

District I  
1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240  
District II  
1301 W. Grand Avenue, Artesia, NM 88210  
District III  
1000 Rio Brazos Road, Aztec, NM 87410  
District IV  
1220 S. St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505

State of New Mexico  
Energy Minerals and Natural Resources

OCT 05 2009

Form C-141  
Revised October 10, 2003

Oil Conservation Division  
1220 South St. Francis Dr.  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Submit 2 Copies to appropriate  
District Office in accordance  
with Rule 116 on back  
side of form

*PAB1533747815*  
*NAB1533748632*

**Release Notification and Corrective Action**

**OPERATOR**

Initial Report  Final Report

Name of Company <i>El Paso Natural Gas Company 152550</i>	Contact Robert St. John
Address 12600 McCombs Avenue, El Paso, TX 79934	Telephone No. 432-686-3289
Facility Name Afton Compressor Station	Facility Type Natural Gas Compressor Station

Surface Owner	Mineral Owner	Lease No.
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**LOCATION OF RELEASE**

Unit Letter	Section 1 E	Township 25S	Range 21	Feet from the	North/South Line	Feet from the	East/West Line	County Dona Ana County
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Latitude 32-06-51 *32.114166* Longitude 106-51-08 *106.852222*

**NATURE OF RELEASE**

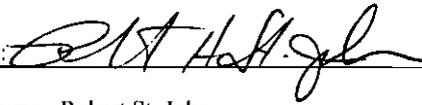
Type of Release Air	Volume of Release 300 MCF	Volume Recovered 0 MCF
Source of Release Natural Gas Emergency Shutdown Device	Date and Hour of Occurrence 09/18/2009 @ 20:47	Date and Hour of Discovery 09/18/2009 @ 20:47
Was Immediate Notice Given? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Required	If YES, To Whom? Mike Bratcher - Region 2	
By Whom? Robert St. John	Date and Hour 09/21/2009 @ 10:38	
Was a Watercourse Reached? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	If YES, Volume Impacting the Watercourse.	

If a Watercourse was Impacted, Describe Fully.\*  
NA

**Describe Cause of Problem and Remedial Action Taken.\***  
On September 18, 2009 - at 20:47 - the fire detection on Unit A-03 was activated. Initially, it was thought that oil had leaked from the emission unit onto the hot air ducting for the turbine, causing a flash fire. However, during the post-incident inspection work done to date, a six-to-eight-inch crack was discovered in the hot air ductwork piping. This crack allowed the heat generated in the hot air ductwork to escape into the insulation surrounding the piping. This heat can exceed 1000 degrees Fahrenheit. This excessive heat is thought to have ignited the insulation and dust in the ductwork. The ductwork is part of the original installation of the emission unit and is estimated to be 50 plus years old.  
  
Two small (approximately 6-inch) holes had burned through the metal sleeve that holds the insulation in place around the hot air piping ductwork (see photograph #2). The fire detection system was then activated. The facility is unmanned and in a remote location, so direct observation of smoke or fire, if any, was not done. El Paso employees arrived within an hour of the beginning of the incident and the fire had self-extinguished.

**Describe Area Affected and Cleanup Action Taken.\***  
Two small (6-inch) burn areas on the exhaust piping is the only property damage. There was no damage to the buildings, the compressor or any other structures. EPNG is currently assessing the integrity of the affected piping. The insulation around the affected area has been removed and the piping inspected for further damage. There were no impacts to the soils or ground as a result of this incident.

I hereby certify that the information given above is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and understand that pursuant to NMOCD rules and regulations all operators are required to report and/or file certain release notifications and perform corrective actions for releases which may endanger public health or the environment. The acceptance of a C-141 report by the NMOCD marked as "Final Report" does not relieve the operator of liability should their operations have failed to adequately investigate and remediate contamination that pose a threat to ground water, surface water, human health or the environment. In addition, NMOCD acceptance of a C-141 report does not relieve the operator of responsibility for compliance with any other federal, state, or local laws and/or regulations.

