**Explanatory Paragraph: This is an amendment to 19.15.3 NMAC, Sections 103 and 118. Section 103 changes were for the purpose of renumbering within the section. Section 118 changes were due to prior rule material being deleted and replaced with new rule material.**

**19.15.3.118 HYDROGEN SULFIDE GAS [~~PUBLIC SAFETY~~] (HYDROGEN SULFIDE)**

[~~A. The intent of Section 118 of 19.15.3 NMAC is to provide for the protection of the public's safety in areas where hydrogen sulfide gas in concentrations greater than 100 parts per million (PPM) may be encountered.~~

~~B. Producing operations should be conducted with due consideration and guidance from American Petroleum Institute (API) publication "Conducting Oil and Gas Production Operations Involving Hydrogen Sulfide" (RP 55). The operator of a lease producing, or a gas processing plant handling hydrogen sulfide gas or any other related facility where hydrogen sulfide gas is present in concentrations of 100 PPM or more shall take reasonable measures to forewarn and safeguard persons having occasion to be on or near the property. In addition to training operator's employees in hydrogen sulfide gas safety such measures may include, but are not necessarily limited to, posting of warning signs, fencing of surface installations, installation of safety devices and wind direction indicators, and maintaining tanks, thief hatches and gaskets, valves and piping in condition so as to prevent avoidable loss of vapors. Where release of hydrogen sulfide is unavoidable, the operator shall burn or vent the gas stream in such a manner as to avoid endangering human life.~~

~~C. Wells drilled in known hydrogen sulfide gas producing areas, or where there is substantial probability of encountering hydrogen sulfide gas in concentrations of 100 PPM or more, should be planned and drilled with due regard to and guidance from API RP 49 "Recommended Practices for Safe Drilling of Wells Containing Hydrogen Sulfide", latest edition. Wells completed and serviced by well servicing units where there is substantial probability of encountering hydrogen sulfide gas in concentrations of 100 PPM or more should be worked on with due regard to the latest industry accepted practices. These practices may include, but are not necessarily limited to, the proper training of personnel in hydrogen sulfide gas safety and the use of hydrogen sulfide gas safety equipment as listed for safe operations by the American Petroleum Institute draft report for "Land, Oil and Gas Well Servicing and Workover Operations Involving Hydrogen Sulfide."*~~

~~D. Within ninety (90) days after completion of the first well on a lease, or within ninety (90) days after hydrogen sulfide gas is discovered in a gas stream, each operator shall submit in writing to the Division's district office having jurisdiction, on a form acceptable to the Division, for each lease in each pool in production at that time, the hydrogen sulfide gas concentration from an analysis of a representative sample of the gas stream. The analysis shall be performed by an industry-recognized method and procedure. The measurement report shall specify the name of the operator, lease or facility name, pool, testing point, tester, test method, and the measured hydrogen sulfide gas concentration. Tests within the past three (3) years and which are still representative may be utilized for submittal from previously producing leases. NOTE: Owners or operators of existing wells and facilities shall have until July 1, 1987, to come into compliance with this paragraph of these rules.~~

~~E. Any well, lease, processing plant or related facility handling hydrogen sulfide gas with concentration of 500 PPM (0.05%) or more shall have a warning sign at the entrance. The sign, as a minimum, shall be legible from at least fifty (50) feet, and contain the words "poison gas." The use of existing signs will meet the requirements of this section providing they convey the intended safety message.~~

~~(1) Any lease producing gas or related facility having storage tanks containing gas with a hydrogen sulfide gas concentration of 1,000 PPM (0.1%) or more shall have, in addition to the sign required in subparagraph E. (1), a sign at the foot of the battery stairway that shall accomplish the requirements of Subsection E above, plus specify any protective measures that may be necessary. This paragraph does not apply to gas processing plants.~~

