Update on Implementation of Rule 1148.2 (June 2014)

Background

Rule 1148.2 – Notification and Reporting Requirements for Oil and Gas Wells and Chemical Suppliers was adopted on April 5, 2013. The purpose of Rule 1148.2 is to gather air quality-related information on oil and gas well drilling, well completion, and well reworks. This is a summary of data analysis SCAQMD staff performed during June 2014.

Summary of Well Activities (Notifications)

Rule 1148.2 requires facilities to notify the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) if they are conducting drilling, acidizing, gravel packing, or hydraulic fracturing operations. In June 2014, the SCAQMD has received 59 notifications representing 68 drilling, acidizing, gravel packing or hydraulic fracturing activities (there can be multiple activities on a notification, for example one notification may cover well drilling and acidizing activities). Figure 1 shows the distribution by the type of activity and Table 1 provides information on numbers and types of events reported for June 2014.



Figure 1. Distribution of Well Activities in June 2014 (Total of 68 activities).

		June	July	Aug	Oct	Nov	Sep	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	
Well Activity		2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2013	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	2014	Total
WELL															
DRILLING															
	Drilling – Vertical	2	14	13	6	9	11	11	7	5	10	11	11	8	118
	Drilling - Horizontal	8	4	5	2	0	3	2	1	10	6	9	7	13	70
	Drilling - Unspecified	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
WELL															
REWORK and															
WELL															
COMPLETION															
	Acidizing ¹	15	24	41	37	34	26	33	24	20	16				270
	Maintenance											23	17	26	
	Acidizing														66
	Matrix Acidizing ¹											1	0	0	1
	Gravel Packing	11	15	18	7	8	13	15	11	14	15	17	13	21	178
	Hydraulic Fracturing	1	6	2	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
	Other ²	2	3	0	1	1	0	1	3	2	6	7	2	0	28
Grand Total for al	l Activities														747

Table 1: Monthly Summary of Notifications for Well Activity EventsJune 2013 through June 2014

¹ Distinction between Matrix and Maintenance Acidizing began April 2, 201

²Other category includes cement squeeze, perforation, redrill, replacement of lining and tubing, acid wash without stimulation

All but one notifications submitted during June 2014, were for oil wells. Only one gas horizontal well drilling activity was reported by the Southern California Gas Company. Reported Activities took place in the City of Los Angeles, Ladera Heights, Wilmington, Long Beach coastal areas near the port, Porter Ranch and Huntington Beach. Table 2 lists operators who submitted notifications in June 2014.

Operator Name	Number of Notifications
ABC	1
E&B Natural Resources	2
Freeport McMoran Oil and Gas	12
OXY	4
Southern California Gas Company	1
Thums Long Beach Company	18
Tidelands Oil Production Company	25
Warren E&P, Inc.	5

Table 2. Operators Submitting Notifications in June 2014

Equipment

Rule 1148.2 requires facilities to report the combustion equipment used during various operations for oil extraction. Reporting requirements include information on the type of engine, engine tier, and hours of operation for each engine used at the job site. During the month of June, SCAQMD staff performed analysis and calculated emissions based on the engine reporting information.

Based on engine tier and hours of operation, emissions can be estimated. Table 3 below presents estimates for NOx and particulate matter (PM) emissions for each type of well activity. Average emissions reported in Table 3 are based on reports submitted from June 2013 through June 2014.

Well Activity	NOx (Ibs/day)	PM (lbs/day)			
Drilling	7.5	3.8			
Acidizing	0.5	0.4			
Gravel Packing	1.6	5.0			
Hydraulic Fracturing	8.4	0.6			

Table 3. Estimates of Average Emissions per Type of Activity^{*}

*Operators allowed up to 60 days after completion of the event to submit engine use information.

Fluids Usage

Under Rule 1148.2 operators are required to submit fluids usage information. In the month of June, SCAQMD staff analyzed data submitted for fluids usage for the entire reporting period (since June 2013). Hydraulic fracturing uses the most fluids by far. Figure 2 and table 4 below provide graphical representation of fluids usage pertaining to oil extracting activities in the South Coast Air Basin and amounts of fluids used.



Average Fluids Usage (gallons per activity)

Figure 2. Distribution of fluids usage per type of activity.

Table 4. Total Fluids Usage (June 2013 through June 2014)^{*}

Well Activity	Number of Events reported fluids usage	Average Fluids Volume per Activity (gallons)		
Well Drilling ¹				
Horizontal	27	61,468		
Vertical	91	35,889		
Well Rework and Well Completion				
Acidizing ²	252	14,972		
Maintenance Acidizing ²	5	11,392		
Gravel Packing	47	24,604		
Hydraulic Fracturing	13	266,406		
Other (redrill)	5	47,378		

¹One unspecified drilling event reported use of 345 gallons of fluids used

² Distinction between different types of acidizing began April 2, 2014.

