

DIRECTIVE 2010-06

November 23, 2010



Wellsite Failure Investigation Prompts New Directive for Gas Wellsites in B.C.

TO: Industry Clients

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

REQUIREMENT:

Effective immediately, all operators of gas wellsites within British Columbia where sand has been used for fracture or stimulation are required to:

- Establish procedures for monitoring sand returns during cleanup flow of wells and define the cleanup target criteria for sand return volumes.
- Establish erosion and corrosion monitoring programs for wellsite piping as part of mandatory Integrity Management Programs.
- For new wells where emergency shutdown devices are required or have been installed, they must be as near as practicable to the wellhead and no bends are permitted between the wellhead and the emergency shutdown devices.
- Consult with and involve local responders in emergency planning and emergency exercises.

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) notes that implementation of these requirements may take some time and will work with operators as part of routine regulatory application and compliance assurance processes to ensure implementation.

BACKGROUND:

These recommendations arise from the Commission's investigation into a failure which took place the morning of Nov. 22, 2009. At 8:38 a.m. an A420 WPL-6 60.3 mm outside diameter (OD) x 11.07 mm wall thickness (WT) double extra strong (XXS) tee failed suddenly at an Encana wellsite situated at LSD 5 of Section 7 Township 77 Range 14 west of the 6th Meridian near Pouce Coupe, British Columbia.

Detailed information regarding the incident cause and contributing factors is available from the Commission website at www.ogc.gov.bc.ca.

The Commission has determined that the root cause of the incident was internal erosion resulting from flowing fracture sand suspended in the gas stream.

**For oil and gas incidents and emergencies, please contact the Commission at:
1-800-663-3456 (24 hours).**

Should you have any questions regarding this directive, please contact:

Ken Paulson
Chief Engineer and Deputy Commissioner
BC Oil and Gas Commission
Ken.Paulson@gov.bc.ca
250-419-4404

Original signed by:

Alex Ferguson
Commissioner and CEO
BC Oil and Gas Commission