

FROM R. M. ROSE
J. K. MC CLAIN

TO MR. R. C. FLOURNOY
PITTSBURGH OFFICE

07 May 76

RE: *Procedure* ~~RECOMMENDATION FOR ENTERING CONTACT HEATERS SAFELY~~

As per Mr. A. B. Kaltwasser's request, Messrs. Viets, McClain and Rose reviewed operating procedures for entering a contact heater safely. The procedure that has been implemented at Point Comfort and is recommended is as follows:

1. Close all valves leading to and from vessel.
2. Open drain valves leading to and from vessel. Visually observe if material is discharging through drains. If it is not possible to visualize, observe the discharge of material and the vessel has been out of service for a short period of time, then by feeling the pipes will give one an indication (pipe will become hot) if material is drained through the ~~drain~~ pipes. *being*
3. Observe pressure and level instrument readings. If the instrument readings decrease accordingly, there is a good indication that the vessel is draining and the pressure is reducing to atmospheric pressure.
4. Close the valve of the instrument pressure tap and remove the plug from the top of the T-section. Open the valve and insert a rod through the tap to penetrate the wall of the vessel to a minimum of 12". If a rod is unable to penetrate the vessel to the minimum required inches, then a drill must be inserted to ~~drill~~ through the scale (~~hot tap~~). This ~~should insure the~~ *hot tap* volume inside the vessel is at atmospheric pressure. *ascertain that the*
5. If there are any questionable indicators on the level instrument, the level instrument taps ~~are~~ opened (hot tap if necessary). *Recorded* *must be* *PGO*
6. All lines entering the vessel and all discharge lines are blinded. The unions on the drain lines are broken if necessary.
7. Open top manhole by removing bolts. It is a good practice to remove every other bolt until all bolts are removed.
8. If the vessel is too hot to visually observe the level of liquor inside the tank, then a rope is lowered into the vessel to detect any possible liquor level. If there is liquor remaining in the vessel, the discharge line is back flushed through the vessel in order to release plugged up section.

It is felt by Point Comfort Management that instrument readings are a good indication of the condition which exist inside the



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vessel. However, these instrument readings are only indications--
are no full proof. Caution must be taken and necessary steps
must be followed to insure the safety of all personnel before
entering a vessel; *such as* always opening the pressure instrument
tap to insure the pressure is at atmospheric pressure within the
verify that tank before opening the manhole for any reason.

If further information is desired, please contact the writers.

R. M. ROSE/J. K. MC CLAIN

RMR:JKMc:ea

cc: Mr. G. B. Scott
Mr. H. W. Cooper
Mr. G. B. Viets

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