

**EVENT SPECIFIC JUSTIFICATIONS FORM****Facility:** North Hobbs Plant**Start Date:** 08/08/2021 @ 04:55 PM**End Date:** 08/08/2021 @ 06:15 PM**Cause:** THE NORTH PLANT FLARED WHEN BLOWING DOWN "A" DEHY SYSTEM TO PREPARE TO WASH OUT. ALSO, "F" TRAIN SHUT DOWN ON THERMAL OVERLOAD.**Duration of event:** 1.20 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 Plant blowing down the DeHy "A" system, "F" train shutdown on thermal overload. Oxy operators were alerted to a malfunction of the compressor unit when alarms started going off indicating a malfunction of the unit. Oxy operators went out to the compressor and acknowledged 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 unit would need to be shut down so that he could perform a thorough inspection of the unit to determine exact cause involving the thermal overload malfunction alarms. OXY operators assisted with shutting down the unit, and this shut down of the malfunctioning compressor unit triggered a flaring event. After thoroughly inspecting the compressor unit, Oxy operator determined the cause was due to a thermal overload shutting down the compressor suddenly and without warning, regardless of good preventative maintenance practices and programs. Oxy operator inspected the compressor unit thoroughly for any other possible reasons the compressor unit might be getting a thermal overload. After inspecting and troubleshooting the compressor unit, the compressor mechanic brought the unit back to normal working service. OXY personnel were in place and available at the facility location when compressor unit was 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 determine the temperature on the compressor unit was rising and 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 unit would need to be shut down so that he could perform a thorough inspection of the unit to determine exact cause involving the thermal overload alarm. OXY operators assisted with shutting down the unit, and this shut down of the malfunctioning compressor unit triggered a flaring event. In addition to shutting down "F" train to blow it down for a restart, 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 unit, Oxy operators identified that the thermal overload alarm was the reason the compressor shutdown suddenly and without warning, regardless of good preventative maintenance practices and programs. Oxy operators inspected the compressor unit thoroughly for any other possible reasons the compressor unit might be getting any other alarms. After inspecting and troubleshooting the compressor unit, the compressor mechanic brought the unit 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 compressor 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. "F" train was working as designed and operated normally prior to the sudden and without warning malfunction of the compressor unit. 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 faulty and broken valves. Valves can become faulty and broken 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 this unit.

**District I**1625 N. French Dr., Hobbs, NM 88240  
Phone:(575) 393-6161 Fax:(575) 393-0720**District II**811 S. First St., Artesia, NM 88210  
Phone:(575) 748-1283 Fax:(575) 748-9720**District III**1000 Rio Brazos Rd., Aztec, NM 87410  
Phone:(505) 334-6178 Fax:(505) 334-6170**District IV**1220 S. St Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87505  
Phone:(505) 476-3470 Fax:(505) 476-3462

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

QUESTIONS

Action 43262

**QUESTIONS**

Operator: OCCIDENTAL PERMIAN LTD P.O. Box 4294 Houston, TX 772104294	OGRID: 157984
	Action Number: 43262
	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 notification of a major venting and/or flaring	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	08/08/2021
Time venting and/or flaring was discovered or commenced	04:55 PM
Time venting and/or flaring was terminated	06:15 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: 3,574 Mcf   Recovered: 0 Mcf   Lost: 3,574 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.
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 the flame is lit and meeting opacity requirements.

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CONDITIONS

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**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.	8/19/2021