

On Monday, June 28, 2021, at 4:44 PM, Railroad Commission of Texas (RRC) statewide on-call inspector, Jonathan Saucedo received notification from an Atmos Energy representative of a pipeline related incident in the Farmersville area of Collin County, Texas. At 4:50 PM, Mr. Saucedo notified RRC inspector, Kevin Colteryahn of the incident. At 5:03 PM, Mr. Colteryahn started attempting to contact Atmos and RRC representatives. At 5:10 PM, Mr. Colteryahn received a return call from Atmos representative, Bill Brooks. Preliminary information received from Mr. Brooks indicated that an incident occurred at a pipeline station outside Farmersville resulting in two fatalities, two hospitalizations, and one uninjured. Atmos employees and contractors were conducting a pigging project on the Atmos Pipeline 24-inch D17 pipeline. The project involved launching a 24-inch cleaning pig from the D17/D17-9 station pushing the pig south toward Rockwall.

At 5:50 PM, Mr. Colteryahn was en route to incident scene and received a phone call from the Collin County Sheriff Department. Information from the Sheriff Department indicated that at 3:35 PM, the Department received a report from Atmos Energy stating a flash of gas exploded causing injuries and nothing was on fire. The Department responded to the scene and site was secured by Department Deputy Fontana. At 6:18 PM, Mr. Colteryahn arrive on-site and contacted RRC inspector, Brad Cox, who had arrived earlier. Upon arrival, Mr. Colteryahn found the site secured by the Collin County Sheriff Department with the exception of two deputies, all personnel were outside the station fencing. Atmos technician, Tom Cox, conducted a leak survey of site with RMLD survey instrument. The instrument only alerted to some small indications of gas on station piping across the location from incident. The preliminary site review by Mr. Colteryahn found that the bodies of the two deceased victims had been covered with tarps to protect from a rainstorm that had passed through after incident. The door to pig launcher was closed, it was later stated that Atmos personnel closed door after incident and finding gas odors escaping from the launcher. Aside from the launcher door, all other equipment on-site appeared to remain undisturbed after the incident. A later follow-up leak survey of the station found small indications of gas on the same station piping and also indicated gas coming from the top of flare stack utilized during pigging project. The site remained undisturbed and secured by Collin County deputies until the bodies were removed by the Collin County Coroner personnel. A 3-D scan of the site was attempted by the Sheriff Department and was unsuccessful with the current weather conditions. A third-party site security firm was obtained to secure site for the duration of investigation. At 9:48 PM, a leak survey of the site was conducted, afterward, the site secured for the night. After departing site, Brad Cox and Tom Cox went to a meter riser on the D17 pipeline at aerial marker 35 on County Road 574, Blue Ridge, Texas to conduct an odorant test. Odorant test concluded a threshold of 0.33% gas to air mixture and a readily detectable of 0.75% gas to air mixture.

Investigation to resume on Tuesday, June 29, 2021.

Date	Time	Event
28-Jun-21	3:35 PM	Atmos Energy representative called 911.
28-Jun-21	4:44 PM	Atmos Energy representative made notification to RRC.
28-Jun-21	4:50 PM	RRC inspector Kevin Colteryahn received phone call notification of pipeline incident in Collin County from statewide on-call inspector, Jonathan Saucedo.