~~(2) Any well, lease or processing plant handling gas with hydrogen sulfide gas concentration and volume such that the hydrogen sulfide gas fraction equates to 10 MCF per day or more of hydrogen sulfide gas and which is located within one-fourth (1/4) mile of a dwelling, public place or highway shall install safety devices and maintain them in operable condition or shall establish safety procedures designed to prevent the undetected continuing escape of hydrogen sulfide gas. Wind direction indicators shall be installed at least one strategic location at or near the site and shall be readily visible throughout the site. Also, unattended surface facilities or plants within one-fourth (1/4) mile of a dwelling or public meeting place shall be protected from public access by fencing and locking, or other equivalent security means. In addition, the operator shall prepare a contingency plan to be carried out should the public be threatened by a release. The plan shall provide for notification of endangered parties, as well as public safety personnel, for evacuation of threatened parties as warranted, and institution of measures for closing in the flow of gas. Contingency plans shall be available for Division inspection and shall be retained at the location which lends itself best to activation of any such plan. The operator, as an alternative, may utilize Figure 4.1~~

~~of API (RP 55) Revised March, 1983 and if the 100 PPM radius of exposure includes a dwelling, public place or highway, the operator must meet the public safety requirements as specified in this section.~~

~~(3) The provisions of this section shall be applicable within 30 days after the filing of sample data showing the existence and concentration of hydrogen sulfide gas described in Subsection E, Paragraphs (1) through (3) above. In unusual circumstances guidance on placement and content of signs may be obtained from the supervisor of the appropriate Division District Office.~~

~~F. The Director of the Division may administratively grant exceptions or extensions to the requirements of Section 118 of 19.15.3 NMAC for good cause shown and where such exception will not result in a threat to human life. *At such time as the American Petroleum Institute adopts the "Recommended Practice for Land Oil and Gas Well Servicing and Workover Operations on Involving Hydrogen Sulfide", it shall take the place of any previous draft reports.~~]

A. Applicability. This section applies to any person, operator or facility subject to the jurisdiction of the Division, including, but not limited to, any person, operator or facility engaged in drilling, stimulating, injecting into, completing, working over or producing any oil, natural gas or carbon dioxide well or any person, operator or facility engaged in gathering, transporting, storing, processing or refining of crude oil, natural gas or carbon dioxide (referred to herein as "person, operator or facility" or "well, facility or operation"). This section shall not act to exempt or otherwise excuse surface waste management facilities permitted by the division pursuant to 19.15.9.711 NMAC from more stringent conditions on the handling of hydrogen sulfide required of such facilities by 19.15.9.711 NMAC or more stringent conditions in permits issued thereunder, nor shall such facilities be exempt or otherwise excused from the requirements set forth in this section by virtue of permitting under 19.15.9.711 NMAC.

B. Definitions (specific to this section).

(1) ANSI. The acronym "ANSI" means the american national standards institute.

(2) API. The acronym "API" means the american petroleum institute.

(3) Area of Exposure. The phrase "area of exposure" means the area within a circle constructed with a point of escape at its center and the radius of exposure as its radius.

(4) ASTM. The acronym "ASTM" means the american society for testing and materials.

(5) Dispersion Technique. A "dispersion technique" is a mathematical representation of the physical and chemical transportation characteristics, dilution characteristics and transformation characteristics of hydrogen sulfide gas in the atmosphere.

(6) Escape Rate. The "escape rate" is the maximum volume (Q) that is used to designate the possible rate of escape of a gaseous mixture containing hydrogen sulfide, as set forth herein.

(a) For existing gas facilities or operations, the escape rate shall be calculated using the maximum daily rate of the gaseous mixture produced or handled or the best estimate thereof. For an existing gas well, the escape rate shall be calculated using the current daily absolute open flow rate against atmospheric pressure or the best estimate of that rate.

(b) For new gas operations or facilities, the escape rate shall be calculated as the maximum anticipated flow rate through the system. For a new gas well, the escape rate shall be calculated using the maximum open-flow rate of offset wells in the pool or reservoir, or the pool or reservoir average of maximum open-flow rates.

