

ALARA Network (EAN) for Naturally Occurring Radioactive Material acronym EAN_{NORM}

Dresden workshop (November 20th to 22nd,2007)

2. Session: Experiences of Industries dealing with NORM

Experiences of the handling with NORM and dose control in German oil and gas industry

Presenter:

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Introduction

What I'd like to present today is a brief survey of:

- the history of oil and gas production in Germany
- the development of NORM generation and forecast of NORM "NORM Surveys"
- adopted measures to minimize exposures and the limiting factors



<u>1. Some History</u>

HC-Production - Some History





"Rock oil Production" from a "tar pit" in the year 1556 (copper engraving)

Exploration and Exploitation

- 1858 First exploration well for oil in Wietze, Lower Saxony (non productive well, tech. failure)
- 1876 Start of systematic oil production in Germany
- 1944 Start of natural gas production (gas field Bentheim)
- 1953 Start of systematic exploration for natural gas in Germany
- 1958 Groningen gas field discovery in the Netherlands
- 1961 First regional natural gas pipeline in Germany
- Since 1965 Systematic
 development of gas fields

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Rule of thump

Deep seated Fields / Older Fields = Higher NORM

Situation in Germany: about 70 % of all known reserves were produced



Tail End Production = Maximum NORM - waste



2. "NORM Surveys"

Cognitions and Observations

Background NORM Survey

 Some time around 1980, the German oil and gas producing industry (E & P industry) awoke to the NORM problem, and in the years 1980 to 1985 first systematic NORM surveys were conducted by the E & P Industry.



 Water tanks, gun barrels, and flow lines for formation water and raw gas had highest readings

Production

EXTERNAL GAMMA RADIATION DOSE RATES OBSERVED IN SOME OIL PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING FACILITIES		
Location / Situation	Dose rate (µSv/h)	
Uppermost down hole tubing, safety valves (internal)	up to 60	
Wellheads, production manifold	up to 20	
Production lines (dried gas)	up to 0,3	
Production lines (raw gas)	0,5 - 13	
Separator (FWKO), absorber, formation water tank and formation water flow line (scale, measured internal / opened System)	up to 120	
Separator (FWKO), absorber, formation water tank and formation water flow line (scale, measured external of the systems) (for example: see next page)	up to 15	
Water outlets	up to 4	

"External" Dose Reading/ Showcase Example





NORM pathways into E & P waste

 NORM primarily accumulates in E & P waste when Radium is dissolved and carried to surface by produced water
 → formation waters / salt waters contain soluted salts with naturally occurring radioactivity

Therefore, (we all know it): <u>All</u> "mineral/spring" waters are radioactive

- Radium is concentrated in scale and sludge when precipitated with Ba-, Sr-, or Ca-SO₄
- Lead reacts with the steel of the production tubing
- NORM also accumulates in gas processing facilities and gas transportation systems when radon decays to Lead-210 (These minor Lead scales represent no radiation problem)

Production

Radioactivity - Scales







Neglecting the influence of the sulphate content for the formation of scales, a high risk for the occurrence of production residuals requiring a hazardous material transport (class 7 classification) is in general present, when the water-cut within the produced gas enhance a value of > 250 cm³/m³. (For details see showcase, next page)

<u>NOTE:</u> In general the content of vessels will be completely removed after abandonment of well, only. Therefore, the sludges removed from a vessel reflect the <u>whole</u> production history of a well in most cases.

Example: Relations between water-cut, salinity and

the specific activities of production residuals



TIME (about 30 yrs.)

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<u>3. Adopted Measures for Exposure</u> <u>Minimization</u>

Requirements

The entrepreneur has to guarantee for flawless and sound operation. The legal requirements of health and radiation protection in this context require the compliance of ALARA principles, as far as appropriate.

Therefore, the E & P Industry established a series of procedures to guaranty these minimization concept.

SITUATION:

- Crude oil and natural gas production systems are "closed systems"
- Production sites are "unmanned"

Exposure vs. NORM occurred while production facilities were maintained, cleaned or decommissioned, Especially when production residuals were packed and conditioned for disposal (these requirements are the limiting factors! best practices available?)

<u>The exposure vs. direct γ – radiation is generally low.</u>

The major health risks are:

- the inhalation / incorporation of particles containing NORM and
- the inhalation of radon gas while opening systems or containers containing NORM-waste

To protect public health, safety and environment, the oil & gas producing industry developed a system of procedures for:

- the prediction of the occurrence of NORM (Register / Kat aster)
- the identification of NORM contaminated equipment
- dust free operations for clean up and decommissioning
- decontamination
- transport and storage
- sound disposal of oil and gas NORM

and sets worker protection standards



Example: Procedure to predict NORM



- NORM contaminated equipment, containers, boxes containing NORM must be identified and signed with placards, "NORM" tags or by markings with paint or ink
- Out-of-service contaminated equipment removed from its prior interconnected status, shall be identified individually or as bundled or containerized package group
- Radiation survey instruments shall be calibrated, appropriate and operable

Worker Protection / Radioactivity Control Fundamentals

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Work instruction, W.E.G. Guideline, Radiation Protection Ordinance

Work Instruction M-....

