

DENVER 2012

Natural Gas STAR Workshop



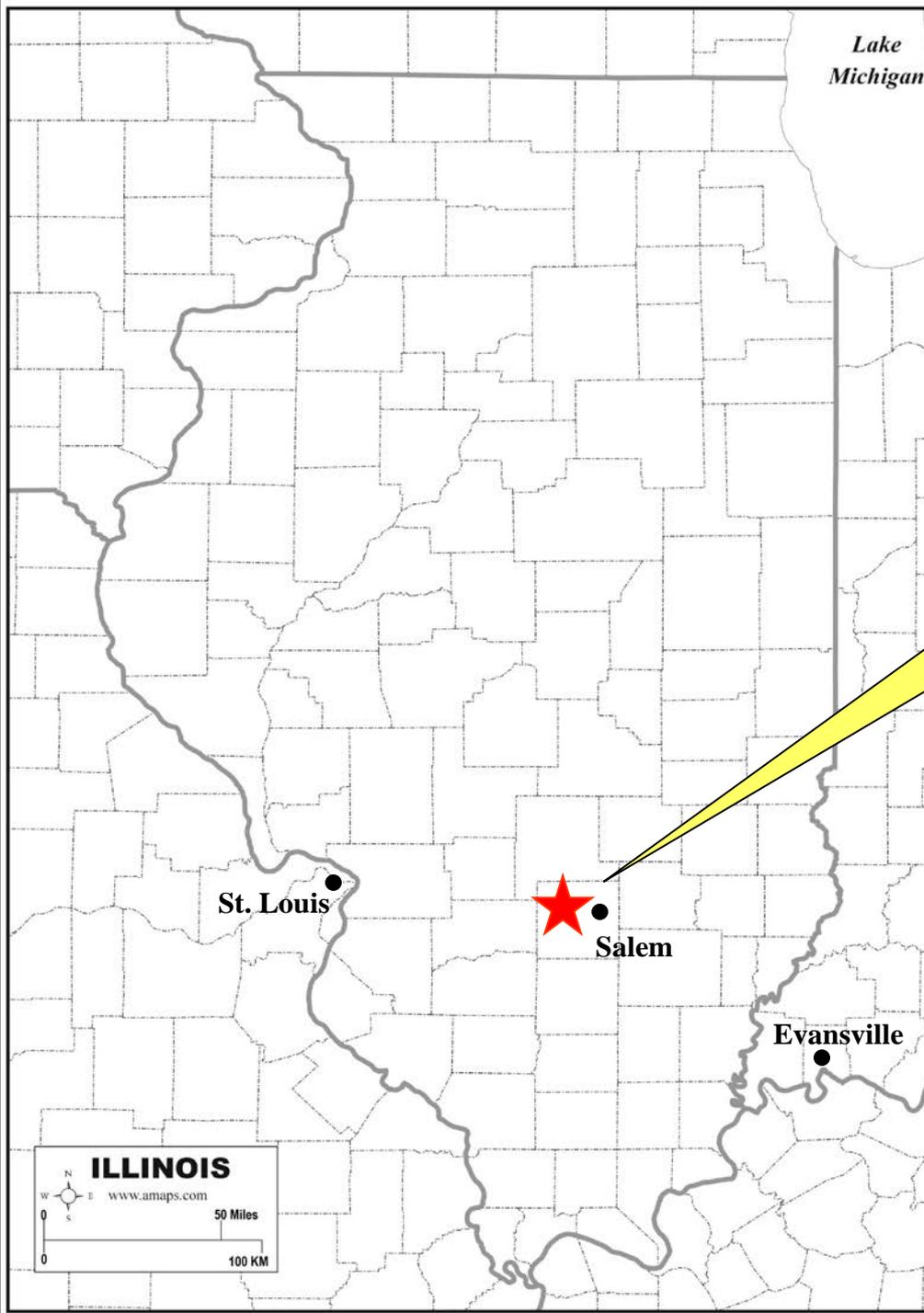
# Salem Unit Casinghead Gas Project

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*Hy-Bon Engineering*

*Clyde Finch*

*Citation Oil & Gas Corp.*



Lake Michigan

**Salem  
Unit**

St. Louis

Salem

Evansville

**ILLINOIS**  
www.amaps.com  
50 Miles  
100 KM

# Salem Unit History

- Field discovered 1938
- Unitized in 1950s
- Earliest large waterflood in USA
- Operated by Texaco until 1998
- Produces from 5 zones
- 1,725 BOPD & 110,000 BWPD
- **All gas previously flared**



