

Section 8: Resonance Structures

, where all three oxygens are bonded to the nitrogen. Two structures can be drawn for nitric acid with nitrogen and all three oxygens obeying the octet rule.

In each structure, of the oxygens not bonded to hydrogen, one shares a single bond with nitrogen while the other shares a double bond with nitrogen. These two structures are not identical, unlike the two freon structures in Figure, because the atoms are bonded differently in the two structures.

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