



The National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited

Media Release

NGC leads partnership to improve risk management during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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The local and international energy sector continues to grapple with the effects of COVID-19. This pandemic has implications not only for the health and well-being of individuals but also risk management and the continued safe operations of energy companies. This new dynamic makes the updating of response guidelines essential as companies globally strive to manage the new risks as well as continue to operate safely in the new normal. NGC and the Centre for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) have therefore partnered to produce updated response guidelines and insights to assist companies across the world manage new risks and continue operating safely.

This initiative, facilitated by the formation of an international team, including Celanese and Chemours, resulted in the creation of a monograph that captured pertinent actions around Risk-Based Process Safety Management (RBPSM), and was led by NGC's Vice President of Operations Ramesh Harrylal.

RBPS guidelines are used by energy and chemical companies to manage and mitigate the risk of process safety incidents due to failures of technology, human error, weaknesses in management systems, external circumstances or natural events. With COVID-19 disrupting routines, reducing manpower and forcing companies to maneuver in a restricted operating environment, risk management must now factor in a host of new conditions and constraints.

The resulting booklet, arising from one week of intense collaboration, can be used by companies internationally to help in better managing risk associated with COVID-19 as well as other disruptions. This new CCPS monograph, published in four (4) languages has been adopted by several companies globally. Factors such as a company's limited access to funding for PSM; the execution of preventative maintenance works with unavailable tools and materials; working from home and reduction of employees on the worksite; increases in the likelihood of human error due to heightened stress levels are some of the areas considered. The monograph proposes specific actions which assists companies to mitigate the risks associated with changing environments that COVID-19 pandemic presented.

Commenting on the genesis and importance of this project, Mr. Harrylal noted that “Process safety assurance is critical for all companies involved in managing highly hazardous facilities. It was recognised early by NGC that COVID-19 could have an impact on process safety and all energy sector stakeholders during this global pandemic, as changes are being made to resourcing strategies and operations. NGC, therefore, saw an opportunity for knowledge sharing and collaboration in this critical area. We are happy to have been able to contribute in a meaningful way and help companies around the world operate safely in times of challenge.”

This initiative is indicative of the collaborative spirit and expertise resident in NGC. Importantly, it is also an achievement that highlights the value of NGC’s expertise to the local and international energy community and is a statement of intent regarding not only the intention of NGC to be a global player but also the ability of the company to contribute to the international energy landscape.

The full monograph can be viewed here :

<https://www.aiche.org/sites/default/files/html/544906/RBPS-during-COVID-19-and-Similar-Disruptive-times.html>

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