



U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Memorandum

To: Board Members

From: Christopher M. Lyon *Christopher M. Lyon*
Acting General Counsel

Cc: Amanda Johnson
Adam Henson
Leadership Team

Subject: Board Action Report – Notation Item 2024-75

Date: May 22, 2024

On May 21, 2024, the Board approved Notation Item 2024-75, thereby designating Recommendation 2020-04-I-TX-R1, to Chesapeake Operating L.L.C., from the Wendland 1H Well Fatal Explosion investigation (2020-04-I-TX), with the status of Closed – Acceptable Action.

Voting Summary – Notation Item 2024-75

Disposition: APPROVED

Disposition date: May 21, 2024

	Approve	Disapprove	Calendar	Not Participating	Date
S. Johnson	X				5/21/2024
S. Owens	X				5/21/2024
C. Sandoval	X				5/21/2024



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:	Closed – Acceptable Action
Date of Status Change:	May 21, 2024

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.

B. Response to the Recommendation

Chesapeake notified the CSB that they implemented the recommendation by updating the company’s Well Control Standard and the procedure packet they issue to contractors performing well workovers. Upon review of the documentation provided, the CSB concluded that Chesapeake’s actions satisfy the requirements of the recommendation.

C. Board Analysis and Decision

Based upon the information above, the Board voted to change CSB Recommendation No. 2020-04-I-TX-R1 to: “Closed – Acceptable Action.”