GLOBAL FORUM

On Flaring and Venting Reduction and Natural Gas Utilisation

Oil and Gas Methane Emission Reduction Best Practices

Don Robinson ICF International on behalf of the Methane to Markets Partnership

Flaring Reduction Fugitive Emissions Capture are Related



- Flared gas is a major portion of the saleable methane lost from a facility
 - -Fugitive and vented methane are the remaining portions
- Recovery of flare gas provides an avenue for capture and use of fugitive and vented emissions

 Fugitive leak capture is not done if gas is flared
- Capture of fugitive and vented emissions improves economics of flare reduction projects
 - -Fugitive and vented emissions often have higher methane and higher heat content
- Most fugitive and vented emissions can be captured for beneficial use

Top Five Fugitive and Vented Emission Sources



- Tank Venting
 - -Install Vapor Recovery Units and Micro Turbine Generators
- Pneumatic Instrument Venting
 - -Replace High Bleed with Low Bleed or Instrument Air
- Fugitive Emissions
 - -Leak Detection and Repair Program with Infrared Technology
- Compressor Seals
 - -Replace Centrifugal Compressor Wet Seals with Dry Seals
 - Economic Rod Packing Replacement in Reciprocating Compressors
- Gas Well Venting
 - -Reduced Emissions Completions for Gas Wells
 - -Smart Automation Plunger Lifts for Liquids Unloading

Tank Venting



- Problem: Gas is vented from low-pressure crude oil and gas condensate storage vessels due to flashing, working, and standing losses
- BMPs: Vapor recovery towers (VRT) and units (VRU) capture tank vapors using compressors



Source: Anadarko, VRT



- 4 - Source: Hy-Bon Engineering, VRU

Pneumatic Instrument Venting



 Problem: Process controllers, chemical ^{Inlet} pumps, and glycol pumps often vent pressurized natural gas used for Atmosphere pneumatic actuation



Source: Anadarko, Solar chemical pump _ 5 _

- et ilds et LLC: Liquid Level Controller Instrumentation and Control Systems Piping Network Network Systems Piping Network Liquid Compressor Volume Tank
- BMPs:

pumps

- Retrofit high-bleed devices to low-bleed,
- Replace natural gas with compressed air,
- -Use electric or solar powered

Fugitive Emissions



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 Problem: Natural gas is odorless and colorless so leaks from valves, connectors, and open ended lines go unnoticed

• BMPs:

- Regular leak inspection and repair surveys using leak detection technologies
- Infrared remote leak detection technologies





Source: Leak Surveys, Hand-held camera



Source: ANGEL, Aerial image

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Fugitive Emissions Measurement



- Verification of emission reductions and project scoping requires emissions measurement
 - -High volume sampler measures emissions up to 14 m³/hour
 - Rotameter measures flow rate of vent stacks
 - -Calibrated bags measure vent emissions by timing inflation





High volume sampler in use

Compressor Methane Losses



- Problem: Compressor seals are designed to leak gas, shutdown practices vent large volumes of gas
- BMPs:
 - -Economic replacement of rod packing,
 - -Replace wet seals with dry seals,
 - -Route blowdown gas to fuel



Gas Well Venting



- Problem: Well completion and liquids unloading vent large volumes of gas
- BMPs:
 - -Recover completion gas with portable separation and treatment equipment
 - -Smart automation plunger lift reduces operational venting



Source: Williams, Completion skid



Source: Weatherford, Plunger lift diagram

Methane to Markets Best Practices Technical Documents



- Methane to Markets has documents that address BMPs for these sources and more
- Over 80 technical documents available in Chinese, Russian, Spanish, and English online at: epa.gov/gasstar



Methane Saving Project Experiences



- Methane to Markets Participants are currently using technologies to recover valuable vented and fugitive methane
- Selected technology presentations for this section:
 - -Micro-turbines and other uses for low-pressure gas (BP experience)
 - -Latest technology to identify, measure and recover tank emissions (Hy-Bon experience)
 - -Advanced well completions and infrared cameras for leak detection (Marathon experience)
 - -Infrared methane emissions imaging (FLIR experience)

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