

# SAFETY ADVISORY 2010-02

February 4, 2010



## LEAK DETECTION AND ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS FOR WELLSITES

**VICTORIA** - The BC Oil and Gas Commission (Commission) has released a detailed investigation report into a natural gas leak that occurred at an EnCana wellsite the morning of November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, near Pouce Coupe, British Columbia. A copy of the complete failure investigation report including findings as to cause and contributing factors is available from the Commission website at [www.ogc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.ogc.gov.bc.ca)

The investigation findings detail causes and contributing factors leading to the leak as well as findings related to the management of the incident. Automated leak detection systems and isolation equipment at the site failed to effectively control the flow of natural gas from the well.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The function of leak detection and automated isolation equipment is to detect and control leaks as quickly as practicable. Subsection 71(1) of the Drilling and Production Regulation (the Regulation) requires operators to take every reasonable precaution to stop and prevent unintended fluid losses. Similarly, subsection 38(1) of the Regulation requires operators to take every reasonable precaution to prevent a well from flowing uncontrolled.

The Commission expects that leak detection and isolation equipment at all existing and future wellsites shall be compliant with the aforementioned requirements. The Commission will be making directions to the industry on this matter.

In the interim, operators should review their facilities and wellsites and assess the adequacy of their detection and isolation equipment in light of the 22 November leak and the requirements of the Regulation.

**Should you have any questions regarding this Safety Advisory, please contact:**

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1-800-663-3456 (24 hours).**