



New Equipment Enhances Air Quality Monitoring and Leak Detection

TO: Industry Clients

BACKGROUND:

The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) has new equipment that protects air quality by monitoring ambient air and detecting potential sources of airborne contaminants related to oil and gas activities. This new equipment and related personnel training enhances the Commission's ability to safely detect potential hydrocarbon leaks, accurately assess oil and gas operations, and manage emergency responses quickly and effectively.

The new equipment includes the following:

1. **Portable MSA Altaire 5X methane gas detectors.** These detectors are used primarily for leak detection where methane (sweet gas) is processed. The units are equipped with data logging capability; the sensory features include one combustible gas sensor and one sulfur dioxide sensor. The detectors will allow operations personnel to safely assess for methane gas leakage, thereby determining the possibility of a flammability hazard. All operations engineering staff required to use the detection equipment have been provided with hazardous atmosphere detection and management training.
2. **FLIR GF300 Series infrared cameras.** These highly sophisticated cameras are designed for optical gas imaging via infrared spectrum. The units are capable of locating even small gas leaks in a wide variety of applications and will assist Commission personnel in accurately determining where hydrocarbon leakage is potentially occurring. All personnel required to use the cameras are fully trained and certified in Optical Gas Imaging (OGI).
3. **Mobile air quality monitoring trailer.** The trailer contains a suite of sensory equipment to measure air pollutants in parts per billion (ppb) concentrations. The mobile unit will assist Commission personnel in determining potential sources of airborne contaminants. The mobile unit will also be used for monitoring air quality in the event of oil and gas related emergencies or complaints related to petroleum-type odours.

The Commission also has new noise detection equipment to assist personnel in determining if noise levels related to oil and gas activities potentially exceed allowable thresholds. This noise detection equipment can be monitored remotely and is capable of collecting data for several days.

Should you have any questions regarding this Industry Bulletin, please contact:

Lance Ollenberger
Deputy Commissioner
Operations Engineering
BC Oil and Gas Commission
250-794-5237
Lance.Ollenberger@bcogc.ca