

Storage Holders Conference Call

March 26, 2020

Attendees: Sam Burton, Emress Bevers, Mark Welch, Bob Lein-Air Products, John Magrino-Matheson, Colin Harper-Keyes, Tim Parker-Airgas, John Wilson-Air Liquide, Nick DeMai.-CRLP, Michael Cook-Linde

Sam B.-We are trying to deal with current situation with pressure building on the pipeline. We are trying to inform everyone about delivery of the gas. Pressure is at the point where we can release allocations.

Mark W.- 1413 pipeline pressure as of this morning, we have released allocations.

Sam B.-I would like to hold follow up meeting tomorrow about this same time to allow feedback from companies who are not on the call today. Our tiered approach will be to first turn down the plant production slowly and monitor pipeline pressure. Using company forecasting estimates we will be watching demand and production as closely as possible. The intent is to slowly build pressure. If/when pipeline pressure exceeds 1350 psi we will release allocations (as per our allocation policy) and allow those companies that can take additional helium delivery to do so.

Second tier will be to increase recycle in the plant and manage low purity wells to decrease helium content in the feed gas to the CHEU. We will continue to operate the CHEU in turn down mode. BLM will monitor pipeline pressure closely.

Third tier would be to start injecting extra helium production back into the field when the pipeline is at maximum pressure (1500 psig). This is undesirable due to helium losses but keeps the plant operational and ready to increase production as needed.

We think we can slowly get pressure where it needs to be and maintain operations. As we manage the wells, we can blend in low purity wells. We are hoping that some people can take delivery of gas and let us know so we can adjust. We can also do extra Helium injection into the field when it is at maximum pressure. Those are the three tiers that we plan to use over the next few days to keep the plant operational. I do want to open it up to questions.

Colin Harper-Balance of this month, it would be helpful to know that that would be open through the end of April to give us a better idea of what we are looking at.

Sam B.-We don't know how long this is going to last, if we can keep the pressure high, then we will deliver to those who are able to take it.

Mark M.-Having the booster online is letting us manage wells in a way that we haven't before. We have them separated into high and low concentration so that is able to help us out.

Mark W.-We are following our policy, if companies want to send questions individually to me then that will help us to manage what is going into the pipeline.

Sam B.-I will limit my staff on the call tomorrow so if anyone was not able to get on the call today maybe they can tomorrow.

Michael Cook-Can you tell us the bottom production value before you have to shut the plant down.

Mark M.-The cold box got unstable at 15 million cubic feet per day, the new unknown is how low we can take the helium concentration. We will be in a state that is halfway between start up and helium production.

Mark W.-Add Martin as well I am scheduled to be off tomorrow. Martin's email is mmorris@blm.gov