ExconMob Produ	ction	betriebliche Anweisung Nr.: 114	erstellt am : geändert am : Ablage :	13.07.88 Mi/Oe/Sch 11.09.97 Mei/Bi 39-10-01
Personenkreis:	Alle BEB	-Nitarbeiter/Auftra	prehmermitarbeiter	
Geitungsbereich:	Handhab Bereich i Statione	lung v. Stoffen nied der Sonden, Gastroo n	öriger spezifischer Akt cknungsanlagen, Aufb	ivität 0,5 Bq/g - 500 Bq/g im ereitungsanlagen, Leitungen un
Anweisung über die H	andhabun	g von Stoffen nied	riger spezifischer Al	tivität
Aufgaben:				
1. Handhabung vor 2. Anwendung der	n Stoffen m erfordertict	iedriger specifische hen Schutzmaßnahr	r Aktivität men.	
Auflagen und Bestime	nungen:			
Strahlenschutzverordnu einzusehen.	ng ist bei	den Strahlenschutzt	beauftragten und im I	Betriebsbüro Unterlüß
Messungen/Freigaben				
Vor der Handhabung de einen Strahlenschutzbe protokolžieren. Bei ein durchzuführenden Schu freizugeben.	er Stoffe in sauftragten en Meßwer rtzmaßnah	den v. g. Bereiche oder einen besond t größer doppelter men durch einen St	n, ist grundsätzlich ei iers benannten Meßbe Umgebungswert ist di rahlenschutzbeauftrag	ine Dosisleistungsmessung durch auftragten vorzunehmen und zu ie Arbeit mit Festlogung der gten über das Meßprotokoli
Handhabung von Stof	fen niedrig	per spezifischer Al	ktivität:	
 Der Arbeitsbereich i Arbeitsbereich darf 	ist durch Al nur mit en	bspermaßnahmen (tsprechender Schut)	pegen unbefugtes Bet zausrüstung betreten	reten zu sichern. Der werden.
 Es sind Maßnahmen Auffangwannen- un 	zur Verme d einer Bei	idung von Platzven lastung der Umwelt	unreinigungen -z. B. I durchzuführen.	folie mit Aufkantung,
- Beim Umgang mit S	toffen Stav	ubentwicklung verm	eiden (Naßreinigung)	
 Die v. g. Staffe sind Entsorgung durch 8 	t in geeign E8 zuzufüh	eten und zugelæse wen.	nen Behältern getrenr	nt zu sammeln und einer
Schutzmaßnahmen:				
 Gummischutzanzug -z. B. Aufsicht- Ein 	, Gummisti malaneug).	efel und Gummihan	dschuhe (im Ausnahm	iefall
- Atemschutz (Atems	chutzmask	e mit Hg-Kombinati	ionsfilter o. Prefilultat	mer). Die Atemschutzfüter sind

W.E.G. Guideline "Radioaktive Ablagerungen niedriger spezifischer Aktivität"

With the second secon

W.E.G = Marketing Board of the E & P Industry

(Radiation Protection Ordinance) "Body of Law"

Verordnung über den Schutz vor Schäden durch ionisierende Strahlen (Strahlenschutzverordnung - StrlSchV)

> in der Bekanstmachung der Hendessung vom 30. Juni 1989 (BGBL I 5. 1321) Ettel: 751-5-1

Ceander! durity

Stand 31. Depender 1998

- Benchtigung der Zweiten Verontnung zur Anderung der Strahlenschutzverordnung und Neufessung der Strahlenschutzverordnung vom 16. Oktober 1989 (SOBI I S. 1905)
- Versidning zur Erichtung eines Bhuhlenschutzregisters (Bhahtenschutzregisterverschung) vom 3. April 1990 (BOBIL 15. 607)
- 3. Antage I, Kapitel XII, Sachgebiel B, Abschrift II Nr. 2 Vertrag 105-3 vom 31.06.1990 (BOBI. II, S. 889, 1116)
- 4. Sechstes Überleitungsgesetz vom 23. September 1990 (BOBI, I S. 2106) (BOBI, III 751-1-1)
- 5. Dritte Verordnung zur Änderung der Strahlemschutzverondnung vom 30. Juli 1993 (BOBI. I. S. 1402)
- Gesetz zur Neuordnung des Eisenbahnweisens (Eisenbahnneuerdnungsgesetz Elseu000) vom 27. Dezember 1990 (8008. 1.6. 2379, 2413)
- Gesetz über die Neuordnung zentraller Einrichtungen des Gesundheitseersens (Dezundheitseinrichtungen Neuordnungs-Gesetz - GPG) vom 24. Juni 1994 (800), I S. 1416, 1422)
- Einundowiligetes Stafrachtsänderungsgesetz Zweites Gesetz zur Bekämptung der Umweltkriminaltet -(31. Stafund) - 2. UKG vom 27. Juni 1994 (BOBI: 18. 1440, 1444)
- 8. Gesetz über Medizingrodukte (Medizingroduktegesetz MPG) vom 2. August 1984 (BGBL I 5. 1983, 1981)
- Vanotnung zur Änderung der Drahlenschutzveroritnung und der Röntgerverontnung vom 25. Juli 1986 (IRGBI. I.B. 1172)
- 11. Vierte Verontnung zur Änderung der Strahlenschutzverontnung vom 18. August 1997 (BGBI. I S. 2113)

Worker Protection / Radioactivity Control

Work Instruction

Handling:



Cordon off the workplace (and all areas where radioactive materials are stored)

Step into work area wearing adequate PPE, only

Take measures for the avoidance of place dirtying (Folio, dirt sump)



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- Clean workplace after finishing working,

- Clean tools and PPE at workplace from contaminations, if possible

> If cleaning at workplace is not possible: Transport of contaminated tools and PPE within certificated containments to the next washing /de-contaminating place.

After cleaning / de-contamination: Quality check of decontamination.

Work Instruction Handling:

Worker Protection / Radioactivity Control







Worker Protection / Radioactivity Control

Work Instruction Human Factors:

On the whole:



Within working area <u>Eating</u> und <u>Drinking</u> is not allowed



<u>No Smoking</u>



Changing contaminated work wear (not the Personal Protection Clothing) as fast as possible (includes shoes).



For employees with open wounds the handling of NORM is not allowed.

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Production



Thank you for listening so attentively



Any Questions?