

Central Compression Project

The central compression project to produce from the Bush Dome reservoir was started about five years ago. Today the compressor is operational, has been running in recycle mode, and final operational procedures (integration, start-ups and shut-downs) are being learned by the crew. Projected commissioning date is Thursday, March 12.

March 5, 2015 – BLM continues to work with contractors to make preparations for the 24 hour commission run. The plan is to keep the compressor operating after the test and observe performance. Official commissioning date is expected to be March 12, 2015. Although the risk is low, the BLM will announce the potential for a plant outage during this process.

February 27, 2015 – The contractors have provided employee training for operating the new compressor. A programmer was on site this week to reverse the suction control valve routines and program corrections for the Guardian Control Center. Contractor made arrangements to make repairs for the leaks next week.

February 24, 2015 - Contractor discovered dowel pins on the electrical motor were loose. The contractor hydraulically tightened the loose pins and confirmed the motor was operational. These issues were repaired however they did delay integration of the K-100 and New Compressor. An oil leak and also a coolant leak were found during the 24 hour recycle run. The commissioning punch list is still being addressed by the contractors. Employee training will be provided during this week.

February 17, 2015 – The contractor (Reliable Contracting Group) for the central compression had several subcontractors on location Friday, February 13, 2015. The electrical equipment was put through a full check and it was discovered that the wiring in the soft start portion of the motor control center had been incorrectly wired at the factory. This was corrected on location, and the 2500 HP electric motor was turned over several times without any faults.

The week of February 23, a subcontractor (UE Compression) will be on location to finish commissioning the compressor, followed by training, and start-up of the compressor. The BLM is expecting to start the compressor on Thursday, February 26, 2015. The BLM will attempt to simultaneously produce into the plant and into the central compression. After performing necessary tests on the central compressor, the compressed gas from the central compression will route to the existing compressor (K-100). There is a potential for the plant to go down during these operations.

January 30, 2015 - During the process for commissioning of the central compressor, the contractor encountered problems with start-up of the 2500 HP motor. Testing was done on the motor, and it was discovered that the Motor Control Center related to the soft start was defective. The electrical components will be delivered /installed on Monday, February 2, 2015, and the motor briefly energized for rotation and to validate operations. The contractor is checking with the compressor manufacturer to see when their technicians can be mobilized to complete commissioning, and provide operator training on the compressor.

December 31, 2014 - The project completion date has been reached. Construction and installation of the compressor has been achieved. Problems with the electrical system related to the soft start are going to take the project past the original end date. The BLM is completing the HAZOP and Process Hazard Analysis record, the startup procedure and the Management of Change documentation to permit full integration of the new compressor into the K-100 CHEU equipment.