

From: [Jayme Sadlier](#)
To: [Hall, James](#)
Cc: [Ramiro Garcia](#); [OCE](#); [Child, Heather](#); [Ryan \(Reagyn\) Slocum](#); [David Ramirez](#); [Susan Jablonski](#); [Randy Ammons](#); [Jonathan Walling](#); [Lorinda Gardner](#); [Tracy Miller](#); [Susan Johnson](#)
Subject: Re: Voluntary research aerial survey request
Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 7:21:14 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Good Morning Mr. Hall,

Thank you for clarifying that the enforcement discretion request for the methane emissions referenced in your March 26, 2020 (9:16am) email is specific to emissions event (EE) reporting under 30 TAC Ch. 101 via the State of Texas Environmental Electronic Reporting System (STEERS). By this email, the TCEQ acknowledges XTO's efforts to use aerial surveys as an innovative resource to gain in-depth data about methane emissions at XTO's regulated entities, but due to limitations caused by COVID-19, XTO is having difficulty physically getting to all the locations to confirm the emissions and ascertain the root cause. Therefore, the potentially required Ch. 101 reporting in STEERS is delayed/unknown.

For owners/operators with emissions events that are impacted by COVID-19 circumstances, the TCEQ is requesting each owner/operator to submit EE-specific enforcement discretion requests soon after the STEERS final report has been submitted. This will allow TCEQ to have all the required Ch. 101 reporting elements available for review along side the associated COVID-19- related enforcement discretion request. Therefore, this request for enforcement discretion is not approved at this time. If XTO determines an emissions event report (per 30 TAC 101.201) is required, please re-submit the EE/Incident specific enforcement request to ramiro.garcia@tceq.texas.gov and OCE@tceq.texas.gov after the STEERS final report is submitted.

Thank you,
Jayme Sadlier, Special Assistant
TCEQ Office of Compliance and Enforcement

From: Hall, James <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 5:26 PM
To: Jayme Sadlier <jayme.sadlier@tceq.texas.gov>

Cc: Ramiro Garcia <ramiro.garcia@tceq.texas.gov>; OCE <OCE@tceq.texas.gov>; Child, Heather <[REDACTED]> Ryan (Reagyn) Slocum <Ryan.Slocum@Tceq.Texas.Gov>; David Ramirez <david.ramirez@tceq.texas.gov>; Susan Jablonski <susan.jablonski@tceq.texas.gov>; Randy Ammons <randy.ammons@tceq.texas.gov>; Jonathan Walling <jonathan.walling@tceq.texas.gov>; Lorinda Gardner <lorinda.gardner@tceq.texas.gov>; Tracy Miller <tracy.miller@tceq.texas.gov>; Susan Johnson <susan.johnson@tceq.texas.gov>

Subject: RE: Voluntary research aerial survey request

Dear Jamey,

Thank you for your quick response and helpful questions. We are still in the process of analyzing the data to confirm any emissions by visiting the site, and analyzing any associated root cause.

You are correct that we are primarily referring to any potential RQ exceedance per 30 TAC Ch. 101, if we are able to estimate the amount of methane emitted and then extrapolate exceedances based on the relevant gas composition (e.g. H₂S or VOCs) based on the survey data and follow up analysis.

We want to be diligent with our RQ reporting even when generated by research data. This is request is solely related to our research flights, and not any routine findings or observations that may require standard STEERS reporting. Thanks again for your consideration

Thanks again,

James A. Hall Ph.D.

Regulatory Manager – Permian Basin



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Room 120

6401 Holiday Hill Road, Building #5

Midland, TX 79707

Cell: 832 871 7461

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From: Jayme Sadlier [mailto:jayme.sadlier@tceq.texas.gov]

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 3:56 PM

To: Hall, James <James_Hall@xtoenergy.com>

Cc: Ramiro Garcia <ramiro.garcia@tceq.texas.gov>; OCE <OCE@tceq.texas.gov>; Child, Heather <[REDACTED]> Ryan (Reagyn) Slocum <Ryan.Slocum@Tceq.Texas.Gov>; David Ramirez <david.ramirez@tceq.texas.gov>; Susan Jablonski <susan.jablonski@tceq.texas.gov>; Randy Ammons <randy.ammons@tceq.texas.gov>; Jonathan Walling <jonathan.walling@tceq.texas.gov>; Lorinda Gardner <lorinda.gardner@tceq.texas.gov>; Tracy Miller <tracy.miller@tceq.texas.gov>; Susan Johnson <susan.johnson@tceq.texas.gov>

