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ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY IN GAS PROCESSING PLANTS

Dildora Rasuljanovna Atakuzieva
Senior Lecturer, Tashkent State Technical University, Uzbekistan

Aleksey Pavlovich Belyaikov
Student, Tashkent State Technical University, Uzbekistan

Abstract

Environmental safety has become a critical factor in the design of gas processing facilities due to increasing environmental regulations, climate change concerns, and public awareness. Modern gas processing plants must minimize harmful emissions, reduce waste generation, and ensure sustainable use of natural resources. This article analyzes contemporary engineering approaches and innovative technologies aimed at improving environmental safety during the design stage of gas processing facilities. Emphasis is placed on emission control systems, waste minimization strategies, digital monitoring technologies, and compliance with international environmental standards. The results demonstrate that integrating environmental considerations into early design stages significantly enhances sustainability and operational efficiency.

Keywords: Gas processing facilities, environmental safety, sustainable design, emission control, environmental engineering.

Introduction

Gas processing facilities play a vital role in the energy sector by preparing natural gas for transportation and end-use. However, these facilities are also potential sources of environmental pollution, including greenhouse gas emissions,

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hazardous waste, and water contamination. In recent years, stricter environmental regulations and global sustainability goals have compelled engineers and designers to prioritize environmental safety in the planning and design of gas processing plants.

Environmental safety in gas processing facility design involves reducing emissions, preventing accidental releases, and ensuring safe waste management. Modern design approaches increasingly rely on advanced technologies, such as digital monitoring systems and environmentally friendly process configurations. This article aims to explore innovative solutions and modern engineering practices that enhance environmental safety in gas processing facility design.

The study is based on an analysis of modern gas processing facility design principles, including:

- Minimization of atmospheric emissions
- Reduction of wastewater discharge
- Safe handling and disposal of solid and hazardous wastes
- Prevention of gas leaks and accidental releases

Modern facilities incorporate advanced emission control systems, such as:

- Acid gas removal units (AGRUs)
- Sulfur recovery units (SRUs)
- Flare gas recovery systems (FGRS)
- Carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies

These systems are integrated into the design phase to ensure compliance with environmental standards.

Environmental safety assessment is supported by:

- Continuous emission monitoring systems (CEMS)
- Automated leak detection and repair (LDAR) systems
- Digital twin models for environmental risk prediction

Environmental performance is evaluated using:

- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

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- Life Cycle Assessment (LCA)
- Risk-based design analysis

The analysis shows that gas processing facilities designed with integrated environmental safety systems achieve significantly lower emission levels. Facilities equipped with flare gas recovery systems reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 90% compared to conventional flaring. Implementation of digital monitoring systems improves early detection of leaks and prevents environmental accidents.

Acid Gas Removal (Amine Treatment)

$$RNH_2+H_2S \rightarrow RNH_3^+ + HS^-$$

$$RNH_2+CO_2+H2O \rightarrow RNH_3^+ + HCO_3^-$$

Life cycle assessment results indicate that environmentally optimized designs reduce overall environmental impact while maintaining economic feasibility. Furthermore, the use of closed-loop water systems significantly decreases freshwater consumption and wastewater discharge.

The results confirm that environmental safety must be addressed at the earliest stages of gas processing facility design. Modern technologies, such as carbon capture systems and digital twins, allow engineers to predict environmental risks and optimize design solutions before construction begins. Although initial investment costs may be higher, long-term benefits include regulatory compliance, reduced operational risks, and improved public acceptance.

The integration of international standards such as ISO 14001 and best available techniques (BAT) guidelines ensures continuous improvement in environmental performance. Future developments are expected to focus on greater digitalization, automation, and the use of renewable energy sources within gas processing facilities.

Environmental safety is a fundamental aspect of modern gas processing facility design. The application of innovative technologies and sustainable engineering approaches significantly reduces environmental impact and enhances operational

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efficiency. Integrating environmental safety considerations into the design stage is essential for achieving sustainable development goals and ensuring long-term viability of gas processing projects.

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