

EPC Safety Subcommittee Minutes

Thursday, Oct 15, 2020 4:00 PM held via MS TEAMS Virtual Meeting

Anti-trust statement

“No activity of the Committee shall involve the exchange, collection or dissemination of information among competitors for the purpose of bringing about or attempting to bring about any understanding or agreement, written or oral, formal or informal, express or implied, among competitors with regard to costs, prices or pricing methods, terms or conditions of sale, distribution, production quotas or other limitations, on either the timing, or volume of production, or sales, or allocation of territories or customers.”

Safety Moment

Reviewed portable ladder safety tips from OSHA website:

https://www.osha.gov/Publications/portable_ladder_gc.html

New Subcommittee Member – Selma Kwok from ExxonMobil

Review of 2020 Session

Attendance statistics were reviewed from 2020 sessions. Overall, safety session presentations received above average attendance compared to other sessions.

Key Dates

Committee /Subcommittee meetings –

Mid-Nov TBD – placeholder to be sent for abstract submittal update

Dec 10

Feb 11

Conference Deadlines

- Condensed Timeline
- September 8 – Sessions & Session Chairs due in Confex
- September 11- Call of Abstracts opens
- November 20- Call for Abstracts closes
- December 13 - Accept or Reject
- January 15 - Draft Schedule Available
- January 18 - Technical Program Live

Date of Conference

April 18-22 Hotel Anatole, Dallas

Potential Papers for 2021 Conference – **Bold items have highest potential to be available.** Please solicit additional ideas within your companies!

- **Potential paper on Burner management or other safety items (Linde)**
 - Mark Ulrich from Linde attended in Vik's absence. Abstract submittal looks promising, currently circulating topic at Linde.
- **Furnace Reverse Flow Affecting Piping with lower MAWT (Eastman)**
 - Darryl Bitting commented that this appears to be moving forward, but still finalizing author.
- **Potential paper on Ethylene Decomp in small bore piping (ExxonMobil)**
 - Michael Smith commented that this is looking on track for abstract submittal by end of month. Paper will cover an actual event.
- **Furnace Overtemperature Incident (Chevron Phillips)**
 - AJ Armer commented that this is moving forward. Focus is on practices to prevent damage to TLEs. Based on actual event.
- **Salt Dome Storage Ethylene Regen System – Change of Heating Medium (Eastman)**
 - Darryl Bitting commented that this is going forward for submittal. Topic will compare safety implications of different heating mediums, use of convection furnace.
- **(New) Demethanizer Auto-Refrigeration/Brittle Fracture Near Miss and Fitness for Service Analysis (Lyondellbasell)**
 - Norman Wilhelm brought a new potential paper to the team. Topic is on an actual near miss event and subsequent analysis to determine fitness for service. Working to get author commitment and submit abstract.
- Potential Tutorial – Popcorn Polymer Potential Separate Session (ExxonMobil/Others)
 - No update this meeting. Michael Smith Still looking for potential author/presenter.
- Exothermic Runaway in Reactor Feed Heater (Sasol) (Abstract submitted for 2020)
 - Jeff Nichols was not able to attend meeting, but sent email stating that this is still being pursued but may have hurdle with approval given new JV management at site.
- Detonations at Ground Flare (NOVA Geismar?/Sasol?/Joint?)
 - Not at a point to be able to do paper. This topic has high interest, but will go on back-burner.
- Shell – suggested a topic on vaporizing LPG for use in inventorying equipment to avoid low temperature brittle fractures. ExxonMobil also interested in participating.
 - No real traction on this topic yet, but wide interest. Shell and XOM will set up meeting to discuss subject content and will update the team. Might also include general cold safety topics.
- Paper on Underground Cooling Water failure – was previously presented at EEPC. This failure was right next to Gasoline Fractionator. Norm Wilhelm to check again whether this is available.
 - No author available on this topic. Will no longer update on this item.
- Reach out to CSB on investigations to recent incidents. Would like to get paper on TPC Incident.
 - Jake Berret reached out to Lauren Grim at CSB. Lauren has commented that TPC investigation will likely conclude in summer of 2021. This could be a topic for 2022 conference.
- Brittle fracture – is there any update on metallurgy issues for 2021?
 - Nothing new in this meeting. David Gent will check in with his mechanical engineering colleagues for any ideas/updates.
- Carryover from 2018 - Braskem paper 'Protection against backflow in Existing Furnaces.' Was withdrawn due to author health issue – Sankar Mahalingam to follow-up again with author.

- Sankar was not at Oct 15th meeting to update the team. Norman Wilhelm will reach out to Sankar for an update.
- Reactions in Dryers during Regeneration (Shell/Dow)
 - Nothing coming together from Greg Jones (Shell) or Jeff Melching (Dow). David Gent mentioned that there was an old paper prepared, but not presented, on this topic. He will follow-up to see if it is still viable.
- Mercury in Cold Boxes (ExxonMobil)
 - Not pursued at this time. This will go on the back-burner list in the future.
- Sasol – Light ends fouling
 - No update during this meeting.
- Nova (Jake) PQE Inlet Cone Failures
 - Still working this issue at Nova. Keep on back-burner for now.

Future Session Ideas List (not discussed at Oct 15 meeting)

- Deadlegs - universal agreement this is an issue
- Hot tap safety
- Acetylene precipitation in Cold Box, safety practices
- Valve Issues (unidirectional, need for uninsulated bonnets in cryo service, etc...)
- Pyrophoric polymers – trays vs packing- chemical cleaning
- Mine other conferences prior presentations, i.e. APFM conference, PS Congress
- An abstract was received from SABIC on “Lessons Learned from Furnace Switching – paper did not materialize.
- How to clear equipment to ground flare when ground flare is running at higher pressure
- Possible session just on ground flare issues, joint environmental/safety session?

NOx Subcommittee

- NOx Subcommittee is considering updating the NOx tutorial on the EPC website for 2021.

Current Chairs

The Safety Subcommittee appointed the following people to fill the roles through the 2021 conference.

Norman Wilhelm (LyondellBasell) – Committee Chair

AJ Armer (Chevron Phillips) – Committee Co-Chair

Micheal Smith (ExxonMobil) – Paper Session Chair

Daryl Bitting (Eastman) – Paper Session Co-Chair