^{*}Operators allowed up to 60 days after completion of the event to submit fluids use information.

Treatment fluids are injected in the well bore during well stimulation and well rework techniques, such as hydraulic fracturing, acidizing, or gravel packing in order to enhance hydrocarbon recovery after well drilling operations. During the rulemaking for Rule 1148.2, it was the SCAQMD staff's understanding that in order to begin hydrocarbon recovery, these fluids are pumped-out and return to the surface. These returned fluids are referred to as flowback fluids [Schramm, 2011; Esswein et al., 2014]. Under the Rule 1148.2, operators have to report the volume of collected flowback fluids. Based on reports submitted to the SCAQMD for compliance with Rule 1148.2, SCAQMD staff noticed that in majority of operations no flowback fluids were reported. Local operators state that due to the nature of formation in the South Coast Air Basin, majority of acidizing treatment fluids remain in the well bore and are absorbed in the formation. In the coming months SCAQMD staff will observe well stimulation activities in the basin to verify that indeed no flowback fluids are being recovered.

Chemicals

Under Rule 1148.2 operators are required to submit chemical use data. Previous Rule 1148.2 reports have reported air toxics used in different well activities. Table 5 below outlines amounts of these key air toxics that were used in well operations in the South Coast Air Basin (June 2013 – June 2014), and Table 6 lists suppliers of chemicals used in well activities.

	Drilling	Acidizing	Gravel Packing	Hydraulic Fracturing	
Number of Events ¹	177	254	155	14	
Air Toxic	Average use per activity (lb)				
Crystalline Silica	1,943	7,240	42,883	86,947	
Ethylbenzene	Not used ²	209	Not used ²	Not used ²	
Ethylene Glycol	0.2	2.2	19	74	
Formaldehyde 0.2		<0.05	0.2	Not used ²	
Glutaral	212	Not used ²	221	Not used ²	
Hydrochloric Acid	Not used ²	3,461	Not used ²	Not used ²	
Hydrofluoric Acid	Not used ²	411	197	Not used ²	
Methanol	2	80	14	1,003	
Naphthalene	0.2	1	0.1	Not used ²	
Phosphoric Acid	125	Not used ²	Not used ²	Not used ²	
Sodium Hydroxide	Not used ²	0.05	21	58	
Toluene	Not used ²	27	Not used ²	Not used ²	
Xylene	Not used ²	109	Not used ²	Not used ²	

Table 5. Amounts of Key Air Toxics Used in Well Activities (From Non trade-secret Report Operator Reports)^{*}

¹ Number of events with chemical information reported. Under the provisions of the Rule 1148.2, operators have 60 days after the end of the activity to file the chemical report.

² "Not used" correspond to chemical not being reported for this type of activity.

*Operators allowed up to 60 days after completion of the event to submit fluids use information.

Primary Suppliers	Secondary Suppliers				
Aushburn Oil Well Cementing Company	Amber Chemical, Inc				
Baker Hughes	Borregard Lignotech				
Enterprise Drilling Fluids, Inc.	CESI Chemical, Inc.				
GEO Drilling Fluids Inc.	Champion Technologies				
Halliburton	CHEMEOR, INC.				
Heartland Energy Group	Fritz Industries, Inc.				
Lynn Operating, Inc.	GEO Specialty Chemicals, Inc.				
M-I Swacco	Heartland Energy				
MTS Stimulation Services, Inc.	Ibex Chemicals, Inc.				
Nalco	Impact Fluid Solutions, LLC				
Schulumberger	Lignotech USA, Inc.				
Sinclair Well Products and Services	Mayco Wellchem, Inc.				
Tetra Technologies, Inc.	NALCO				
South Bay Salt Works	Nalco Champion				
Warren E&P	Sekisui Specialty Chemicals				

Table 6. Chemical Suppliers (June 2013 – June 2014)

Next Steps

SCAQMD staff will continue to evaluate the data and provide monthly updates, and revise the data as necessary based on the review and audit of reported data. Staff will continue to evaluate the chemical reports looking at amounts of reported chemicals and chemicals used for each type of well activity. Staff will continue to conduct field inspections and sampling.

References

Esswein E.J., Snawder J., King B., Breitenstein M., Alexander-Scott M., Kiefer M., and Couch J. (2014), Case Study Evaluation of Some Potential Chemical Exposure Risks During Flowback Operations in Unconventional Oil and Gas Extraction: Preliminary Results, Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene, 11-10, October 2014, D174-D184.

Schramm E. (2011), What is flowback, and how does it differ from produced water, The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research for Northeastern Pennsylvania, Marcellus Shale Information Clearinghouse, http://energy.wilkes.edu/pages/205.asp.