28-Jun-21	5:03 PM	RRC inspector Kevin Colteryahn attempted to call Atmos Energy representative Bill Brooks.
28-Jun-21	5:04 PM	RRC inspector Kevin Colteryahn contacted RRC regional manager Jim Collins.
28-Jun-21	5:08 PM	RRC inspector Kevin Colteryahn contacted RRC regional lead Brad Cox.
28-Jun-21	5:10 PM	RRC inspector Kevin Colteryahn received a return call from Atmos Energy representative Bill Brooks and gathered preliminary information.
28-Jun-21	5:13 PM	RRC inspector Kevin Colteryahn contacted RRC regional lead Brad Cox to provide additional information.
28-Jun-21	5:13 PM	RRC statewide on-call inspector Jonathan Saucedo notified RRC accident coordinator of incident.
28-Jun-21	5:17 PM	RRC inspector Kevin Colteryahn contacted RRC inspector trainee Gary Cummings and left voicemail.
28-Jun-21	5:20 PM	RRC inspector Kevin Colteryahn received return call from RRC regional lead Brad Cox.
28-Jun-21	5:26 PM	RRC inspector Kevin Colteryahn contacted RRC regional manager Jim Collins and provided preliminary update.
28-Jun-21	5:50 PM	RRC inspector Kevin Colteryahn received call from Collin County Sheriff Dept.
28-Jun-21	6:07 PM	RRC inspector Kevin Colteryahn received call from RRC accident coordinator Michael Sheilds.
28-Jun-21	6:14 PM	RRC inspector Kevin Colteryahn received call from FBI Bomb Technician Rob Kocher.
28-Jun-21	6:18 PM	RRC inspector Kevin Colteryahn arrived on-site and contacted RRC regional lead Brad Cox also on-site. Atmos Energy leak technician, Tom Cox conducts leakage survey of site with RMLD survey instrument.
28-Jun-21	9:48 PM	Leakage survey completed and site secured for night.
29-Jun-21	8:05 AM	RRC inspector Brad Cox returned to incident and on-site.
29-Jun-21	9:43 AM	RRC inspector Kevin Colteryahn returned to incident and on-site.
29-Jun-21		OSHA investigators arrive on-site.
29-Jun-21	11:18 AM	Two PHMSA investigators arrive on-site.
29-Jun-21	11:46 AM	RRC inspector Kevin Colteryahn contacted NTSB Division Chief, Sean Lynum to verify that OSHA could enter site for pictures only.
29-Jun-21	12:04 PM	Atmos Energy representatives conducted a tailgate safety meeting before investigators entered site.
29-Jun-21	12:50 PM	RRC inspector Kevin Colteryahn enters site with OSHA investigators for pictures.
29-Jun-21	1:36 PM	OSHA investigators and RRC inspector Kevin Colteryahn exit the site and site secured.
29-Jun-21	3:09 PM	NTSB investigator Stephen Jenner arrives on-site.

From: [Kevin Colteryahn](#)
To: [Gunaratnam Rachael](#)
Subject: RE: NTSB request on June 28, 2021 gas test results
Date: Friday, December 10, 2021 11:22:50 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

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Good Morning Rachael,

The leak surveys conducted by Atmos Technician, Tom Cox, were being conducted for the purpose of assessing the safety of the site for access to conduct incident response and investigation activities. The indications were deemed non-hazardous and not recorded. Atmos Leak Survey Technicians remained on-site monitoring the atmospheric conditions while anyone was inside the station. The CGI instrument did not indicate any gas leaks when used to evaluate the general area. The RMLD pin pointed two small gas leaks on the D17-9 regulator equipment on the northern side of the station. The CGI was then utilized to further evaluate those leaks. The height of the flare stack and air flow in the atmosphere may have inhibited the detection of gas escaping the flare stack during the initial survey of the station with the RMLD. The indication of gas escaping from the flare stack came during a second survey of the station, later that evening.

Hope this helps and answers your question. Let me know if you need additional information. I could work up a general drawing if you need one.



Kevin Colteryahn
Pipeline Safety Inspector | Oversight and Safety Division
Railroad Commission of Texas



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From: Gunaratnam Rachael [redacted] >
Sent: Thursday, December 9, 2021 2:38 PM
To: Kevin Colteryahn [redacted] >
Subject: NTSB request on June 28, 2021 gas test results

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Kevin,

When Atmos was doing a leak survey on June 28 in Farmersville, I understand they were doing this under the supervision of the RRC. Do you have a sketch or test results from the RMDL and CGI that they used? I understand there were two gas indications from the RMLD and none from the CGI.

Thank you,

Rachael Gunaratnam

Hazardous Materials Accident Investigator
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