

COMPRESSOR STATION HAZARDS

The possibilities for health, safety or environmental harm resulting from natural gas compressor stations are many and serious.

Some of these include: **Explosions fires leaks and spills.....**

plus fugitive emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and nitrogen oxides (NOx), as well as other potential exposure threats, such as radon 222 and lead.

EMISSIONS

While all of these hazards have been well documented nationwide the most prevalent is the intentional (routine) “blow-downs”. Accidental releases of VOCs and NOx also occur. **But all possible threats need to be considered when allowing compressor stations to operate....especially in close proximity to:**

**homes, work places, playgrounds,
schools, water resources & farms**

The types of VOCs and NOx commonly emitted include:

Formaldehyde, benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene,
xylene, hydrogen disulfide, carbon monoxide(CO),
carbon dioxide (CO2), sulfur dioxide (SO2), methane (CH4)....

and other compounds or elements that **are toxic, carcinogenic or neurotoxic, and which are prone to causing major adverse health effects in humans and animals.**

NOISE

Compressor stations are loud. “Blow-downs” can last from 20 minutes to 2-3 hours, from 12 - 40 x yr. The noise is comparable to a commercial jet taking off. They often occur in the middle of the night.

The sound of regular compressor station operation has been compared to four diesel locomotive engines running 24/7. Residents as far as a mile away can hear the racket. This humming can cause hearing impairment and cardiovascular problems.

*All data and statements on this page are from Mina Hamilton’s research in Madison County, NY- She is a Research Associate at Radioactive Waste Management Associates.

HEALTH IMPACTS

“Reported by People Living 50 feet to 2 miles from Compressor Stations and Metering Stations.” –from research by Wilma Subra, ex-Vice-chair of EPA National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology

http://www.earthworksaction.org/files/publications/SUBRA_3_Shale_Gas_Plays-health_Impacts_sm.pdf

Frequent Nausea*	Throat Irritation*	Eyes Burning*	Nasal Irritation*
Sinus Problems*	Bronchitis*	Persistent Cough	Weakness*
Tiredness*	Chronic Eye Irritation*	Shortness of Breath	Muscle Aches*
Dizziness*	ringing in Ears	Sores & Ulcers in Mouth	Urinary Infections
Depression*	Decreased Motor Skills*	Falling, Staggering*	Frequent Irritation*
Brain disorders*	Severe Headaches*	Frequent Nose Bleeds	Sleep Disturbances
Difficulty Concentrating	Joint Pain	Nervous System Impacts	Forgetfulness
Irregular/Rapid Heart Beat	Strokes	Allergies	Easy Bruising
Severe Anxiety*	Excessive Sweating	Abnormal EEG*	Spleen
Lump in Breast	Pre-Cancerous Lesions*	Amnesia	Thyroid Problems

*61% of Health Impacts Associated with Chemicals present in Excess of Short and Long Term Effects Screening Levels in the air.

Compressor Station Safety Record

Explosions & Fires at compressor stations are documented throughout the country.

From Mina Hamilton’s research for NY State (w/3 comp station explosions added)

Since 2011, there have been at 14 accidents - explosions and fires - at compressor stations in the following towns:

Lathrop, PA,	Brooklyn Township, PA,	Montrose, PA,
Branchville, NJ,	Langton, OK	Clinton, AK
Windsor, NY,	Pinedale, WY,	Nine Mile Canyon, UT
Marengo County, AL,	Oaktown, IN,	Crockett, Texas
Gray County, TX,	Bradford County, PA, among others.....	

Involving evacuations, hospitalizations and 1 fatality

NATURAL GAS PIPELINE SAFETY VIOLATIONS

An average of more than one “significant incident” per week has occurred along high-pressure gas transmission lines nationwide in the last 20 years - Pipeline & Hazardous Material Safety Administration

KINDER MORGAN’S PIPELINE SAFETY RECORD IS ABYSMAL !

Since 2003, Kinder Morgan has had at least “180 spills, fires, evacuations, explosions and fatalities in 24 states”- PHMSA

In 2011, PHMSA cited Kinder Morgan for these safety violation:

Failing to test pipeline safety devices,
Failing to inspect its pipelines as required,
Failing to adequately monitor pipes’ corrosion levels.

In 2013, the headline “Wall Street Worries About Kinder Morgan’s Safety Record”:

Pipeline operator slashes and defers maintenance spending-- was a concern to anyone who lived or worked near a Kinder Morgan pipeline.

The Wall Street Journal - “Is Kinder Morgan Scrimping on its Pipelines?” Deferred maintenance may account for the high number of Kinder Morgan pipeline accidents in the last decade.

PHMSA's incident reports for Kinder Morgan’s gas transmission pipelines shows:

45% were caused by faulty infrastructure

28.3% were caused by failure of the pipe, a cracked weld, and pipeline equipment,

16.8% were caused by corrosion

Kinder Morgan’s SEC 10-K filing:

“From time to time, despite our best efforts, our pipelines experience leaks and ruptures....

These leaks and ruptures may cause explosions, fire, and damage to the environment, damage to property and/or personal injury or death.”