



CITYSERVICES, INC  
P.O. Box 3217  
538 Powell Dr.  
Thomasville, GA 31799

Tel ☎ 229-226-6569  
Fax ☎ 229-227-0335  
Email ☎ [cityservicesinc@gmail.com](mailto:cityservicesinc@gmail.com)

# PCS PHOSPHATE SCM Mine Float Plant

CATHODIC PROTECTION SURVEY  
APRIL 2019

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April 2019

Potash Corporation  
Swift Creek Mining Plant  
15843 SE 78<sup>th</sup> Street  
White Springs, Florida 32096-2703  
ATTN: Mr. Ken Tut  
Project Representative

Swift Creek Mining Plant  
Effectiveness of Cathodic Protection  
Survey Underground Natural Gas System

## **INTRODUCTION**

The annual cathodic protection survey was conducted for Potash Corporation – Swift Creek Mining Plant during the month of April 2019. During this survey, the Swift Creek Mining Plant natural gas system was inspected for the effectiveness of cathodic protection, as applied. The cathodic protection system for the Swift Creek Mining Plant consists essentially of Galvomag Magnesium anodes placed in various locations throughout the natural gas system.

## **RESULTS AND ANALYSIS**

A total of Ten [10] structure readings, Three [3] Galvomag anode / CTP readings, Three [3] casing readings and Four [4] gas pipeline readings were taken during this survey. As can be seen by the structure-to-soil potential measurements and the enclosed data sheet, 100% of the gas pipeline readings obtained are indicative of cathodic protection. A structure-to-soil potential of 850 millivolts [-0.850] or more negative direct current is the basis used in this report to confirm cathodic protection.



### **IR DROP CONSIDERATION**

The effectiveness of any cathodic protection system can be determined by taking potential measurements between the structure and a reference electrode. These potential measurements have traditionally been recorded with "average reading" digital voltmeters while the protective current is flowing or applied. These on-potential measurements contain the error produced by the voltage drop in the soil (electrolyte) and the voltage drop in the structure being protected. This error is referred to as *IR* drop. Interpretation of a current applied measurement requires consideration of the significance of voltage drops in the earth and metallic paths.

An instant off-potential measurement is the reading taken instantaneously after the protective current reaches zero. Off-potential measurements eliminate the *IR* drop error, allowing the true *IR* drop free polarized potential of a cathodically protected structure to be determined in the field. *IR* drop error is eliminated since there is no current flowing when the measurement is taken (i.e.,  $I=0$ ).

### **SURVEY TEST INSTRUMENTATION**

The Cathodic Protection Analyzer, developed by Universal Rectifiers, Inc, (Hereinafter referred to as CPA), is a handheld instrument used with a reference electrode to measure the uninterrupted characteristics of the signal generated from a CP source. It can be used to evaluate the coating of a pipeline to ensure that the pipe is fully protected from corrosion. The CPA is designed for use with any pipeline system or structure at risk to corrosion factors. Aging pipes and changing conditions can cause significant problems, such as an increase in applied CP levels and enlarged holidays in coating. In addition, increased environmental concerns also emphasize the need to minimize leaks as much as possible.

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The CPA has computer capabilities of filtering interfering signals. The instrument is also capable of measuring several facets of the protection waveform. The software-driven instrument reads the minimum, average, and maximum voltage levels emanating from the pipe, thereby allowing an overview of the entire CPv signature. Digital signal processing makes the accuracy and precision of the CPA possible. It utilizes software to provide the extra speed and flexibility that is becoming increasingly important in the field.

The CPA is operated in conjunction with a Copper – Copper Sulfate [Cu/CuSO<sub>4</sub>] shielded reference electrode known by its model number SPI, which allows the measurement of the cathodic protection voltage without interrupting the potential source.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

Potash Corporation – Swift Creel Mine Float Plant  
Underground Natural Gas System  
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The sacrificial galvanic anode arrangement designed to protect the coated and wrapped steel natural gas system indicates adequate current to afford cathodic protection to the steel distribution system. Structure-to-soil readings obtained from Cathodic Test Points and gas risers on the steel distribution system indicate CP readings above State and Federal minimum standards of -0.850 volts direct current. Three [3] pipeline casings, Three [3] Galvomag anodes / Cathodic Test Points and Four [4] Structure-to-Soil gas pipeline contacts were inspected during this survey.

The coated and wrapped main lines show a minimum *IR* drop free structure-to-soil potential of -1.019 vdc and a maximum *IR* drop free structure-to-soil potential of -1.284 vdc at various Cathodic Test Points in the Swift Creek Mine Float Plant distribution system. Continuity over the entire main line system is fair to good.

At the time of survey, the Natural Gas Distribution System for Potash Corporation's Swift Creel Mine Float Plant complex indicates cathodic protection levels exceeding State and Federal minimum guidelines for applied cathodic protection. I trust the above information to be satisfactory and in sufficient detail, however, should you require additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Mitchell Whitfield  
C.P. Tester

**CATHODIC TEST POINTS**

## CATHODIC TEST POINTS

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### CTP - #1

Black Anode Wire	-1.294 Vdc
Black Gas Pipeline Wire	-1.087 Vdc
White Casing Pipe Wire	-0.559 Vdc

### CTP - #2

Black Anode Wire	-1.213 Vdc
Black Gas Pipeline Wire	-1.101 Vdc
White Casing Pipe Wire	-0.618 Vdc

### CTP - #3

Black Anode Wire	-1.361 Vdc
Green Gas Pipeline Wire	-1.229 Vdc



**STRUCTURE-TO-SOIL POTENTIALS**  
**GAS PIPE CASINGS**

**STRUCTURE-TO-SOIL POTENTIAL  
GAS PIPE CASINGS**

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<u>Test Location</u>	<u>Energized Potentials Volts</u>
Railroad Casing - #1	-0.541
Railroad Casing - #2	-0.539
Highway Casing - #3	-0.427

**STRUCTURE - TO - SOIL POTENTIAL DATA**



## **STRUCTURE – TO – SOIL POTENTIAL DATA**

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Underground Natural Gas System

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<u>Test Location</u>	<u>Energized Potentials Volts</u>
Gas Metering Station - Inlet	-1.121
Gas Metering Station – Outlet	-1.019
4” Gas Riser @ Plant	-1.284
2” Gas Riser @ Boiler Room	-1.193