

Gallup

May 2011

benzene exceedances

**VanHorn, Kristen, NMENV**

**From:** Larsen, Thurman [Thurman.Larsen@wnr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 20, 2011 10:20 AM  
**To:** VanHorn, Kristen, NMENV  
**Cc:** Riege, Ed  
**Subject:** Benzene Exceedances for May 6, 8, 9, and 15



Dear Kristen,

Sorry for getting back to you late regarding the benzene levels that occurred on May 6, 8, 9, and 15.

We believe that these readings were due to shutdown work in some of the process units. Tank 35 and the benzene strippers were all operational. On April 29, we started a turnaround on the Platformer Unit. Shutdown activities included opening, cleaning, inspecting, repairing, replacing the internals of various towers, heat exchangers, vessels, pipes and valves in accordance with a preplanned turnaround Maintenance schedule. The last unit (DHT) began startup on Friday, May 13. Three (May 6, 8, and 9) of the exceedances may be related directly to turnaround activities in that the flare Knockout drum was pumped many times. Accumulations in this knockout drum are very typical during unit shutdowns and start ups. The start up of the last unit may also have contributed to the exceedance that occurred on May 15.

Sincerely,

*Beck Larsen*; CHMM, REM, RPG  
Environmental Engineer

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**From:** Riege, Ed  
**Sent:** Monday, May 16, 2011 8:23 AM  
**To:** VanHorn, Kristen, NMENV  
**Cc:** Larsen, Thurman; Johnson, Cheryl  
**Subject:** RE: cc list

Please copy Beck and Cheryl (see Cc) along with me. Regarding benzene levels I believe they were associated with turnaround but I will have Beck get back to you on that.

Thanks  
Ed

Ed Riege  
Environmental Manager

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**From:** VanHorn, Kristen, NMENV [<mailto:Kristen.VanHorn@state.nm.us>]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 13, 2011 11:11 AM  
**To:** Riege, Ed  
**Subject:** cc list

Ed,  
I wanted to check with you – who should be included in the cc: list on your end for memos we send out? Please let me know when you get a chance.

On another note, have you all figured out what was going on with the benzene levels this past week? Did something happen with the EQ tank or the strippers?

**Kristen Van Horn**  
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