Environmental Protection Agency

Subpart KKK—Standards of Performance for Equipment Leaks of VOC From Onshore Natural Gas Processing Plants.

SOURCE: 50 FR 26124, June 24, 1985, unless otherwise noted.

§ 60.630 Applicability and designation of affected facility.

(a)(1) The provisions of this subpart apply to affected facilities in onshore natural gas processing plants.

(2) A compressor in VOC service or in wet gas service is an affected facility.

(3) The group of all equipment except compressors (defined in §60.631) within a process unit is an affected facility.

(b) Any affected facility under paragraph (a) of this section that commences construction, reconstruction, or modification after January 20, 1984, is subject to the requirements of this subpart.

(c) Addition or replacement of equipment (defined in §60.631) for the purpose of process improvement that is accomplished without a capital expenditure shall not by itself be considered a modification under this subpart.

(d) Facilities covered by subpart VV or subpart GGG of 40 CFR part 60 are excluded from this subpart.

(e) A compressor station, dehydration unit, sweetening unit, underground storage tank, field gas gathering system, or liquefied natural gas unit is covered by this subpart if it is located at an onshore natural gas processing plant. If the unit is not located at the plant site, then it is exempt from the provisions of this subpart.

§ 60.631 Definitions.

As used in this subpart, all terms not defined herein shall have the meaning given them in the Act, in subpart A or subpart VV of part 60; and the following terms shall have the specific meanings given them.

Alaskan North Slope means the approximately 69,000 square-mile area extending from the Brooks Range to the Arctic Ocean.

Equipment means each pump, pressure relief device, open-ended valve or line, valve, compressor, and flange or other connector that is in VOC service or in wet gas service, and any device or system required by this subpart.

Field gas means feedstock gas entering the natural gas processing plant.

In light liquid service means that the piece of equipment contains a liquid that meets the conditions specified in §60.485(e) or §60.633(h)(2).

In wet gas service means that a piece of equipment contains or contacts the field gas before the extraction step in the process.

Natural gas liquids means the hydrocarbons, such as ethane, propane, butane, and pentane, that are extracted from field gas.

Natural gas processing plant (gas plant) means any processing site engaged in the extraction of natural gas liquids from field gas, fractionation of mixed natural gas liquids to natural gas products, or both.

Nonfractionating plant means any gas plant that does not fractionate mixed natural gas liquids into natural gas products.

Onshore means all facilities except those that are located in the territorial seas or on the outer continental shelf.

Process unit means equipment assembled for the extraction of natural gas liquids from field gas, the fractionation of the liquids into natural gas products, or other operations associated with the processing of natural gas products. A process unit can operate independently if supplied with sufficient feed or raw materials and sufficient storage facilities for the products.

Reciprocating compressor means a piece of equipment that increases the pressure of a process gas by positive displacement, employing linear movement of the driveshaft.

§ 60.632 Standards.

(a) Each owner or operator subject to the provisions of this subpart shall comply with the requirements of §§60.482–1 (a), (b), and (d) and 60.482–2 through 60.482–10, except as provided in §60.633, as soon as practicable, but no later than 180 days after initial startup.

(b) An owner or operator may elect to comply with the requirements of §§60.483–1 and 60.483–2.
§ 60.633 Exceptions.

(a) Each owner or operator subject to the provisions of this subpart may comply with the following exceptions to the provisions of subpart VV.

(b)(1) Each pressure relief device in gas/vapor service may be monitored quarterly and within 5 days after each pressure release to detect leaks by the methods specified in §60.485(b) except as provided in §60.632(c), paragraph (b)(4) of this section, and §60.482-4 (a) through (c) of subpart VV.

(2) If an instrument reading of 10,000 ppm or greater is measured, a leak is detected.

(3)(i) When a leak is detected, it shall be repaired as soon as practicable, but no later than 15 calendar days after it is detected, except as provided in §60.482-9.

(ii) A first attempt at repair shall be made no later than 5 calendar days after each leak is detected.

(4)(i) Any pressure relief device that is located in a nonfractionating plant that is monitored only by nonplant personnel may be monitored after a pressure release the next time the monitoring personnel are on site, instead of within 5 days as specified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section and §60.482-4(b)(1) of subpart VV.

(ii) No pressure relief device described in paragraph (b)(4)(i) of this section shall be allowed to operate for more than 30 days after a pressure release without monitoring.

(c) Sampling connection systems are exempt from the requirements of §60.482-5.

(d) Pumps in light liquid service, valves in gas/vapor and light liquid service, and pressure relief devices in gas/vapor service that are located at a nonfractionating plant that does not have the design capacity to process 283,200 standard cubic meters per day (scmd) (10 million standard cubic feet per day) or more of field gas are exempt from the routine monitoring requirements of §§60.482-2(a)(1) and 60.482-7(a), and paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(e) Pumps in light liquid service, valves in gas/vapor and light liquid service, and pressure relief devices in gas/vapor service within a process unit that is located in the Alaskan North Slope are exempt from the routine monitoring requirements of §§60.482-2(a)(1) and 60.482-7(a), and paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(f) Reciprocating compressors in wet gas service are exempt from the compressor control requirements of §60.482-3.

(g) Flares used to comply with this subpart are exempt from the compressor control requirements of §60.482-3.