

August 10, 2016

Craig Rennie, CWS, CWB
Inland Wetland Supervisor
Land Resources Management
New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive, PO Box 95
Concord, New Hampshire 03302-0095

Re: Northern Pass Transmission Project – Second Response to Geotechnical Test Boring Questions

Dear Mr. Rennie:

I write again today on behalf of Northern Pass in response to a set of questions raised by Kris Pastoriza that she sent to you yesterday, and that she had already circulated to the Site Evaluation Committee service list earlier in the day. While we welcome appropriate diligence and scrutiny in the review of the work being conducted by the geotechnical borings contractors, we have substantial concerns about the manner in which Ms. Pastoriza has dealt with these issues. First, the proper way to raise concerns for a person not familiar with standard drilling operations conducted routinely by many entities across the state, is to raise questions directly with the Project in the first instance. Instead, Ms. Pastoriza elected to fire off assertions, allegations and questions that would have been properly informed after having discussed them with the Project. Raising an alarm without a proper basis in fact is improper, inappropriate and, ultimately, unhelpful to all concerned. Second, we have learned today that Ms. Pastoriza has in our opinion interfered directly with the ongoing drilling operations in a manner that has caused a risk of harm to the public, to the drilling contractors, and to herself.

As explained below, the geotechnical borings drilling operation that Northern Pass has been conducting through its subcontractors is in conformance with permits obtained for the work, and the contractors are following standard practices and procedures. All necessary permits have been obtained and no environmental violations or harm has been caused by these test borings. These are the standard materials used for these test borings. In addition, the materials used are typical for drilling operations of this nature.

Northern Pass is in the process of conducting over 300 test borings for purposes of assessing the subsurface conditions along the proposed underground route as a preliminary step to finalizing the design of that portion of the line. Some geotechnical borings were done last December, and another set of borings started in May of this year. Except for the questions raised by Ms. Pastoriza in the last week, we have heard of no issues or questions about the work being conducted by S.W. Cole and prior drilling contractors on behalf of the Project.

In her communications on Monday, Ms. Pastoriza chose to dramatize what she purports to believe to be environmental concerns, starting with the photographs of the small amount of the polymer used for some of the borings. This polymer is routinely used in deep borings as a low volume additive to the drilling wash water to increase viscosity and control fluid loss when drilling open holes in the overburdened soil. I understand that the polymer use by S.W. Cole is Accu-vis, and I have attached the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for that material. We don't know at what point in the process Ms. Pastoriza took the photographs, but that a small amount of this polymer remained on the surface of the roadway shoulder is not surprising, and it does not pose an environmental or safety problem. The contractors do clean up the location of each drilling location when they are done, but some material unavoidably remains on the surface.

Similarly, Ms. Pastoriza's suggestion that the drilling contractors are leaving "a quicksand of boring slurry in the bore hole" is very misleading. In a typical geotech survey this mixture of mostly soil and water with a small amount of polymer is re-introduced back into the bore hole upon completion. In this case, however, the bore hole needs to be backfilled with a bentonite/cement mixture as a precautionary measure in preparation for the drilling that will occur during the construction phase. As stated above, as this material consists mostly of native soils and a small amount of polymer it is spread around the bore hole. That material obviously dries, and does so quickly. The bentonite and Portland cement mix that is also a standard material and poses no environmental risk. The MSDS for the bentonite chips (Hole Plug), bentonite powder (Quick Gel), and Portland Cement are also attached. Although this practice is standard and no other steps are required, Northern Pass has now instructed its contractors to manage this material so that it is not left on the ground.

