



Cathodic Protection Records & Readings

Over the last few months of inspections a common theme has emerged concerning C.P reads and maintenance of half cells.

When recording C.P readings it is extremely important that you place the neg. sign (-) in front of the readings to show that they are actually negative and prove that you understand the difference.

Another common mistake when taking readings is that the half -cell needs to be hooked to the black lead of your voltmeter. Yes it will give you a reading either way but only one will be negative! And if you hook it up correctly each time and you unexpectedly get a positive reading we know we have a big problem (possibly interference from an electric transmission line or other structure). If we are not consistently hooking it up correctly you may miss it.

Half cells in poor condition is another area that we need to improve upon. When a visual inspection of the half- cell makes you question the reading before you take it we make the inspector question all the readings taken in the past.

Things like corroded internal rods and milky looking fluid are indicators of needed maintenance.

If you have lost the instructions on how to perform maintenance on your half-cell order new or download it on-line. I will attach some information to this newsletter on half-cell maintenance.

Cleaning the rod with metallic sand paper or steel wool is not allowed nor is adding tap water instead of distilled water. Unfortunately these have all been done in front of inspectors in recent months. Mistakes like these can call into question the validity of your OQ qualifications very quickly! Which will then require re-testing and or follow up training.

If you have any questions or concerns about whether or not you are taking cathodic readings correctly or are understanding the process let me know.

Remember there are no dumb questions!

Work safe!