Kansas Administrative Regulations

Kansas Corporation Commission

Article 3.—Production and Conservation of Oil and Gas

82-3-703. Surface construction requirements, appurtenances, vault and belowground construction, penalty.

This regulation shall apply in Kansas except for groundwater management districts #2 and #5. Each owner, operator, or person responsible for the construction of a cathodic protection borehole located in groundwater management district #2 or #5 shall be subject to K.A.R. 82-3-706 through K.A.R. 82-3-709. (a) All surface construction features of a cathodic protection borehole shall be designed to minimize physical damage to the installation, prevent entry of fluids and contaminants, and prevent unauthorized access.

(1) The operator shall equip the surface access to each borehole with a waterproof cap, cover, or equivalent housing.

(2) At the land surface contact, the cathodic surface casing or vault cover shall be designed to deter unauthorized access.

(b) Vent pipes shall remove gases from the borehole and shall terminate at least one foot above the highest known flood elevation and at least three feet above land surface.

(c) The aboveground terminus end of the vent pipe shall be turned 180 degrees and equipped at the terminus end with a 16-mesh or greater brass, bronze, or copper screen or other metallic material with similar hardness if that material is approved by the director of the conservation division.

(d) Gases shall not be vented or released if the release is a hazard to public health and safety or the environment.

(e) The top of the cathodic surface casing shall terminate at least three feet above land surface, except as set forth in subsections (f) and (g).

(f) If the top of the cathodic surface casing terminates below land surface in a vault, the following construction features shall be required:

(1) The operator shall install a water-resistant and structurally sound vault to house the top of the cathodic surface casing.

(2) The vault and the cover or lid shall be strong enough to support vehicular traffic where this traffic could occur.

(3) The operator shall set the top of the vault so that surface fluids are directed away from the vault.

(4) The cathodic surface casing shall contact the vault to form a water-resistant and structurally sound seal and connection.

(g) If the borehole and cathodic surface casing are grouted, the operator shall place grout at least five feet below the bottom of the cathodic surface casing, with grout extending into the cathodic surface casing at least 10 feet in total thickness.

(h) Cathodic surface casing installations that terminate and are buried below land surface shall meet the same water resistance and structural integrity requirements as those for vaulted-type construction described in subsection (f) of this regulation.

(i) The operator shall mark all aboveground installations with the commission borehole permit number, which shall be protected from possible damage and shall be easily visible.

(j) Exceptions to this regulation may be granted by the director of the conservation division upon written request. Each operator requesting an exception shall be required to demonstrate that the requested exception provides an equivalent or greater level of protection to public health and the environment.

(k) Each failure to construct the surface installation in accordance with this regulation shall be punishable by a penalty of up to $500.

(Authorized by K.S.A. 55-152; implementing K.S.A. 55-152 and K.S.A. 2003 Supp. 55-164; effective Oct. 25, 1996; amended, T-82-1-21-04, Jan. 21, 2004; amended May 14, 2004.)