GAS MONITORING AND MITIGATION: FACT SHEET

Over the last twenty months, Texas Brine Company has been committed to responding to this incident and completing the four key objectives identified by local and state officials: Confirming dome stability, maintaining sinkhole containment, venting gas and supporting the Bayou Corne community.

Following the formation of the sinkhole, air quality was a primary focus of the response. The presence of a petroleum smell from the site caused concern amongst some in the community that dangerous compounds may have been released as a result of the sinkhole formation. What has been revealed during a significant air quality monitoring effort is that the air quality in Bayou Corne remains unaffected as a result of the sinkhole.

Texas Brine contractors have operated an array of stationary air monitors around the perimeter of the sinkhole since August 17, 2012. Data from the monitors has been remotely transmitted to a host computer 24 hours a day, and the transmitted data has been compiled into reports and provided to LDNR on a daily basis. In addition to Texas Brine’s effort, LA DEQ and Assumption Parish also have extensive monitoring programs.

- The LA DEQ has maintained an active air-monitoring program since the initial reports of natural gas bubbling around Bayou Corne in June of 2012.
- The Parish air monitoring began in January 2013 consisting of eight monitors equipped with H$_2$S sensors (two of the eight have VOC sensors).

Texas Brine’s air monitoring program has focused on three key areas: sinkhole site perimeter air monitoring; analysis of natural gas samples collected from bubble sites and wellheads; and residential ambient air monitoring. As part of the monitoring program, Texas Brine contractors currently have five stationary air monitoring stations around the sinkhole and four stations in the surrounding residential area in addition to the eight stations the Parish has in the community.

- Nearly 14,000 hours of ambient air monitoring network data collected and reviewed; only one “true” (not false positive) low-action- trigger-event ever occurred (likely due to weather related conditions).

Based on ambient air monitoring data from the sinkhole site collected to date, all releases of natural gas and petroleum hydrocarbon to the air from the site appear to be transient in nature and small enough to not pose any pollution concern or cause any other discernible off-site air impacts. CB&I and ITASCA stated in a public briefing that no massive episodic release of a single “bubble” of natural gas is expected from the sinkhole site based on the current physical understanding of on-going subsurface phenomena at the site.

- Over the past 20 months, we have not seen and don’t expect to see any significant emissions or releases from the sinkhole.

Our program to locate and mitigate shallow gas in the aquifer has made great progress. The operation of ORW’s is a proven method for reducing the volume of gas located around the site and beneath the Bayou Corne Community.

- 27.4 MMCF of gas vented to date.
- 26 of the 51 ORW’s installed are connected to flares although not all are flaring.

ORW’s have been maintained and reworked to ensure the maximum production capability of each well is preserved. While some ORW’s continue to produce because of the reworking and maintenance, other wells have depleted and are no longer producing gas. As expected, this cycle leads to occasional changes in vent rates.

- 25 of the 51 ORW’s installed have depleted or have already been plugged and abandoned.
- Well venting rates continue to decline, indicating progress is being made in depleting the area gas cap.