(c) For existing oil wells, the escape rate shall be calculated by multiplying the producing gas/oil ratio by the maximum daily production rate or the best estimate thereof.

(d) For new oil wells, the escape rate shall be calculated by multiplying the producing gas/oil ratio by the maximum daily production rate of offset wells in the pool or reservoir, or the pool or reservoir average of the producing gas/oil ratio multiplied by the maximum daily production rate.

(e) For facilities or operations not mentioned, the escape rate shall be calculated using the actual flow of the gaseous mixture through the system or the best estimate thereof.

(7) GPA. The acronym "GPA" means the gas processors association.

(8) LEPC. The acronym "LEPC" means the local emergency planning committee established pursuant to the emergency planning and community right-to-know act, 42 U.S.C. Section 11001.

(9) NACE. The acronym "NACE" refers to the national association of corrosion engineers.

(10) PPM. The acronym "ppm" means "parts per million" by volume.

(11) Potentially Hazardous Volume means the volume of hydrogen sulfide gas of such concentration that:

(a) the 100-ppm radius of exposure includes any public area;

(b) the 500-ppm radius of exposure includes any public road; or

(c) the 100-ppm radius of exposure exceeds 3,000 feet.

(12) Public Area. A "public area" is any building or structure that is not associated with the well, facility or operation for which the radius of exposure is being calculated and that is used as a dwelling, office, place of business, church, school, hospital, or government building, or any portion of a park, city, town, village or designated school bus stop or other similar area where members of the public may reasonably be expected to be present.

(13) Public Road. A "public road" is any federal, state, municipal or county road or highway.

(14) Radius of Exposure. The radius of exposure is that radius constructed with the point of escape as its starting point and its length calculated using the following Pasquill-Gifford derived equation, or by such other method as may be approved by the division:

(a) For determining the 100-ppm radius of exposure: $X= [(1.589)(\text{hydrogen sulfide concentration})(Q)]^{(0.6258)}$, where "X" is the radius of exposure in feet, the "hydrogen sulfide concentration" is the decimal equivalent of the mole or volume fraction of hydrogen sulfide in the gaseous mixture, and "Q" is the escape rate expressed in cubic feet per day (corrected for standard conditions of 14.73 psia and 60 degrees F).

(b) For determining the 500-ppm radius of exposure: $X=[(0.4546)(\text{hydrogen sulfide concentration})(Q)]^{(0.6258)}$, where "X" is the radius of exposure in feet, the "hydrogen sulfide concentration" is the decimal equivalent of the mole or volume fraction of hydrogen sulfide in the gaseous mixture, and "Q" is the escape rate expressed in cubic feet per day (corrected for standard conditions of 14.73 psia and 60 degrees F).

(c) For a well being drilled, completed, recompleted, worked over or serviced in an area where insufficient data exists to calculate a radius of exposure but where hydrogen sulfide could reasonably be expected to be present in concentrations in excess of 100 ppm in the gaseous mixture, a 100-ppm radius of exposure equal to 3,000 feet shall be assumed.

C. Regulatory Threshold.

(1) Determination of Hydrogen Sulfide Concentration.

(a) Each person, operator or facility shall determine the hydrogen sulfide concentration in the gaseous mixture within each of its wells, facilities or operations either by testing (using a sample from each well, facility or operation), testing a representative sample, or using process knowledge in lieu of testing. If a representative sample or process knowledge is used, the concentration derived from the representative sample or process knowledge must be reasonably representative of the hydrogen sulfide concentration within the well, facility or operation.

(b) The tests used to make the determination referred to in the previous subparagraph shall be conducted in accordance with applicable ASTM or GPA standards or by another method approved by the division.

(c) If a test was conducted prior to the effective date of this section that otherwise meets the requirements of the previous subparagraphs, new testing shall not be required.

(d) If any change or alteration may materially increase the concentration of hydrogen sulfide in a well, facility or operation, a new determination shall be required in accordance with this section.

