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Spectra backtracks on gas incident

By Elizabeth Coyle
Gazette Associate Editor

Spectra Energy on Thursday backtracked from its assertion earlier this week that a release valve at its natural gas compressor station south of Clearville caused nothing but air to be vented from the station last Saturday.

A noise described as "popping" and "snapping" was coming from the natural gas compressor station for two to

three hours. Everett Fire Company and Steckman Ridge staff responded to the scene after residents mistakenly stated they saw smoke.

Spectra and the state Department of Environmental Protection said instead it was natural gas that residents saw.

Spectra initially said through a spokeswoman that the incident was simply a pressure release valve acting as it should to release pressure and

that there was "no smoke, no incident."

The valve that was activated, "is a protection device. It operated as designed," spokeswoman Marylee Hanley said Monday.

She said there was no smoke and no need for the fire company to respond to the station.

The incident stemmed from a pressure release valve that acted as it should to release pressure. "It is a pro-

tection device. It operated as designed," she said.

The only thing that was released was "air," Hanley said. "Nothing was released. There was no smoke. No incident."

A DEP spokeswoman said Wednesday that Steckman Ridge, a storage facility owned in a joint venture between Texas-based Spectra Energy
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