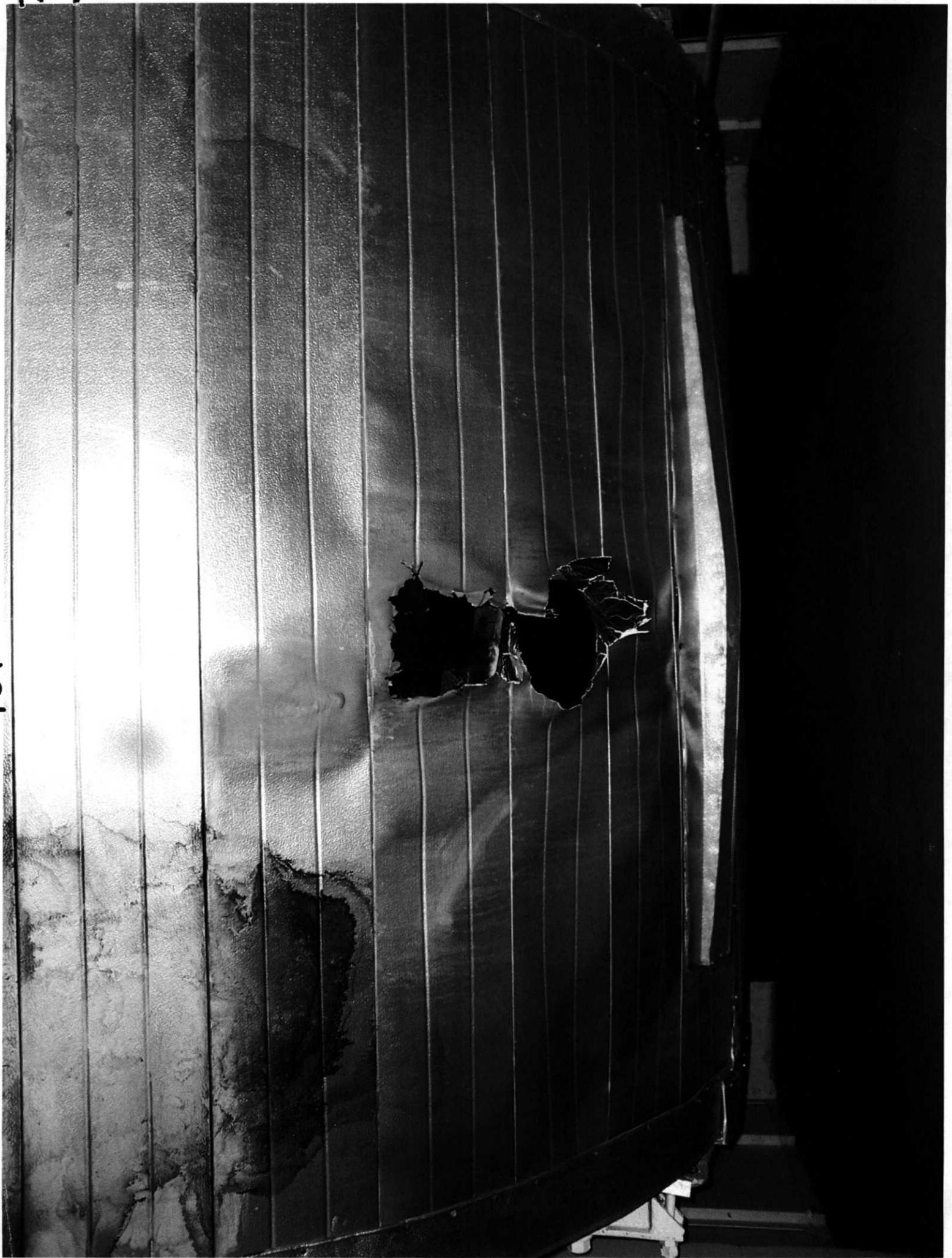
Signature: 	<b>OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION</b>
Printed Name: Robert St. John	Approved by District Supervisor:

Title: Principal Environmental Scientist	Approval Date: 12/3/15	Expiration Date: N/A
E-mail Address: <a href="mailto:Robert.stjohn@elpaso.com">Robert.stjohn@elpaso.com</a>	Conditions of Approval: FINAL	Attached <input type="checkbox"/>
Date: September 30, 2009 Phone: 432.686.3289		

\* Attach Additional Sheets If Necessary

ERP-3426

TOP



September 30, 2009

Mr. Mike Bratcher  
New Mexico Oil Conservation Division  
District 2  
1301 Grande Avenue  
Artesia, NM 88210

via certified mail 7005 0390 0002 9909 4821

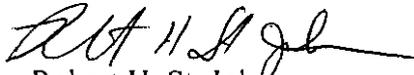
RE: El Paso Natural Gas  
Afton Compressor Station  
Final Report – Fire Event of September 18, 2009

Dear Mr. Bratcher:

El Paso Natural Gas (EPNG) is enclosing two copies of the final report for an emergency event that occurred on September 18, 2009. EPNG experienced a small fire in the compressor building housing three natural gas turbines. The fire triggered an emergency shutdown sequence that vented approximately 300 thousand cubic feet (MCF) of natural gas to the atmosphere. No injuries or property damages are reported and the fire was self-extinguished. EPNG reported this event on September 21, 2009.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 432.686.3289.

Sincerely,  
El Paso Natural Gas Company



Robert H. St. John  
Principal Env. Scientist

Cc: Keith Uhde – Area Manager, Carlsbad Operating Area  
Sandra Miller – Manager, Pipelines West Environmental Department  
File 2.1