(2) Concentrations Determined to be Below 100 ppm. If the concentration of hydrogen sulfide in a given well, facility or operation is less than 100 ppm, no further actions shall be required pursuant to this section.

(3) Concentrations Determined to be Above 100 ppm.

(a) If the concentration of hydrogen sulfide in a given well, facility or operation is determined to be 100 ppm or greater, then the person, operator or facility must calculate the radius of exposure and comply with applicable requirements of this section.

(b) If calculation of the radius of exposure reveals that a potentially hazardous volume is present, the results of the determination of the hydrogen sulfide concentration and the calculation of the radius of exposure shall be provided to the division. For a well, facility or operation existing on the effective date of this section, the determination, calculation and submission required herein shall be accomplished within 180 days of the effective date of this section; for any well, facility or operation that commences operations after the effective date of this section, the determination, calculation and submission required herein shall be accomplished before operations begin.

(4) Recalculation. The person, operator or facility shall calculate the radius of exposure if the hydrogen sulfide concentration in a well, facility or operation increases to 100 ppm or greater. The person, operator or facility shall also recalculate the radius of exposure if the actual volume fraction of hydrogen sulfide increases by a factor of twenty-five percent in a well, facility or operation that previously had a hydrogen sulfide concentration of 100 ppm or greater. If calculation or recalculation of the radius of exposure reveals that a potentially hazardous volume is present, the results shall be provided to the division within sixty (60) days.

D. Hydrogen Sulfide Contingency Plan.

(1) When Required. If a well, facility or operation involves a potentially hazardous volume of hydrogen sulfide, a hydrogen sulfide contingency plan that will be used to alert and protect the public must be developed in accordance with the following paragraphs.

(2) Plan Contents.

(a) API Guidelines. The hydrogen sulfide contingency plan shall be developed with due consideration of paragraph 7.6 of the guidelines published by the API in its publication entitled "Recommended Practices for Oil and Gas Producing and Gas Processing Plant Operations Involving Hydrogen Sulfide," RP-55, most recent edition, or with due consideration to another standard approved by the division.

(b) Required Contents. The hydrogen sulfide contingency plan shall contain, but shall not be limited to, information on the following subjects, as appropriate to the well, facility or operation to which it applies:

(i) Emergency procedures. The hydrogen sulfide contingency plan shall contain information on emergency procedures to be followed in the event of a release and shall include, at a minimum, information concerning the responsibilities and duties of personnel during the emergency, an immediate action plan as described in the API document referenced in the previous subsubparagraph, and telephone numbers of emergency responders, public agencies, local government and other appropriate public authorities. The plan shall also include the locations of potentially affected public areas and public roads and shall describe proposed evacuation routes, locations of any road blocks and procedures for notifying the public, either through direct telephone notification using telephone number lists or by means of mass notification and reaction plans. The plan shall include information on the availability and location of necessary safety equipment and supplies.

(ii) Characteristics of hydrogen sulfide and sulfur dioxide. The hydrogen sulfide contingency plan shall include a discussion of the characteristics of hydrogen sulfide and sulfur dioxide.

(iii) Maps and drawings. The hydrogen sulfide contingency plan shall include maps and drawings that depict the area of exposure and public areas and public roads within the area of exposure.

(iv) Training and Drills. The hydrogen sulfide contingency plan shall provide for training and drills, including training in the responsibilities and duties of essential personnel and periodic on-site or classroom drills or exercises that simulate a release, and shall describe how the training, drills and attendance will be documented. The hydrogen sulfide contingency plan shall also provide for training of residents as appropriate on the proper protective measures to be taken in the event of a release, and shall provide for briefing of public officials on issues such as evacuation or shelter-in-place plans.

(v) Coordination with State Emergency Plans. The hydrogen sulfide contingency plan shall describe how emergency response actions under the plan will be coordinated with the division and with the New Mexico state police consistent with the New Mexico hazardous materials emergency response plan (HMER).

