programs. OXY made every effort to control and minimize emissions as much as possible during this event. The only actions that Oxy can take and handle that is within its control, is to keep continue with its compression equipment preventative maintenance program for these units.

**District I**

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**District II**

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**State of New Mexico**  
**Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources**  
**Oil Conservation Division**  
**1220 S. St Francis Dr.**  
**Santa Fe, NM 87505**

QUESTIONS

Action 55867

**QUESTIONS**

Operator: OCCIDENTAL PERMIAN LTD P.O. Box 4294 Houston, TX 772104294	OGRID: 157984
	Action Number: 55867
	Action Type: [C-129] Venting and/or Flaring (C-129)

**QUESTIONS****Prerequisites**

Any messages presented in this section, will prevent submission of this application. Please resolve these issues before continuing with the rest of the questions.

Incident Well	Not answered.
Incident Facility	[fKJ1517634129] NORTH HOBBS UNIT RCF/WIB

**Determination of Reporting Requirements**

Answer all questions that apply. The Reason(s) statements are calculated based on your answers and may provide additional guidance.

Was or is this venting and/or flaring caused by an emergency or malfunction	Yes
Did or will this venting and/or flaring last eight hours or more cumulatively within any 24-hour period from a single event	No
Is this considered a submission for a venting and/or flaring event	Yes, major venting and/or flaring of natural gas.
An operator shall file a form C-141 instead of a form C-129 for a release that, includes liquid during venting and/or flaring that is or may be a major or minor release under 19.15.29.7 NMAC.	
Was there or will there be at least 50 MCF of natural gas vented and/or flared during this event	Yes
Did this venting and/or flaring result in the release of ANY liquids (not fully and/or completely flared) that reached (or has a chance of reaching) the ground, a surface, a watercourse, or otherwise, with reasonable probability, endanger public health, the environment or fresh water	No
Was the venting and/or flaring within an incorporated municipal boundary or withing 300 feet from an occupied permanent residence, school, hospital, institution or church in existence	No

**Equipment Involved**

Primary Equipment Involved	Not answered.
Additional details for Equipment Involved. Please specify	Not answered.

**Representative Compositional Analysis of Vented or Flared Natural Gas**

Please provide the mole percent for the percentage questions in this group.

Methane (CH4) percentage	4
Nitrogen (N2) percentage, if greater than one percent	0
Hydrogen Sulfide (H2S) PPM, rounded up	7,860
Carbon Dioxide (CO2) percentage, if greater than one percent	0
Oxygen (O2) percentage, if greater than one percent	0
If you are venting and/or flaring because of Pipeline Specification, please provide the required specifications for each gas.	
Methane (CH4) percentage quality requirement	Not answered.
Nitrogen (N2) percentage quality requirement	Not answered.
Hydrogen Sulfide (H2S) PPM quality requirement	Not answered.
Carbon Dioxide (CO2) percentage quality requirement	Not answered.
Oxygen (O2) percentage quality requirement	Not answered.

**Date(s) and Time(s)**

Date venting and/or flaring was discovered or commenced	10/11/2021
Time venting and/or flaring was discovered or commenced	12:03 PM
Time venting and/or flaring was terminated	12:45 PM
Cumulative hours during this event	0

**Measured or Estimated Volume of Vented or Flared Natural Gas**

Natural Gas Vented (Mcf) Details	Not answered.
Natural Gas Flared (Mcf) Details	Not answered.

Other Released Details	Cause: Equipment Failure   Other (Specify)   Natural Gas Flared   Released: 1,524 Mcf   Recovered: 0 Mcf   Lost: 1,524 Mcf
Additional details for Measured or Estimated Volume(s). Please specify	Not answered.
Is this a gas only submission (i.e. only significant Mcf values reported)	Yes, according to supplied volumes this appears to be a "gas only" report.

Venting or Flaring Resulting from Downstream Activity	
Was or is this venting and/or flaring a result of downstream activity	Not answered.
Was notification of downstream activity received by you or your operator	Not answered.
Downstream OGRID that should have notified you or your operator	Not answered.
Date notified of downstream activity requiring this venting and/or flaring	Not answered.
Time notified of downstream activity requiring this venting and/or flaring	Not answered.

Steps and Actions to Prevent Waste	
For this event, the operator could not have reasonably anticipated the current event and it was beyond the operator's control.	True
Please explain reason for why this event was beyond your operator's control	The emissions event was caused by the unforeseen, unexpected, sudden, and unavoidable breakdown of equipment or process that was beyond the owner/operator's control, and did not stem from activity that could have been foreseen and avoided, and could not have been avoided by good design, operation, and preventative maintenance practices. It is OXY's policy to route all stranded sales gas to a flare during an unforeseen and unavoidable emergency or malfunction, in order to minimize emissions as much as possible. The flare is regularly monitored to the ensure flame is lit and meeting opacity requirements.
Steps taken to limit the duration and magnitude of venting and/or flaring	The emissions event was caused by the unforeseen, unexpected, sudden, and unavoidable breakdown of equipment or process that was beyond the owner/operator's control, and did not stem from activity that could have been foreseen and avoided, and could not have been avoided by good design, operation, and preventative maintenance practices. It is OXY's policy to route all stranded sales gas to a flare during an unforeseen and unavoidable emergency or malfunction, in order to minimize emissions as much as possible. The flare is regularly monitored to the ensure flame is lit and meeting opacity requirements.
Corrective actions taken to eliminate the cause and reoccurrence of venting and/or flaring	The emissions event was caused by the unforeseen, unexpected, sudden, and unavoidable breakdown of equipment or process that was beyond the owner/operator's control, and did not stem from activity that could have been foreseen and avoided, and could not have been avoided by good design, operation, and preventative maintenance practices. It is OXY's policy to route all stranded sales gas to a flare during an unforeseen and unavoidable emergency or malfunction, in order to minimize emissions as much as possible. The flare is regularly monitored to the ensure flame is lit and meeting opacity requirements.

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CONDITIONS  
  
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	Action Number: 55867
	Action Type: [C-129] Venting and/or Flaring (C-129)

CONDITIONS

Created By	Condition	Condition Date
ralvarado	If the information provided in this report requires an amendment, submit a [C-129] Amend Venting and/or Flaring Incident (C-129A), utilizing your incident number from this event.	10/14/2021