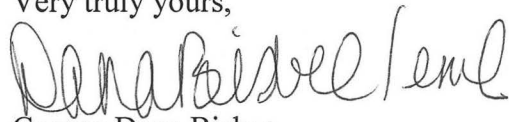
Ms. Pastoriza shows in photograph # 5 a hole in the road shoulder that is not filled. We cannot tell from the photograph whether this is a hole left from a prior drilling operation done by a Northern Pass contractor, but assuming that it is, the conditions around that hole demonstrate that the conditions at the site after the drilling operations are complete become normal. That a hole may have remained from one of the drilling sites, however, is an issue that Northern Pass and its contractors address as part of the overall process. It is impossible to compact fully such a small diameter bore hole, and it requires

return visits to the site to maintain the fill before the holes are completely filled in. That is done on an ongoing regular basis after the drilling operations are complete.

Last, the SW Cole personnel shown in the photographs are wearing appropriate Personal Protection Equipment.

Let me close by saying that we appreciate your attention to the questions raised by Ms. Pastoriza and the additional information Northern Pass has provided here, and we are pleased to have looked into the questions she has raised. But nothing she has pointed out about these standard operations raises any substantive question about the test borings process. If you have follow-up questions about this, please let us know.

Very truly yours,


George Dana Bisbee

Enclosures

cc: Pamela Monroe, SEC
SEC Service List

ACCU-VIS®

LIQUID DRILLING FLUID POLYMER



DESCRIPTION

ACCU-VIS is a liquid copolymer designed for fast field mixing, viscosity building, and clay/shale stabilization in aqueous drilling fluids. ACCU-VIS is certified to NSF/ANSI Standard 60, Drinking Water Treatment Chemicals – Health Effects.

RECOMMENDED USE

ACCU-VIS can be used to inhibit clay and shale hydration, as well as an additive in bentonite drilling fluids to increase viscosity and lower fluid loss. It may also be used with BELLE/CETCO CRUMBLES to make a high solids grout.

ACCU-VIS can also be used in drilled shafts. When added into SHORE PAC slurry, ACCU-VIS instantly boosts the viscosity, for improved viscosity, fluid loss control, bit lubrication, and shale stabilization/inhibition. Delivers instant viscosifying performance.

CHARACTERISTICS

- 50% active ingredient
- Can be mixed directly in the borehole or excavation
- Eliminates clay and shale swelling, bit balling, and sticking problems
- Excellent additive with BELLE/CETCO CRUMBLES for a high solids grout
- Fast mixing
- Forms a tight, thin filter cake in unstable formations
- Improves loading and removal of spoils
- Improves skin friction
- Maintains borehole integrity in horizontal and vertically drilled holes

MIXING AND APPLICATION

When using ACCU-VIS, pre-treat mix water with SODA ASH to a pH above 8.5. Always mix bentonite first and then add ACCU-VIS. To breakdown ACCU-VIS, add 0.5 gallon (2.25 L) of household-strength (3%-5% active) sodium hypochlorite (bleach) per 100 gallons (454 L) of drilling fluid.

When using ACCU-VIS in a SHORE PAC slurry, pre-treat mix water with SODA ASH to a pH above 8.5. Always mix SHORE PAC first and then add ACCU-VIS. To breakdown ACCU-VIS, add 1 gallon (3.8 L) of pool-grade (12%-15% active) sodium hypochlorite (bleach) per 1,000 gallons (3785 L) of SHORE PAC slurry.

PACKAGING

44 lb (20 kg) pail, 32 per pallet. All pallets are plastic-wrapped.



ACCU-VIS MIXING RATIOS

TYPICAL APPLICATION	
Added to air foam	0.5 quart per 100 gallons foam
Added to bentonite system	0.5 quart per 100 gallons drilling fluid
Added to freshwater	0.5 quart per 100 gallons water
Added to grout system	8 ounces per 24 gallons water and 1 bag/BELLE/CETCO CRUMBLES
Added to air foam	2 liters per 100 liters foam
Added to bentonite system	2 liters per 100 liters drilling fluid
Added to freshwater	2 liters per 100 liters water
Added to grout system	0.25 liters per 109 liters water and 1 bag/BELLE/CETCO CRUMBLES
DRILLED SHAFTS	
Added to freshwater	1.0 to 2.0 gallons per 1,000 gallons water
Added to boost viscosity	1.0 gallon per 1,000 gallons SHORE PAC slurry
Added to freshwater	3.78 liters to 757 liters water
Added to boost viscosity	3.78 liters per 3785 liters SHORE PAC slurry

