



## U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

### RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE

### SUMMARY

<b>Report:</b>	Aghorn Operating Inc. Waterflood Station Hydrogen Sulfide Release
<b>Recommendation Number:</b>	2020-01-I-TX-R7
<b>Date Issued:</b>	May 21, 2021
<b>Recipient:</b>	Aghorn Operating Inc.
<b>New Status:</b>	Open – Acceptable Response or Alternate Response
<b>Date of Status Change:</b>	September 19, 2025

#### Recommendation Text:

*For all waterflood stations where the potential exists to expose non-employees to H<sub>2</sub>S concentrations at or above 10 ppm, develop and implement a formal, written, site-specific security program to prevent unknown and unplanned entrance of those not employed by Aghorn, starting with a requirement for employees to lock access gates upon entering and departing the facility.*

#### Board Status Change Decision:

##### A. Rationale for Recommendation

On October 26, 2019, an Aghorn Operating Inc. (Aghorn) employee responded to a pump oil level alarm at Aghorn's Foster D waterflood station in Odessa, Texas. In response to the alarm the employee worked to isolate the pump. He closed the pump's discharge valve but only partially closed the pump's suction valve. At some point on the night of the incident, the pump automatically turned on and water containing hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S), a toxic gas, was discharged from the pump. The employee was fatally injured from his exposure to the H<sub>2</sub>S. Subsequently, the spouse of the employee gained access to the waterflood station and searched for her husband. During her search efforts, she was also exposed to the released H<sub>2</sub>S and was fatally injured.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) investigated the incident and found that the employee was not wearing his personal H<sub>2</sub>S detection device and there was no evidence that Aghorn management required the use of these devices. The CSB also found that at the time of the incident, Aghorn did not have any written Lockout/Tagout policies, procedures, or associated training. As a result of these findings, the CSB issued seven recommendations to Aghorn. This status change summary addresses CSB Recommendation No. 2020-01-I-TX-R7.

##### B. Response to the Recommendation

Aghorn's initial and follow-up responses provided information that the recommendation was being implemented. Additionally, the information provided an acceptable timeline for completion of recommendation implementation.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

Based upon the information above, the Board voted to change the status of CSB Recommendation No. 2020-01-I-TX-R7 to: “Open – Acceptable Response or Alternate Response.”