**Casinghead gas flares x 234 wells = approx. 700 MCFPD**

**Salem Unit**

**New Gas Plant**

**38 Mi. Gas Gathering System**



**Field Compressor Site**

**Electric drive used to minimize downtime.**

**PLC monitoring used to maintain a constant vacuum on the wells..**

**Picture Courtesy of Hy-Bon Engineering**

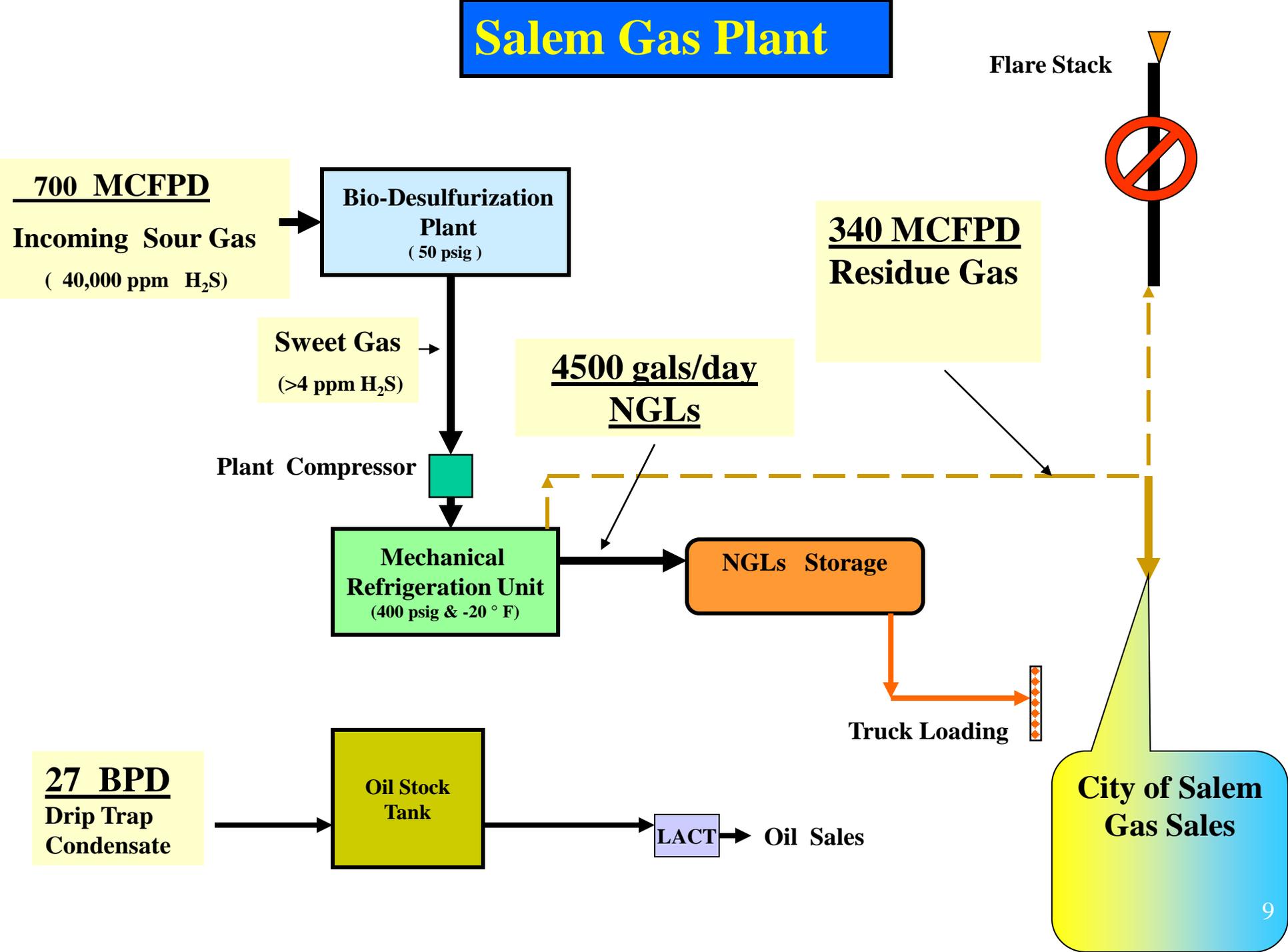


**Rotary Screw compressors were used due to the wet nature of this gas stream. Filters are used before the skid to remove iron sulfide, then a scrubber vessel and automated liquid transfer system on skid to handle the liquids which are common in this application.**