Subject: Fw: Voluntary research aerial survey request

External Email - Think Before You Click

Good Afternoon Mr. Hall,

The enforcement discretion request submitted below has been reviewed and further information is needed. As written, the scope of the request is specific to methane emissions, and you indicated that XTO needs more time "to submit any STEER reporting for excess emissions." Please provide the rule citation(s) that require XTO to report the referenced excess methane emissions. Also, are these excess emissions routine or are the emissions a result of an upset event? Also, please be aware that as a greenhouse gas, methane is not required to be reported in STEERS if you are referring to an emissions event/upset event. However, we understand there may be a mixture of air contaminant compounds, which has specific emissions event reporting requirements in 30 TAC Ch. 101.

Thank you,
Jayme Sadlier, Special Assistant
TCEQ Office of Compliance and Enforcement

From: Ramiro Garcia <ramiro.garcia@tceq.texas.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 11:14 AM
To: Hall, James <James_Hall@xtoenergy.com>; OCE <OCE@tceq.texas.gov>
Cc: Ryan (Reagyn) Slocum <Ryan.Slocum@Tceq.Texas.Gov>; Child, Heather <Heather_Child@xtoenergy.com>; Lorinda Gardner <lorinda.gardner@tceq.texas.gov>; David Ramirez <david.ramirez@tceq.texas.gov>; Tracy Miller <tracy.miller@tceq.texas.gov>; Susan Johnson <susan.johnson@tceq.texas.gov>; Jayme Sadlier <jayme.sadlier@tceq.texas.gov>; Susan Jablonski <susan.jablonski@tceq.texas.gov>; Randy Ammons <randy.ammons@tceq.texas.gov>; Jonathan Walling <jonathan.walling@tceq.texas.gov>
Subject: RE: Voluntary research aerial survey request

Good morning Dr. Hall,

This email confirms receipt of your correspondence. We are reviewing your request for enforcement discretion for activities associated to your research.

We will be in contact soon.

Best regards,

Ramiro Garcia, Jr.
Deputy
Office of Compliance & Enforcement
TCEQ

From: Hall, James <James_Hall@xtoenergy.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 9:16 AM

To: OCE <OCE@tceq.texas.gov>

Cc: Ramiro Garcia <ramiro.garcia@tceq.texas.gov>; Ryan (Reagyn) Slocum <Ryan.Slocum@Tceq.Texas.Gov>; Child, Heather <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Voluntary research aerial survey request

Dear TCEQ, Mr. Garcia,

As discussed with Ramiro Garcia recently during a call on March 2nd, XTO are in the process of conducting research using fixed aerial surveys with a pulsed laser system to voluntarily evaluate methane leaks. This research is focused on both the Midland Basin and the TX portion of the Delaware Basin.

This work is voluntary, still at the research phase, and demonstrates the desire of XTO to be proactive and lead industry on this important issue. We have conducted two of surveys in Texas to date:

- Midland Basin surveys during week of January 27th
- Texas Delaware Basin surveys the week of March 16th

As TCEQ are aware, obtaining aerial survey data, processing the initial data set, evaluating the permit and background and then verifying with boots on the ground if there is any emission issue takes significant effort and time. This is even more pertinent with research techniques for aerial surveys that are not completely proven. The challenge of the COVID-19 outbreak, and impact on staff resources, communication and field access to help with these aerial survey analysis has been significant.

We are therefore requesting the following:

1. Support from TCEQ to submit any STEER reporting for excess emissions from the Midland (w/o Jan 27th) survey by April 3rd without penalty
2. Support from TCEQ to submit any STEER reporting for excess emissions from the Delaware Texas (w/o March 16) survey by April 10th, without penalty

We are diligently processing the data, but these unprecedented times combined with the research nature of the work will require time for us to meet our reporting requirements.

Thank you for your consideration.

James A. Hall Ph.D.

Regulatory Manager – Permian Basin



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