(vi) Activation Levels. The hydrogen sulfide contingency plan shall include the activation level and a description of events that could lead to a release of hydrogen sulfide sufficient to create a concentration in excess of the activation level.

(3) Plan Activation. The hydrogen sulfide contingency plan shall be activated when a release creates a concentration of hydrogen sulfide greater than the activation level set forth in the hydrogen sulfide contingency plan. At a minimum, the plan must be activated whenever a release may create a concentration of hydrogen sulfide of more than 100 ppm in any public area, 500 ppm at any public road or 100 ppm 3,000 feet from the site of release.

(4) Submission.

(a) Where Submitted. The hydrogen sulfide contingency plan shall be submitted to the division.

(b) When Submitted. A hydrogen sulfide contingency plan for a well, facility or operation existing on the effective date of this section shall be submitted within one year of the effective date of this section. A hydrogen sulfide contingency plan for a new well, facility or operation shall be submitted before operations commence. The hydrogen sulfide contingency plan for a drilling, completion, workover or well servicing operation must be on file with the division before operations commence and may be submitted separately or along with the application for permit to drill (APD) or may be on file from a previous submission. A hydrogen sulfide contingency plan shall also be submitted within 180 days after the person, operator or facility becomes aware or should have become aware that a public area or public road is established that creates a potentially hazardous volume where none previously existed.

(c) Electronic Submission. Any filer who operates more than one hundred wells or who operates a crude oil pump station, compressor station, refinery or gas plant must submit each hydrogen sulfide contingency plan in electronic format. The hydrogen sulfide contingency plan may be submitted through electronic mail, through an Internet filing or by delivering electronic media to the division, so long as the electronic submission is compatible with the division's systems.

(5) Failure to Submit Plan. Failure to submit a hydrogen sulfide contingency plan when required may result in denial of an application for permit to drill, cancellation of an allowable for the subject well or other enforcement action appropriate to the well, facility or operation.

(6) Review, Amendment. The person, operator or facility shall review the hydrogen sulfide contingency plan any time a subject addressed in the plan materially changes and make appropriate amendments. If the division determines that a hydrogen sulfide contingency plan is inadequate to protect public safety, the division may require the person, operator or facility to add provisions to the plan or amend the plan as necessary to protect public safety.

(7) Retention and Inspection. The hydrogen sulfide contingency plan shall be reasonably accessible in the event of a release, maintained on file at all times, and available for inspection by the division.

(8) Annual Inventory of Contingency Plans. On an annual basis, each person, operator or facility required to prepare one or more hydrogen sulfide contingency plans pursuant to this section shall file with the appropriate local emergency planning committee and the state emergency response commission an inventory of the wells, facilities and operations for which plans are on file with the division and the name, address and telephone number of a point of contact.

(9) Plans Required by Other Jurisdictions. A hydrogen sulfide contingency plan required by the Bureau of Land Management or other jurisdiction that meets the requirements of this subsection may be submitted to the division in satisfaction of this subsection.

E. Signage, Markers. For each well, facility or operation involving a concentration of hydrogen sulfide of 100 ppm or greater, signs and/or markers shall be installed and maintained. Each sign or marker shall conform with the current ANSI standard Z535.1-2002 (“Safety Color Code”), or some other standard approved by the division, shall be readily readable, and shall contain the words "poison gas" and other information sufficient to warn the public that a potential danger exists. Signs or markers shall be prominently posted at locations, including but not limited to entrance points and road crossings, sufficient to alert the public that a potential danger exists. Signs and/or markers that conform with this subsection shall be installed no later than one year from the effective date of this section.

