

State of Colorado  
Oil and Gas Conservation Commission

1120 Lincoln Street, Suite 801, Denver, Colorado 80203  
Phone: (303) 894-2100 Fax: (303) 894-2109



Document Number:

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Date Issued:

07/13/2021

**NOTICE OF ALLEGED VIOLATION - ISSUED**

Per Rule 523, the Director has reasonable cause to believe that a violation of the Act, or of any Commission rule, order, or permit has occurred, the Director will require the operator to remedy the violation and may commence an enforcement action seeking penalties by issuing a Notice of Alleged Violation (NOAV). Per Rule 525, an operator who violates the Act, or a Commission rule, order, or permit may be subject to a penalty imposed by Commission order.

**OPERATOR INFORMATION**

OGCC Operator Number: 91000

Name of Operator: UNION OIL COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA

Address: P O BOX 760

City: MOAB State: UT Zip: 84532

Contact Name and Telephone:

Name: Randy Koliba

Phone: (435) 259-5867 Fax: ( )

Email: dnr\_cogccenforcement@state.co.us

**Well Location, or Facility Information (if applicable):**

API Number: 05-077-05092-00

Facility or Location ID:

Name: VAN DEN HEUVEL

Number: 1

QtrQtr: NWSE Sec: 15

Twp: 9S

Range: 93W

Meridian: 6

County: MESA

**ALLEGED VIOLATION**

Rule: 902.

Rule Description: Pollution

Initial Discovery Date: 05/10/2021

Was this violation self-reported by the operator? No

Date of Violation: 05/10/2021

Approximate Time of Violation:

Was this a discrete violation of obvious duration? Unknown

Description of Alleged Violation:

Pursuant to Rule 902.a., and b., Union Oil Company of California ("Operator") will prevent Pollution and adverse environmental impacts on any air, water, soil, or biological resource resulting from Oil and Gas Operations and will protect and minimize adverse impacts to public health, safety, welfare, the environment, and wildlife resources.

COGCC staff received a complaint on May 10, 2021, via email, detailed by staff on Form 18 (document no. 200449721), describing the Complainant's discovery of gas bubbling through irrigation water in pasture, approximately 230 feet from Buzzard Creek.

Staff conducted an inspection of the Van Den Heuvel 1 site on May 11, 2021 (document no. 699803057) and observed bubbling occurring in storm water that has collected in a depression. Staff tested the air using a Micro Clip XL Four Gas Monitor, and natural gas was not detected at that time. The depression was observed to be approximately 235 feet, north of Buzzard Creek.

Staff conducted a follow-up inspection on June 16, 2021 (document no. 694300146) and observed and smelled gas coming from the well location. Staff confirmed the presence of gas using a gas monitor.

Operator failed to prevent Pollution and adverse environmental impacts on any air, water, soil, or biological resource, violating Rule 902.a. and b.

Abatement or Corrective Action Required to be Performed by Operator:

Corrective Action Due Date:

**Proper and timely abatement does not preclude the assessment of penalties and an Order Finding Violation.**

Operator shall immediately cease venting from the site.

Rule: 903.

Rule Description: Venting or Flaring Natural Gas

Initial Discovery Date: 05/10/2021

Was this violation self-reported by the operator? No

Date of Violation: 05/10/2021

Approximate Time of Violation:

Was this a discrete violation of obvious duration? Unknown

Description of Alleged Violation:

Pursuant to Rule 903, venting or flaring are prohibited by Union Oil Company of California ("Operator").

COGCC staff received a complaint on May 10, 2021, via email, detailed by staff on Form 18 (document no. 200449721), describing the Complainant's discovery of gas bubbling through irrigation water in pasture, approximately 230 feet from Buzzard Creek.

Staff conducted an inspection of the Van Den Heuvel 1 site on May 11, 2021 (document no. 699803057) and observed bubbling occurring in storm water that has collected in a depression. Staff tested the air using a Micro Clip XL Four Gas Monitor, and natural gas was not detected at that time. The depression was observed to be approximately 235 feet, north of Buzzard Creek.

Staff conducted a follow-up inspection on June 16, 2021 (document no. 694300146) and observed and smelled gas coming from the well location. Staff confirmed the presence of gas using a gas monitor.

Operator vented gas from the site, violating Rule 903.

Abatement or Corrective Action Required to be Performed by Operator:

Corrective Action Due Date: 08/13/2021

**Proper and timely abatement does not preclude the assessment of penalties and an Order Finding Violation.**

Operator shall immediately cease venting from the site.

## PENALTY

Penalties for violations alleged in this NOAV will be calculated pursuant to Rule 525, with daily penalties accruing pursuant to Section 34-60-121(1), C.R.S.

## ANSWER

Pursuant to Rule 523.c.(2), the operator must file an Answer to this NOAV within 28 days of its receipt, or a default judgment may be entered. Answers are filed by email to [dnr\\_cogccenforcement@state.co.us](mailto:dnr_cogccenforcement@state.co.us).

## NOAV ISSUED

NOAV Issue Date: 07/13/2021

COGCC Representative Signature: 

COGCC Representative: Trent Lindley

Title: NOAV Specialist

Email: [trent.lindley@state.co.us](mailto:trent.lindley@state.co.us)

Phone Num: (303) 894-2100 x5143

## ATTACHMENT LIST

View Attachments in Imaged Documents on COGCC website (<http://ogccweblink.state.co.us/>) - Search by Document Number.

<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Description</u>

Total Attach: 0 Files