



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

Report:	Wendland 1H Well Fatal Explosion
Recommendation Number:	2020-04-I-TX-R1
Date Issued:	December 26, 2023
Recipient:	Chesapeake Operating L.L.C.
New Status:	Open – Awaiting Response or Evaluation/Approval of Response
Date of Status Change:	Not Applicable – Initial Status

Recommendation Text:

Develop or revise policies incorporating the recommendations of API RP 59 regarding well planning, specifically the inclusion of well history review in conjunction with workover well control planning.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

On January 29, 2020, the Daniel H. Wendland 1-H well (“Wendland 1-H well”) experienced a loss of well control that resulted in a blowout during the process of installing a new tubing head as part of a workover operation. Within seconds, the uncontrolled release oil and gas found an ignition source resulting in a flash fire that fatally injured three workers and seriously injured another. The incident also resulted in property damage estimated to be greater than \$1 million. The well was plugged and abandoned following the incident.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) investigated the incident and found several safety issues including inadequate well planning, insufficient industry guidance for well control for completed wells in underpressured reservoirs, and a lack of regulatory requirements for oil and gas well drilling and servicing operations. As a result of these findings, the CSB issued one recommendation to Chesapeake Operating L.L.C. This status change summary addresses **CSB Recommendation No. 2020-04-I-TX-R1**.