North America: 847.851.1800 | 800.527.9948 | www.CETCO.com

UPDATED: MAY 2016

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FORM: TDS_ACCU-VIS_AM_EN_201605



1. Product and Company Identification

Material name ACCU-VIS®
Version # 10
Issue date 15-August-2014
Revision date 31-October-2014
Supersedes date 15-August-2014
Chemical description Copolymer of sodium acrylate and acrylamide in mineral oil
CAS # Mixture
Manufacturer information CETCO, an MTI Company
2870 Forbs Avenue
Hoffman Estates, IL 60192 United States
safetydata@amcol.com
http://www.cetco.com/
General Information 800 527-9948

2. Hazards Identification

Emergency overview CAUTION
Combustible liquid and vapor. Health injuries are not known or expected under normal use. Material can be slippery when wet

OSHA regulatory status This preparation is classified as dangerous according to Directive 1999/45/EC and its amendments. This product is considered hazardous under 29 CFR 1910.1200 (Hazard Communication).

Potential health effects

Eyes Contact with eyes may cause irritation. Symptoms include itching, burning, redness and tearing.

Skin Contact may irritate or burn skin. Symptoms may include redness, edema, drying, defatting and cracking of the skin.

Inhalation Exposure to oil mist/fume/vapor may cause respiratory tract irritation.

Ingestion May be harmful if swallowed. Aspiration into lungs may cause chemical pneumonia and lung damage.

Health effects of additional components

2-PROPENOIC ACID, SODIUM SALT, POLYMER WITH 2-PROPENAMIDE Emergency overview: Harmful by inhalation, in contact with skin and if swallowed. Highly flammable.

Potential health effects - Routes of exposure: Inhalation. Skin contact. Ingestion.

Potential health effects - Eyes: Harmful in contact with eyes.

Potential health effects - Skin: Harmful in contact with skin.

Potential health effects - Inhalation: Harmful if inhaled.

Potential health effects - Ingestion: Harmful if swallowed.

3. Composition / Information on Ingredients

The manufacturer lists no ingredients as hazardous according to OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1200.

Constituents	CAS #	Percent
2-PROPENOIC ACID, SODIUM SALT, POLYMER WITH 2-PROPENAMIDE	25085-02-3	
Acrylamide	79-06-1	0 - 0.05

Composition comments Occupational Exposure Limits for constituents are listed in Section 8.

4. First Aid Measures

First aid procedures

Eye contact

Immediately flush eyes with plenty of water for at least 20 minutes. Immediately flush eyes with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing. Get medical attention if irritation develops or persists. Get medical attention if irritation develops and persists.

Skin contact

Take off immediately all contaminated clothing. Rinse skin with water/shower. Get medical attention if irritation develops or persists. Launder contaminated clothing before reuse.

Inhalation

If gas/fume/vapor/dust/mist from the material is inhaled, remove the affected person immediately to fresh air. Call a physician if symptoms develop or persist.

Ingestion

Rinse mouth. If vomiting occurs naturally, have victim lean forward to reduce risk of aspiration. Get medical attention immediately. If swallowed, do NOT induce vomiting. If ingestion of a large amount does occur, call a poison control center immediately.

General advice

If you feel unwell, seek medical advice (show the label where possible).

5. Fire Fighting Measures

Flammable properties

Combustible by OSHA criteria. None known.

Extinguishing media

Suitable extinguishing media

Water fog. Foam. Dry chemical powder. Dry chemical, CO₂, water spray or regular foam. Carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Unsuitable extinguishing media

Do not use water jet as an extinguisher, as this will spread the fire.

Protection of firefighters

Protective equipment and precautions for firefighters

As in any fire, wear self-contained breathing apparatus pressure-demand, MSHA/NIOSH (approved or equivalent) and full protective gear. Wear suitable protective equipment.

