

EXEC REPORT

Texas Alliance of Energy Producers • 719 Scott Ave, Ste 930 • Wichita Falls, TX 76301 • (940) 723-4131 • Fax (940) 723-4132 • E-mail: texasalliance@texasalliance.org

Action Alert!

TCEQ and 'Fugitive Emissions' in the Barnett Shale

Recent air quality studies and air sampling by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) reveal potentially high levels of benzene and carbon disulfide in and around the small town of Dish in western Denton County.

On November 13, TCEQ Executive Director **Mark Vickery** called a meeting of representatives of the eight largest Barnett Shale producers and pipeline companies operating in the area and the oil and gas associations (the Alliance, TIPRO, and TxOGA). TCEQ asked for industry help in reducing emissions, isolating the source and providing solutions.

TCEQ is asking that operators immediately begin testing their production in the Barnett Shale to make sure that their facilities are in compliance with their permits (permit by rule, standard permit or EPA Title V). The requirements of permits go beyond the presence and volume of benzene.

The Alliance also suggests that all operators implement a 'find it and fix it' program as soon as possible. Also, operators should have a scheduled maintenance program whereby deficiencies can be corrected as soon as they occur. Examples of simple fixes are the repair of leaky or stuck valves and increasing the size of springs on 'thief hatches'.

In a letter of November 23 to Director Vickery, Alliance Chairman **Mark Metzler** stated, "The recent report of higher than acceptable benzene readings in air samples near Dish (Denton County) in the Barnett Shale merits serious attention and action. We appreciate that we were advised and included in the recent meetings with you and your staff regarding the problem."

Metzler went on to say, "We are currently drafting a memo to our Barnett Shale producers to make them aware of the potential problems with excess levels of benzene. We are asking them to take steps to voluntarily monitor and reduce their emissions to make sure that their emissions are within the restrictions of their permits. We will also provide them with the information and advise them of the TCEQ Compliance Workshop on December 8."

Should you have specific questions, contact Alliance Executive Vice President **Bill Stevens** at (512) 656-2209 or bills@texasalliance.org. Or contact **David Greer**, Pollution Prevention Team Leader MC113, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, (512) 239-5344 or dgreer@tceq.state.tx.us.

Fugitive Emission Compliance Workshop, December 8, Fort Worth

TCEQ will hold a compliance assistance and pollution prevention workshop from 8:30 a.m. until noon on December 8 at the Automation & Robotics Research Institute, Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center, 7300 Jack Newell Blvd., South, in Fort Worth. There is no charge for the workshop. It will include goals for oil and gas operations; toxicology information; air permitting requirements; emissions inventory; and pollution prevention options. To register, send your name, company, address, phone number and email address to: events@tceq.state.tx.us.

Graham Regional Luncheon – Final Notice

The Alliance will hold its 32nd Annual Graham Regional Luncheon at the Graham Country Club at noon on Thursday, Dec. 3 with Railroad Commission District 9 Director **Walter Gwyn** as the keynote speaker. The Alliance thanks Graham Oil Transports for sponsoring this event again. To register, call (800) 299-2998. The luncheon cost is \$17 per person.

Houston Legends Event

John F. Bookout, former CEO of Shell Oil Company, and **Earl Swift**, founder of Swift Energy Company, will be honored at the Houston Legends Luncheon on Dec. 14 at noon at the Houston Petroleum Club. For registration information, go to www.texasalliance.org and click on Legends Events.

If you do not want to receive any faxes from the Texas Alliance, please call (800) 299-2998, or fax (940) 723-4132, or send an e-mail to texasalliance@texasalliance.org. Please include your name, company, fax number and phone number for verification purposes.