



Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association

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Gas Circuit Rider Newsletter

Recently, OSHA inspected an anode installation in one of MMUA’s communities. Because there was an excavation, OSHA Inspectors are required to stop and inspect.

There were no issues with the excavation, however, the gas workers were applying mastic to complete the installation of the anode and the Inspector inquired whether they needed a respirator for applying the mastic. The gas workers indicated they did not, and the Inspector asked for the SDS. The workers produced the SDS, which indicated a respirator was recommended if the ppm was above 55.

Without a measurement device to determine ppm, a respirator would always be required. Further, it was determined that the SDS they provided the Inspector was out-of-date. The current SDS clearly states that a respirator must be worn when applying the product in question.

Potential citations: No current SDS, no respirator, no Right-To-Know training (they were the only department that missed it), no JHA assessment, and no fit-testing.

Moral of story: At least annually and when a new product is added, review your SDS to make sure they are up-to-date and that you are following the requirements.

MNOPS Inspections Are On-going

It has been a slower process due to the pandemic, however I believe we should be able to complete all inspections.

Problems encountered so far: Lack of documentation, unsigned O and M Manuals, and required documents sent in late (i.e. annual report). Scheduling inspections has also been an issue, but fortunately, we have only had to postpone a couple of inspections due to potential COVID-19 exposure.

MEA EnergyU

Reminder: You are responsible for checking to see if you are current with your course work. Whenever you hire a new employee, please contact me to let me know ASAP so that they can be enrolled into EnergyU and begin their coursework. Likewise, if you have an employee that leaves and/or retires, etc. please let me know as well. This helps ensure our records are accurate! **THANK YOU!**

IN THE WORKS

I am working with MNOPS to clarify welding documentation, including procedures and contract welder qualifications to ensure they meet the minimum federal Pipeline Safety Standards (49 CFR 192.225 Welding Procedures).

As Always, Work Safe!

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. Thank you!

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Please let me know if you have any suggestions or ideas for new product information to include in a future Newsletter.