Fire fighting equipment/instructions

Move containers from fire area if you can do so without risk. Material can be slippery when wet..

General fire hazards

Not a fire hazard.

6. Accidental Release Measures

Personal precautions

Keep unnecessary personnel away. Keep people away from and upwind of spill/leak. Keep out of low areas. Do not touch damaged containers or spilled material unless wearing appropriate protective clothing. Ensure adequate ventilation. For personal protection, see section 8 of the MSDS. Material can be slippery when wet.

Environmental precautions

Prevent further leakage or spillage if safe to do so. Do not flush into surface water or sanitary sewer system.

Methods for containment

Eliminate all ignition sources (no smoking, flares, sparks, or flames in immediate area). Stop leak if you can do so without risk. Dike the spilled material, where this is possible.

Methods for cleaning up

Large Spills: Stop the flow of material, if this is without risk. Dike the spilled material, where this is possible. Cover with plastic sheet to prevent spreading. Absorb with earth, sand or other non-combustible material and transfer to containers for later disposal. Following product recovery, flush area with water.

Small Spills: Wipe up with absorbent material (e.g. cloth, fleece). Clean surface thoroughly to remove residual contamination.

Never return spills to original containers for re-use. For waste disposal, see section 13 of the MSDS. Forms smooth, slippery surfaces on floors, posing an accident risk.

7. Handling and Storage

Handling

Do not handle, store or open near an open flame, sources of heat or sources of ignition. Protect material from direct sunlight. Do not get this material in your eyes, on your skin, or on your clothing. Handle and open container with care. Forms smooth, slippery surfaces on floors, posing an accident risk.

Storage

Class IIIA Combustible Liquid.

Store at room temperature in the original container. Keep away from heat, sparks and open flame. Keep containers tightly closed in a dry, cool and well-ventilated place. Store away from incompatible materials (see Section 10 of the MSDS). Use care in handling/storage.

8. Exposure Controls / Personal Protection

Occupational exposure limits

US. ACGIH Threshold Limit Values

Constituents	Type	Value	Form
Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1)	TWA	0.03 mg/m3	Inhalable fraction and vapor.

US. OSHA Table Z-1 Limits for Air Contaminants (29 CFR 1910.1000)

Constituents	Type	Value
Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1)	PEL	0.3 mg/m3

Biological limit values No biological exposure limits noted for the ingredient(s).

Exposure guidelines

US - California OELs: Skin designation

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1) Can be absorbed through the skin.

US - Minnesota Haz Subs: Skin designation applies

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1) Skin designation applies.

US - Tennessee OELs: Skin designation

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1) Can be absorbed through the skin.

US ACGIH Threshold Limit Values: Skin designation

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1) Can be absorbed through the skin.

US NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards: Skin designation

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1) Can be absorbed through the skin.

US OSHA Table Z-1: Skin designation

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1) Can be absorbed through the skin.

Engineering controls Ensure adequate ventilation, especially in confined areas.

Personal protective equipment

Eye / face protection Wear chemical goggles and face shield. Eye wash fountain is recommended.

Skin protection Wear oil-impervious garments if contact is unavoidable. Normal work clothing (long sleeved shirts and long pants) is recommended. Use impervious gloves.

Respiratory protection When workers are facing concentrations above the exposure limit they must use appropriate certified respirators. If mist is generated (heating, spraying) and engineering controls are not sufficient, wear approved organic vapor respirator suitable for oil mist.

General hygiene considerations Keep away from food, drink and animal feeding stuffs. Always observe good personal hygiene measures, such as washing after handling the material and before eating, drinking, and/or smoking. Routinely wash work clothing and protective equipment to remove contaminants. Use good industrial hygiene practices in handling this material. Eye wash fountain and emergency showers are recommended.

