

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., P.E., *Chairman*
Toby Baker, *Commissioner*
Richard A. Hyde, P.E., *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

August 28, 2015

Re: Request for Calendar Year 2014 Crude Oil Well Completion Flowback Control Data

Dear Owner/Operator:

As part of an ongoing effort to improve the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) area source oil and gas emissions inventory, the TCEQ is requesting data on volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions from crude oil well completion flowback as well as associated emissions control equipment at crude oil sites located in the Eagle Ford Shale area and the Permian Basin.

The TCEQ specifically requests information regarding the number of oil well completions that occurred at your sites in 2014 and an estimate of the percent of completions where flowback VOC emissions were controlled. The TCEQ is also requesting that operators categorize these controls as either VOC recovery systems or combustion devices (e.g., flares or vapor combustors). Please note, this information request is for crude oil well sites only and not natural gas well sites.

For purposes of this study, well completion is defined as when flowback of a newly drilled oil well occurs in order to expel drilling and reservoir fluids and test the reservoir flow characteristics. During flowback, produced hydrocarbons may be vented to the atmosphere via an open pit or tank. This study is interested in the portion of the completion process when the flowback stream is sent to a separator and associated gas is separated from the petroleum liquids. This study is interested to know if the associated gas is vented directly to the atmosphere, captured by a VOC recovery system and/or piped directly into a sales line, or sent to a combustion device. This study also requests information on flowback duration and the amount of time a separator is used.

None of the information provided for this survey will be used for enforcement purposes, and your participation is voluntary and individual sites do not need to be identified. The information your company provides will be used for statistical purposes only to develop county-level emission estimates for air quality planning purposes. By identifying and characterizing the amount of VOC controls on oil well completions in the Eagle Ford Shale area and the Permian Basin, the TCEQ will be able to better quantify these emissions.

Please provide the requested information on the attached survey form by October 16, 2015. For your convenience, there are a variety of formats available to complete the survey. You may download the survey in either Microsoft Word or fillable Adobe PDF format from the following Web page: <www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/ieas>. If you choose to download a survey form, please complete the form and either submit it via e-mail to Michael.Ege@tceq.texas.gov, or print and mail it to the address listed on the survey form. You may also complete the survey online at:

P.O. Box 13087 • Austin, Texas 78711-3087 • 512-239-1000 • tceq.texas.gov

How is our customer service? tceq.texas.gov/customersurvey

printed on recycled paper

Owner/Operator
Page 2
August 28, 2015

<<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TC3XJ58>>. Finally, you may complete the survey by hand and mail it to the address listed on the survey form.

For questions about the study or information requested on the survey form, please contact the TCEQ project manager, Michael Ege, via e-mail at Michael.Ege@tceq.texas.gov or by phone at (512) 239-5706. Your cooperation and assistance with this effort is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Brymer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "B".

David Brymer, Director
Air Quality Division

DB/MEE/rs