F. Protection from Hydrogen Sulfide During Drilling, Completion, Workover, and Well Servicing Operations.

(1) API Standards. All drilling, completion, workover and well servicing operations involving a hydrogen sulfide concentration of 100 ppm or greater shall be conducted with due consideration to the guidelines published by the API entitled “Recommended Practice for Oil and Gas Well Servicing and Workover Operations Involving Hydrogen Sulfide," RP-68, and “Recommended Practices for Drilling and Well Servicing Operations Involving Wells Containing Hydrogen Sulfide,” RP-49, most recent editions, or some other standard approved by the division.

(2) Detection and Monitoring Equipment. Drilling, completion, workover and well servicing operations involving a hydrogen sulfide concentration of 100 ppm or greater shall include hydrogen sulfide detection and monitoring equipment as follows:

(a) Each drilling and completion site shall have an accurate and precise hydrogen sulfide detection and monitoring system that will automatically activate visible and audible alarms when the ambient air concentration of hydrogen sulfide reaches a predetermined value set by the operator, not to exceed 20 ppm. There shall be a sensing point located at the shale shaker, rig floor and bell nipple for a drilling site and the cellar, rig floor and circulating tanks or shale shaker for a completion site.

(b) For workover and well servicing operations, one operational sensing point shall be located as close to the well bore as practical. Additional sensing points may be necessary for large or long-term operations.

(c) Hydrogen sulfide detection and monitoring equipment must be provided and must be made operational during drilling when drilling is within 500 feet of a zone anticipated to contain hydrogen sulfide and continuously thereafter through all subsequent drilling.

(3) Wind Indicators. All drilling, completion, workover and well servicing operations involving a hydrogen sulfide concentration of 100 ppm or greater shall include wind indicators. Equipment to indicate wind direction shall be present and visible at all times. At least two devices to indicate wind direction shall be installed at separate elevations and visible from all principal working areas at all times. When a sustained concentration of hydrogen sulfide is detected in excess of 20 ppm at any detection point, red flags shall be displayed.

(4) Flare System. For drilling and completion operations in an area where it is reasonably expected that a potentially hazardous volume of hydrogen sulfide will be encountered, the person, operator or facility shall install a flare system to safely gather and burn hydrogen-sulfide-bearing gas. Flare outlets shall be located at least 150 feet from the well bore. Flare lines shall be as straight as practical. The flare system shall be equipped with a

suitable and safe means of ignition. Where noncombustible gas is to be flared, the system shall provide supplemental fuel to maintain ignition.

(5) Well Control Equipment. When the 100 ppm radius of exposure includes a public area, the following well control equipment shall be required:

(a) Drilling. A remote-controlled well control system shall be installed and operational at all times beginning when drilling is within 500 feet of the formation believed to contain hydrogen sulfide and continuously thereafter during drilling. The well control system must include, at a minimum, a pressure and hydrogen-sulfide-rated well control choke and kill system including manifold and blowout preventer that meets or exceeds the specifications API-16C and API-RP 53 or other specifications approved by the division. Mud-gas separators shall be used. These systems shall be tested and maintained pursuant to the specifications referenced, according to the requirements of this part, or otherwise as approved by the division.

(b) Completion, Workover and Well Servicing. A remote controlled pressure and hydrogen-sulfide-rated well control system that meets or exceeds API specifications or other specifications approved by the division shall be installed and shall be operational at all times during completion, workover and servicing of a well.

(6) Mud Program. All drilling, completion, workover and well servicing operations involving a hydrogen sulfide concentration of 100 ppm or greater shall use a hydrogen sulfide mud program capable of handling hydrogen sulfide conditions and well control, including de-gassing.

(7) Well Testing. Except with prior approval of the division, drill-stem testing of a zone that contains hydrogen sulfide in a concentration of 100 ppm or greater shall be conducted only during daylight hours and formation fluids shall not be permitted to flow to the surface.

(8) If Hydrogen Sulfide Encountered During Operations. If hydrogen sulfide was not anticipated at the time the division issued a permit to drill but is encountered during drilling in a concentration of 100 ppm or greater, the operator must satisfy the requirements of this section before continuing drilling operations. The operator shall notify the division of the event and the mitigating steps that have been or are being taken as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours following discovery. The division may grant verbal approval to continue drilling operations pending preparation of any required hydrogen sulfide contingency plan.