9. Physical & Chemical Properties

Appearance	Viscous.
Physical state	Liquid.
Form	Liquid.
Color	White.
Odor	Petroleum
Odor threshold	Not available.
pH	7.5
Vapor pressure	Not available.
Vapor density	Not available.
Boiling point	> 212 °F (> 100 °C)
Melting point/Freezing point	Not available.
Solubility (water)	Not available.
Specific gravity	1.1
Relative density	Not available.
Flash point	> 199.4 °F (> 93.0 °C) Pensky-Martens Closed Cup

Flammability limits in air, upper, % by volume	Not available.
Flammability limits in air, lower, % by volume	Not available.
Auto-ignition temperature	Not available.
Other data	
Flammability class	Combustible IIIA estimated
Flash point class	Combustible IIIA

10. Chemical Stability & Reactivity Information

Chemical stability	Risk of ignition. Stable at normal conditions.
Conditions to avoid	Heat, flames and sparks. Avoid temperatures exceeding the flash point. Contact with incompatible materials. Extremes of temperature and direct sunlight. Do not freeze.
Incompatible materials	Strong oxidizing agents.
Hazardous decomposition products	At thermal decomposition temperatures, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.
Possibility of hazardous reactions	Will not occur.

11. Toxicological Information

Toxicological data		
Product	Species	Test Results
ACCU-VIS® (CAS Mixture)		
Acute		
<i>Dermal</i>		
LD50	Rabbit	5467 mg/kg
<i>Inhalation</i>		
LC50	Rat	6.2286 mg/l/4h
Constituents	Species	Test Results
Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1)		
Acute		
<i>Dermal</i>		
LD50	Rabbit	1.68 ml/kg
	Rat	400 mg/kg
		1.68 ml/kg
<i>Oral</i>		
LD50	Mouse	107 mg/kg
	Rabbit	150 mg/kg
	Rat	124 mg/kg
<i>Other</i>		
LD50	Guinea pig	170 mg/kg
	Mouse	170 mg/kg
	Rat	90 mg/kg

* Estimates for product may be based on additional component data not shown.

Carcinogenicity	Suspect cancer hazard. This product contains trace levels (<0.1%) of a potential carcinogen.
ACGIH Carcinogens	
Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1)	A3 Confirmed animal carcinogen with unknown relevance to humans.
IARC Monographs. Overall Evaluation of Carcinogenicity	
Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1)	2A Probably carcinogenic to humans.
US NTP Report on Carcinogens: Anticipated carcinogen	
Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1)	Reasonably Anticipated to be a Human Carcinogen.
Further information	This product has no known adverse effect on human health.

12. Ecological Information

Ecotoxicological data

Constituents		Species	Test Results
Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1)			
Crustacea	EC50	Daphnia	98 mg/L, 48 Hours
Fish	LC50	Fish	109 mg/L, 96 Hours
Aquatic			
Fish	LC50	Bluegill (Lepomis macrochirus)	81 - 150 mg/l, 96 hours

* Estimates for product may be based on additional component data not shown.

Environmental effects Based on the physical properties of this product, significant environmental persistence and bioaccumulation would not be expected.

Persistence and degradability Not available.

Bioaccumulative potential

Octanol/water partition coefficient log Kow

Acrylamide -0.67

13. Disposal Considerations

Waste codes The waste code should be assigned in discussion between the user, the producer and the waste disposal company.

US RCRA Hazardous Waste U List: Reference

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1) U007

Disposal instructions Collect and reclaim or dispose in sealed containers at licensed waste disposal site. Dispose in accordance with all applicable regulations.

Waste from residues / unused products Dispose of in accordance with local regulations. Empty containers or liners may retain some product residues. This material and its container must be disposed of in a safe manner (see: Disposal instructions).

Contaminated packaging Empty containers should be taken to an approved waste handling site for recycling or disposal. Since emptied containers may retain product residue, follow label warnings even after container is emptied.

14. Transport Information

DOT

Not regulated as dangerous goods.

IATA

Not regulated as dangerous goods.

IMDG

Not regulated as dangerous goods.

15. Regulatory Information

US federal regulations OSHA Process Safety Standard: This material is not known to be hazardous by the OSHA Highly Hazardous Process Safety Standard, 29 CFR 1910.119.
This product is a "Hazardous Chemical" as defined by the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1200.

