

From: [Bratcher, Mike, EMNRD](#)
To: [Sandoval, Adrienne, EMNRD](#); [Wade, Gabriel, EMNRD](#)
Subject: WPX APE Fee 1 fluid release impact to Aucoin Residence
Date: Thursday, January 23, 2020 4:56:00 PM
Attachments: [EXT WPX Energy - APE Fee 1 Pad Notification.msg](#)

On January 21, 2019, at 9:27 AM MST, Bob Raup (HSE Supervisor for WPX Energy Tulsa OK) contacted Mike Bratcher with the New Mexico Oil Conservation Division District 2 Artesia NM to report a release that had occurred in the early morning hours of Jan 21, 2019. The release was from what was described as a small hole in the flow line from the APE Fee 1 wellsite (30-015-42101). Mr. Raup indicated the flow line hole allowed a mist of oil and produced water to be carried across an adjacent county road, misting a property owner's residence, automobiles and fencing. An email was sent to the District 2 office as follow up, and is attached.

The resident called Gilbert Cordero (NMOCD District 2 Office) later that same day. Mr. Cordero provided Mike Bratcher with contact information and at 4:40 PM, January 21, 2019 Mike Bratcher contacted the resident, Penny Aucoin. Ms. Aucoin indicated that she and her husband reside at 6227 Thomason Rd, in Eddy County, just south of Carlsbad NM, and that their residence is across the road from the WPX well site. At 2:38 AM, MST on January 21, 2019, she and her husband were awakened by their dog barking. Moments after waking up, they heard what was described as a loud pop. When they went outside to investigate, they relayed feeling a light mist falling on them, and initially thought it to be light rain. There was a very strong smell of gas, so they contacted emergency services, via 911. The first responder was a local county Fire Department (also responding to the incident, was an Eddy County Deputy Sherriff). Once the area was illuminated by the fire truck, they were able to identify the mist as a plume of produced fluid emanating from the adjacent well site flowline, from an apparent rupture in that flow line. Emergency services contacted WPX personnel to secure the site. Ms. Aucoin indicated that the fluid had coated her, her husband, their residence, automobiles, trailers and livestock with a film of oil and water. It was later determined that the livestock consisted of 18 chickens and 1 goat. WPX mobilized personnel to the site to secure the location, repair the flowline, and also, power wash affected surfaces and assist in washing the livestock with Dawn soap. MicroBlaze was utilized in washing down the property. The livestock were removed from the site and are currently being boarded at another location.

On January 23, 2019, Mike Bratcher and Gilbert Cordero mobilized to inspect the well site and meet with Ms. Aucoin. The well site consists of a single well head, configured as a flowing well. The fluid storage for this well is at a Central Tank Battery, located approximately 1/2 mile north of the well. All areas of the well site and tank battery site appeared normal, with no deficiencies observed. There was a backhoe parked just north of the SW corner of the well pad, adjacent to the well flow line. This portion of the flow line is buried, and after the line was repaired, it was reburied so a visual inspection of the line was not possible at the time of this site inspection. It was noted that a pressure gauge mounted on the tubing/well head, read 400 psi. An inspection of the Aucoin property showed very little sign of the release, indicating that the pressure washing operation by WPX was likely somewhat effective. There was an older boat located toward the back of the property with evidence of a very light, oily coating on the windshield and light covers. Two chicken watering devices were observed as having some discoloration on the sides facing the area of the release, along with a plastic crate that still exhibited the same light, oily coating as the boat. There was no evidence of the

release observed on the ground on the Aucoin property. An adjacent dirt road located just south of the Aucoin property had a layer of fresh caliche laid down with very slight indications of discoloration observed on the extreme edges of the road bed.

Upon return to the District office, Mike Bratcher attempted to contact Mr. Raup to see if a soil sampling event could be scheduled. The call went to voicemail and a message was left to contact the OCD.

A review of production reports for this well indicates that the last month of full production (31 days) was in August, 2019. The production was reported as a total (production from two pools) of 475 bbls oil, 925 bbls produced water, and 48 MCF gas. The well is configured as a flowing well, so assuming 24 hour/day production, total fluid production from the well would be 1.88 bbls/hour. It should be noted that current production is unknown, and could return a different value than is listed here.

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