

# NEWS RELEASE



## A decade after EPA amended ruling, corrosion of steel tanks still contribute to preventable leaks in soil, ground water

*Corrosion engineers roll out industry education initiative to help close the gap*

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GRAND JUNCTION, COLO. A team of corrosion engineers with Anode Systems Company has created a steel tank Cathodic Protection education initiative for oil and gas operators and environmental cleanup professionals in response to the ongoing need for preventable leaks in soil and ground water.

“Corrosion is the leading cause of leaks from steel tanks that store brine, natural gas liquids, oil and water,” says Hans Schmoldt, Anode Systems Company owner and corrosion engineer. “Surprised that there are still produced water tank batteries not inside lined containment enclosures, which puts the safety of people and local ecosystems at risk, we decided to find out why.”

What was intended as a fact-finding mission turned into an education campaign as Schmoldt and his team of corrosion engineers explained to operators the science of cathodic protection against corrosion.

“The more operators that add cathodic protection in the form of anodes inside or outside their steel tanks, the better for the environment and better for them in terms of tank replacement and clean up costs,” Schmoldt says.

There are 50,000 tanks storing crude oil, gas condensate, brine, frac water, produced salt water or fresh water on oil and gas leases in Colorado. More than 12,000 tanks are at risk potential for leaks — preventable with cathodic protection.

The EPA’s Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) amended Rule 40 CFR Part 112 “requires corrective action to repair leaking produced water containers — tanks and pipes — and to remediate any oil discharges,” Schmoldt says, adding that 28,000 barrels of produced water spilled in Colorado in 2019. “That rule amendment was in 2010 — obviously we still have a lot of work to do as an industry.”

The Cathodic Protection workshops are designed for oil and gas producers, environmental cleanup professionals, SPCC plan administrators, anode distributors, field inspectors, and tank manufacturers. To register or request a workshop in your area, contact Anode Systems Company at 970.243.4149. ###

White Paper *How Low-Cost Cathodic Protection Reduces Production Tank Leaks* and photographs available.

