



From the desk of Mark Lindholm, WRPS President and Project Manager:

Update on Vapor Monitoring and Detection System (VMDS) Equipment Selection

WRPS is nearing completion of pilot testing of multiple technologies in the A and AP tank farms for detecting and monitoring chemical vapors.

Technologies being evaluated include infrared cameras that can detect chemical vapors in work areas, portable area sensors equipped with multiple chemical sensors that can detect specific vapors, in-stack and area vapor detection equipment, and portable meteorological stations to monitor local weather conditions in work areas. Testing included integrating the equipment into existing tank-farm operations and industrial hygiene programs via wireless data streaming.

A primary goal of the pilot testing was determining which technologies could be used as part of an integrated system for gas monitoring, as a vapor-related predictive tool or for tank farm vapor characterization. A down-select strategy is categorizing the technologies as non-viable for the final VMDS, viable with engineering modifications and viable as currently configured.

Removal of some of the equipment has already begun. Non-viable equipment is being removed and dispositioned. Viable equipment that need engineering modifications is being removed and modified. Viable equipment is being left in place to gather additional information.

Opportunities for Employee Engagement

- An all-employee survey will be conducted beginning the week of July 17 by the Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU). ORAU is independently conducting the survey to collect worker feedback on strengths in our Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) and opportunities for improvement, including how we respond to and communicate information about emerging challenges and concerns, such as tank farms vapors.

All employees, including subcontractors, will have the opportunity to take the survey. Links to the ORAU survey interface will be sent to non-bargaining unit personnel, while union workers will have hard-copy surveys provided and collected by ORAU. Employees will receive a link to the survey directly from ORAU and representatives will be on site to administer hard-copy surveys.

The survey results will be used to pinpoint employee concerns and develop actions for improving WRPS' safety culture. The results of the survey will be published in September.

- The next full CVST meeting is Wednesday, July 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. at 2704-HV, Room G-206.

Mark

Have questions? Send us a message! wrpsadmin@rl.gov