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). List 2, Essential Chemicals (21 CFR 1310.02(b) and 1310.04(f)(2))

Not regulated.

DEA Essential Chemical Code Number

Not regulated.

Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). List 1 & 2 Exempt Chemical Mixtures (21 CFR 1310.12(c))

Not regulated.

DEA Exempt Chemical Mixtures Code Number

Not regulated.

US EPCRA (SARA Title III) Section 302 - Extremely Hazardous Spill: Reportable quantity

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1) 5000 LBS

US EPCRA (SARA Title III) Section 302 - Extremely Hazardous Substance: Threshold planning quantity, lower value

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1) 1000 LBS

US EPCRA (SARA Title III) Section 302 - Extremely Hazardous Substance: Threshold planning quantity, upper value

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1) 10000 LBS

US EPCRA (SARA Title III) Section 313 - Toxic Chemical: De minimis concentration

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1) 0.1 %

US EPCRA (SARA Title III) Section 313 - Toxic Chemical: Listed substance

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1) Listed.

CERCLA (Superfund) reportable quantity

None

Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA)

Hazard categories

Immediate Hazard - No
 Delayed Hazard - No
 Fire Hazard - Yes
 Pressure Hazard - No
 Reactivity Hazard - No

Section 302 extremely hazardous substance

Yes

SARA 311/312 Hazardous chemical

Yes

Inventory status

Country(s) or region	Inventory name	On inventory (yes/no)*
Australia	Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS)	No
Canada	Domestic Substances List (DSL)	Yes
Canada	Non-Domestic Substances List (NDSL)	No
China	Inventory of Existing Chemical Substances in China (IECSC)	No
Europe	European Inventory of Existing Commercial Chemical Substances (EINECS)	No
Europe	European List of Notified Chemical Substances (ELINCS)	No
Japan	Inventory of Existing and New Chemical Substances (ENCS)	No
Korea	Existing Chemicals List (ECL)	No
New Zealand	New Zealand Inventory	No
Philippines	Philippine Inventory of Chemicals and Chemical Substances (PICCS)	No
United States & Puerto Rico	Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) Inventory	Yes

*A "Yes" indicates that all components of this product comply with the inventory requirements administered by the governing country(s)

A "No" indicates that one or more components of the product are not listed or exempt from listing on the inventory administered by the governing country(s).

US state regulations

WARNING: This product contains a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer. California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): This material is not known to contain any chemicals currently listed as carcinogens or reproductive toxins.

US - California Proposition 65 - CRT: Listed date/Carcinogenic substance

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1) Listed: January 1, 1990 Carcinogenic.

US - California Proposition 65 - CRT: Listed date/Developmental toxin

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1) Listed: February 25, 2011 Developmental toxin.

US - California Proposition 65 - CRT: Listed date/Male reproductive toxin

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1) Listed: February 25, 2011 Male reproductive toxin.

US - New Jersey RTK - Substances: Listed substance

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1) Listed.

US - Pennsylvania RTK - Hazardous Substances: Listed substance

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1) Listed.

US. Massachusetts RTK - Substance List

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1)

US. Rhode Island RTK

Acrylamide (CAS 79-06-1)

US. California Proposition 65

Not Listed.

16. Other Information

Further information

HMIS® ratings

HMIS® is a registered trade and service mark of the NPCA.

Health: 1

Flammability: 1

Physical hazard: 0

NFPA ratings

Health: 1

Flammability: 1

Instability: 0

Disclaimer

The information provided in this Safety Data Sheet is correct to the best of our knowledge, information and belief at the date of its publication. The information given is designed only as a guidance for safe handling, use, processing, storage, transportation, disposal and release and is not to be considered a warranty or quality specification. The manufacturer expressly does not make any representations, warranties, or guarantees as to its accuracy, reliability or completeness nor assumes any liability, for its use. It is the user's responsibility to verify the suitability and completeness of such information for each particular use.

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