

Meeting Minutes MRC Oversight Committee

 **Date:** 3/28/2024

 **Start:** 10:04 AM

 **End:** 10:26 AM

Information about the Oversight Committee including agendas, meeting minutes, recordings, etc., can be found at <https://cchealth.org/hazmat/mrc/>

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Nicole Heath at 10:04 AM.

II. OPEN ISSUES

a. Status update on Incident Investigation and Safety Culture Review

Update provided by Scott Berger and Associates (Consultant conducting the independent investigation and safety culture review). Scott Berger stated that the Incident Investigation first draft report had been provided to the oversight committee for review. A total of 81 comments were received on the first draft report, which helped Scott Berger improve the report. A second draft of the report has been sent over to MRC for a two-day review for confidential business information. This review should be completed shortly.

Regarding the Safety Culture Review, onsite meetings occurred with MRC on 03/04-03/06. A close-out meeting was conducted on the afternoon of 3/18. During the onsite portion of the safety culture review Scott Berger and Associates were looking to understand the leadership processes that MRC uses to drive the process safety management system and establish a process safety culture. They found that MRC has quite a few of the leadership processes and attributes that are needed to drive a strong process safety culture. For example, management systems for pressure integrity equipment, emergency management and training for emergency response, and overall process for reviewing the management system elements were all found to be strong processes. A few improvement areas were identified however they are still working to describe these areas before presenting them. They are hoping to have a draft of their findings available to review by mid-April.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Next Steps

Nicole Heath stated that for the incident investigation report the next steps after the report has been reviewed by MRC a 45-day public notice period will begin. The public will be able to comment on this report via written comment or email provided to the Contra Costa Hazmat Division. Every comment on the report will be responded to, and any necessary changes will be made to the report. All comments received and responses will be appended to the report.

For the Safety Culture Review, once the draft report has been received from Scott Berger the Oversight Committee will have the opportunity to comment on the report. A meeting will be held for Scott and his team to report out their findings. A draft report of this report will be made available in advance of the meeting so that the public can review the report in advance of the meeting. After the oversight committee has provided comments and these comments have been addressed, the final draft will receive a public notice similar to the public notice for the Risk Assessment and Incident Investigation.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

2-minute public comment period. A total of three comments were received. The following are summaries of the comments, please follow the link at the bottom of this document to listen to the complete comments.

First comment: 3 questions: (1) Did the independent investigation include opening up the FCC to inspect the condition of the slide valves?, (2) Was the most recent inspection of the slide valves reviewed and were the results of that inspection reviewed?, (3) During any inspection of the facility did the county review any inspection findings of the unit slide valves?

Response to public comment –

Tim Muldowney (Scott Berger and Associates) stated that reviewing the data from the incident they did not find any indication that the slide valves were related to the incident that occurred. As such, they did not determine that there was any need to inspect those valves. Scott Berger added that the slide valve was replaced in the 2018 turnaround and would not be inspected again until the next turnaround in 2025, at which point it would be replaced.

Regarding third question: Per Contra Costa Hazmat Division audits and conversations with facility, the slide valves were overhauled as part of the 2018 turnaround for the Fluid Catalytic Cracking (FCC) unit. These valves are known as the Regenerator and Stripper slide valves. The overhaul process involved: replacing the internal components, resurfacing the flanges, and installing new packing and stems. The final as/left clearances were measured at three distinct positions following the reassembly to ensure proper operability.

Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Program reviewed the operator shift rounds and confirmed they collect pressure readings from both slide valve actuators. The slide valves are hydraulically actuated, confirming the pressure correlated to the valve position is essential to safe operation.

Per follow-up interview with PBF subject matter expert, Contra Costa Health Hazardous Materials Program confirmed the valves were also subject to conditional monitoring, a strategy aimed at detecting early signs of potential issues. This approach involves periodic inspections that could prompt corrective maintenance based on trends. For the slide valves in question, part of this condition monitoring involves conducting thermography surveys to identify any hot spots on the valves. These hot spots can indicate a compromise in the valves' refractory lining, which is designed to protect against high temperatures and ensure the valves' integrity.

Second Comment: Wanted to know if the information about the 2018 turnaround could be provided and what was actually done?

Response to question: CCH Hazmat as part of the audit scope looks at the management system surrounding turnarounds, including deferred work. For details on the overall system that manages this please see the 2024 audit report. See additional information in previous response for turnaround work related to the slide valves within the unit.

Third Comment: When will these answers be provided?

Response to question: Nicole Heath stated that we will incorporate these answers into the meeting minutes for this meeting (generally posted within a week of the meeting date).

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:26 AM

For the full discussion, please see the recording of this meeting at <https://youtu.be/D6RCr3DBKcc>