G. Protection from Hydrogen Sulfide at Crude Oil Pump Stations, Producing Wells, Tank Batteries and Associated Production Facilities, Pipelines, Refineries, Gas Plants and Compressor Stations.

(1) API Standards. Operations at crude oil pump stations and producing wells, tank batteries and associated production facilities, refineries, gas plants and compressor stations involving a concentration of hydrogen sulfide of 100 ppm or greater shall be conducted with due consideration to the guidelines published by the API in its publication entitled “Recommended Practices for Oil and Gas Producing and Gas Processing Plant Operations Involving Hydrogen Sulfide," RP-55, latest edition or some other standard approved by the division.

(2) Security. Well sites and other unattended, fixed surface facilities involving a concentration of hydrogen sulfide of 100 ppm or greater shall be protected from public access by fencing with locking gates when the location is within 1/4 mile of a public area. A surface pipeline shall not be considered a fixed surface facility for purposes of this paragraph.

(3) Wind Direction Indicators. All crude oil pump stations, producing wells, tank batteries and associated production facilities, pipelines, refineries, gas plants and compressor stations involving a concentration of hydrogen sulfide of 100 ppm or greater shall have equipment to indicate wind direction. The wind direction equipment shall be installed and visible from all principal working areas at all times.

(4) Control Equipment. When the 100 ppm radius of exposure includes a public area, the following additional measures are required:

(a) Safety devices, such as automatic shut-down devices, shall be installed and maintained in good operating condition to prevent the escape of hydrogen sulfide. Alternatively, safety procedures shall be established to achieve the same purpose.

(b) Any well shall possess a secondary means of immediate well control through the use of an appropriate christmas tree or downhole completion equipment. Such equipment shall allow downhole accessibility (reentry) under pressure for permanent well control.

(5) Tanks or vessels. Each stair or ladder leading to the top of any tank or vessel containing 300 ppm or more of hydrogen sulfide in the gaseous mixture shall be chained or marked to restrict entry.

(6) Compliance Schedule. Each existing crude oil pump station, producing well, tank battery and associated production facility, pipeline, refinery, gas plant and compressor station not currently meeting the requirements of this subsection shall be brought into compliance within one year of the effective date of this section.

H. Personnel Protection and Training. All persons responsible for the implementation of any hydrogen sulfide contingency plan shall be provided training in hydrogen sulfide hazards, detection, personal protection and contingency procedures.

I. Standards for Equipment That May Be Exposed to Hydrogen Sulfide. Whenever a well, facility or operation involves a potentially hazardous volume of hydrogen sulfide, equipment shall be selected with consideration for both the hydrogen sulfide working environment and anticipated stresses and NACE Standard MR0175 (latest edition) or some other standard approved by the division shall be used for selection of metallic equipment or, if applicable, adequate protection by chemical inhibition or other methods that control or limit the corrosive effects of hydrogen sulfide shall be used.

J. Exemptions. Any person, operator or facility may petition the director or the director's designee for an exemption to any requirement of this section. Any such petition shall provide specific information as to the circumstances that warrant approval of the exemption requested and how the public safety will be protected. The director or the director's designee, after considering all relevant factors, may approve an exemption if the circumstances warrant and so long as the public safety will be protected.

K. Notification of the Division. The person, operator or facility shall notify the division upon a release of hydrogen sulfide requiring activation of the hydrogen sulfide contingency plan as soon as possible, but no more than four hours after plan activation, recognizing that a prompt response should supercede notification. The person, operator or facility shall submit a full report of the incident to the division on Form C-141 no later than fifteen (15) days following the release.

[5-22-73…1-1-87...2-1-96; A 3-15-97; 19.15.3.118 NMAC - Rn, 19 NMAC 15.C.118, 11-15-2001; A, 01-31-03]