


MEMO TO : Storage Vessel Owner/Operators and Interested Parties

FROM : James L. Semerad 
Director
Division of Air Quality

RE : Temporary Crude Oil Storage Vessels

DATE : May 7, 2020

Storage vessels at oil and gas non-production facilities are subject to control requirements established in North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) Subsection 33.1-15-07-02.1. A May 27, 2015 Department memorandum (attached) establishes when uncontrolled storage vessels at a non-production facility are considered to be minor sources which are not subject to the control requirements of NDAC Subsection 33.1-15-07-02.1.

The COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to a significant drop in crude oil prices; consequently, the need will likely arise for the installation/operation of temporary crude oil storage tanks.

Under the May 27, 2015 memorandum, storage vessels with maximum expected annual VOC emissions of less than 2 tons/year are not required to control emissions and are not to be included when calculating emissions from uncontrolled storage vessels at a facility for purposes of the policy. However, the policy was developed for facilities with permanent storage vessels and was not meant to apply to facilities with small, temporary (and possibly numerous) vessels at the facility.

Considering the above, uncontrolled temporary crude oil storage vessels at a facility are considered to be minor sources which are not subject to the control requirements of the above subsection if combined maximum expected annual emissions from all uncontrolled temporary crude oil storage vessels at the facility are less than 40 tons/year of VOCs. Note that VOC emissions from all temporary crude oil storage vessels (regardless of the level of emissions) are to be included when calculating storage vessel emissions for purposes of this policy.

Note that this policy is a temporary policy developed in response to a unique situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic and only applies to controls required under NDAC 33.1-15-07-02.1. This policy does not affect other requirements of NDAC 33.1-15 including, but not limited to, NDAC 33.1-15-02 (Ambient Air Quality Standards), 33.1-15-12 (New Source Performance Standards) and NDAC 33.1-15-20 (Control of Emissions from Oil and Gas Well Production Facilities).

Any questions regarding this policy can be directed to Craig Thorstenson at 701-328-5198 or at cthorstenson@nd.gov.

JLS/CDT:saj



MEMO TO : Storage Vessel Owner/Operators and Interested Parties

FROM : Terry L. O'Clair, P.E.
Director
Division of Air Quality *TLO*

RE : Storage Vessels at Oil and Gas Non-Production Facilities

DATE : May 27, 2015

Storage vessels located at oil and gas production facilities are currently subject to requirements established by the Department's Bakken Pool Oil and Gas Production Facilities Air Pollution Control Permitting & Compliance Guidance (Bakken Guidance). Storage vessels located at non-production facilities are not subject to the Bakken Guidance; however, emissions from the storage vessels remain subject to Chapter 33-15-07 of the North Dakota Air Pollution Control Rules. Subsection 33-15-07-02.1 of the rules states as follows:

No person may cause or permit the emission of organic compounds gases and vapors, except from an emergency vapor blowdown system or emergency relief system, unless these gases and vapors are burned by flares, or an equally effective control device as approved by the department. Minor sources, as determined by the department and not subject to New Source Performance Standards (NSPS), may be granted exemptions to this subsection.

Emissions from a storage vessel at a non-production facility are considered to be adequately controlled for purposes of compliance with the above-referenced subsection if emissions are controlled by a flare, floating roof, vapor recovery unit or equally effective control device.

A storage vessel is considered to be uncontrolled if emissions are not controlled by a flare, floating roof, vapor recovery unit or equally effective control device. Uncontrolled storage vessels at a non-production facility are considered to be minor sources which are not subject to the control requirements of the above subsection if both of the following conditions are met:

- 1) Maximum expected annual emissions from each uncontrolled storage vessel are less than 6 tons/year of volatile organic compounds (VOCs); **and**
- 2) Combined maximum expected annual emissions from all uncontrolled storage vessels at the facility are less than 20 tons/year of VOCs.

Storage vessels with maximum expected annual VOC emissions of less than 2 tons/year are not required to control emissions under this policy and are not to be included when calculating emissions from uncontrolled storage vessels at the facility for purposes of this policy.

To be considered adequately controlled for purposes of demonstrating compliance with the requirements of Subsection 33-15-07-02.1 of the rules, storage vessels at a facility must either be controlled in accordance with the requirements of this policy or a site-specific written determination must be obtained from the Department indicating that emissions from each storage vessel are adequately controlled.

All owner/operators required to install control equipment to comply with the requirements of Subsection 33-15-07-02.1 of the North Dakota Air Pollution Control Rules must have the required control equipment installed and operated by January 1, 2016. Failure to install required control equipment will subject the owner/operator of the facility to enforcement action.

Any questions regarding the above policy can be directed to Craig Thorstenson at 701-328-5188 or at cthorstenson@nd.gov.

CDT:saj