

October 19, 2017

RE: Issue statement for Production Facilities with groove-lock coupling and sealing systems:

The COGCC is aware of several recent incidents within the Denver-Julesburg Basin in which the groove-lock coupling and sealing systems and sacrificial anodes in high pressure separators have failed. Failures have been found on similar clamping systems utilized on pieces of low pressure equipment. Inspections of these systems found signs of degradation and damage to the seals. These failures can result not only in major equipment damage, but pose a significant risk to public health and safety from the uncontrolled release of hydrocarbon gases and liquids.

At this time, the specific cause of these failures has not been determined. However, potential causes may include the improper installation of equipment, or use of improperly rated or incompatible seal material with the separator fluids.

To prevent future failures of these systems, the COGCC requests that operators complete a facility review of all Oil and Gas Facility production equipment with groove-lock type coupling and sealing systems used with pressure equipment. When this type of coupling or system is found, operators should isolate the equipment, thoroughly inspect the couplings or systems for potential deficiencies and take appropriate action to repair and replace the couplings or systems.