**Picture Courtesy of Hy-Bon Engineering**



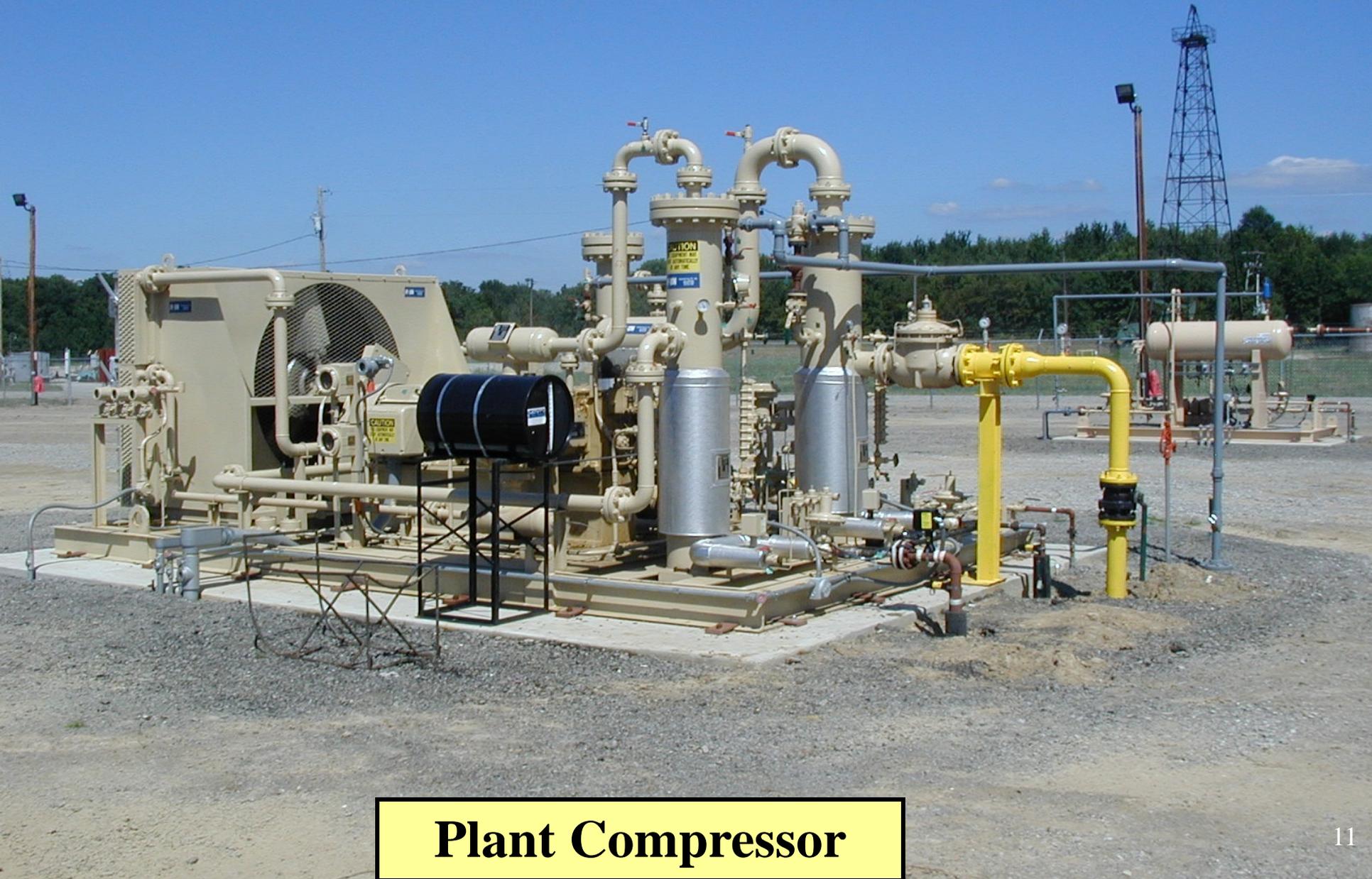
# Salem Gas Plant



**1,533 MMCF Sour Gas Processed**  
**98% Uptime since 2006 Startup**



**Bio-Plant**



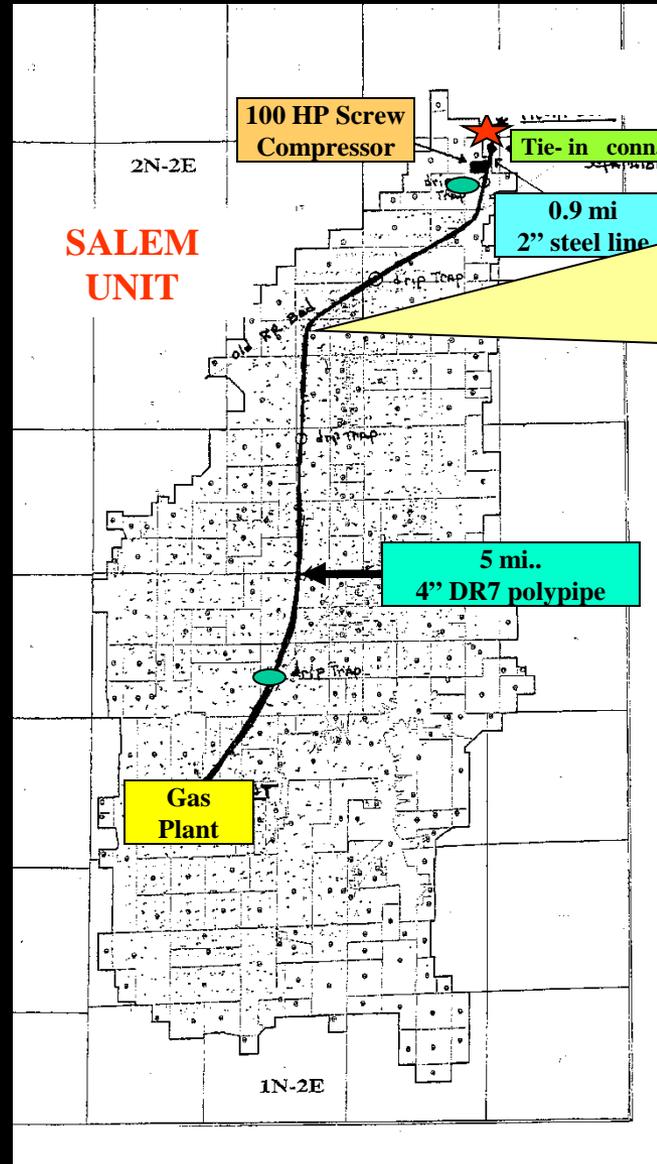
**Plant Compressor**

# Mechanical Refrigeration Unit





**To Date**  
**879 Truck Loads**  
**Or**  
**7.9 million gals**  
**(188,000 bbls )**



Pipeline provides 25% of Salem's Annual Gas Use

Gas Sales = 468 MMCF since 2007 startup

SALES GAS PIPELINE  
to CITY of SALEM

# Conclusions

- **Capturing this stranded gas is good business.**
- **No Flaring = 125 MMCF methane reduction per year**
- **Revenue: \$34,000 (gas) + \$158,000 (ngl) = \$192,000/mo.**
- **Bio-desulfurization works very well (< 4ppm H<sub>2</sub>S).**
- **Sales gas deal is win/win for Citation & Salem.**

# Libya VRU Pilot Program

Hy-Bon Engineering



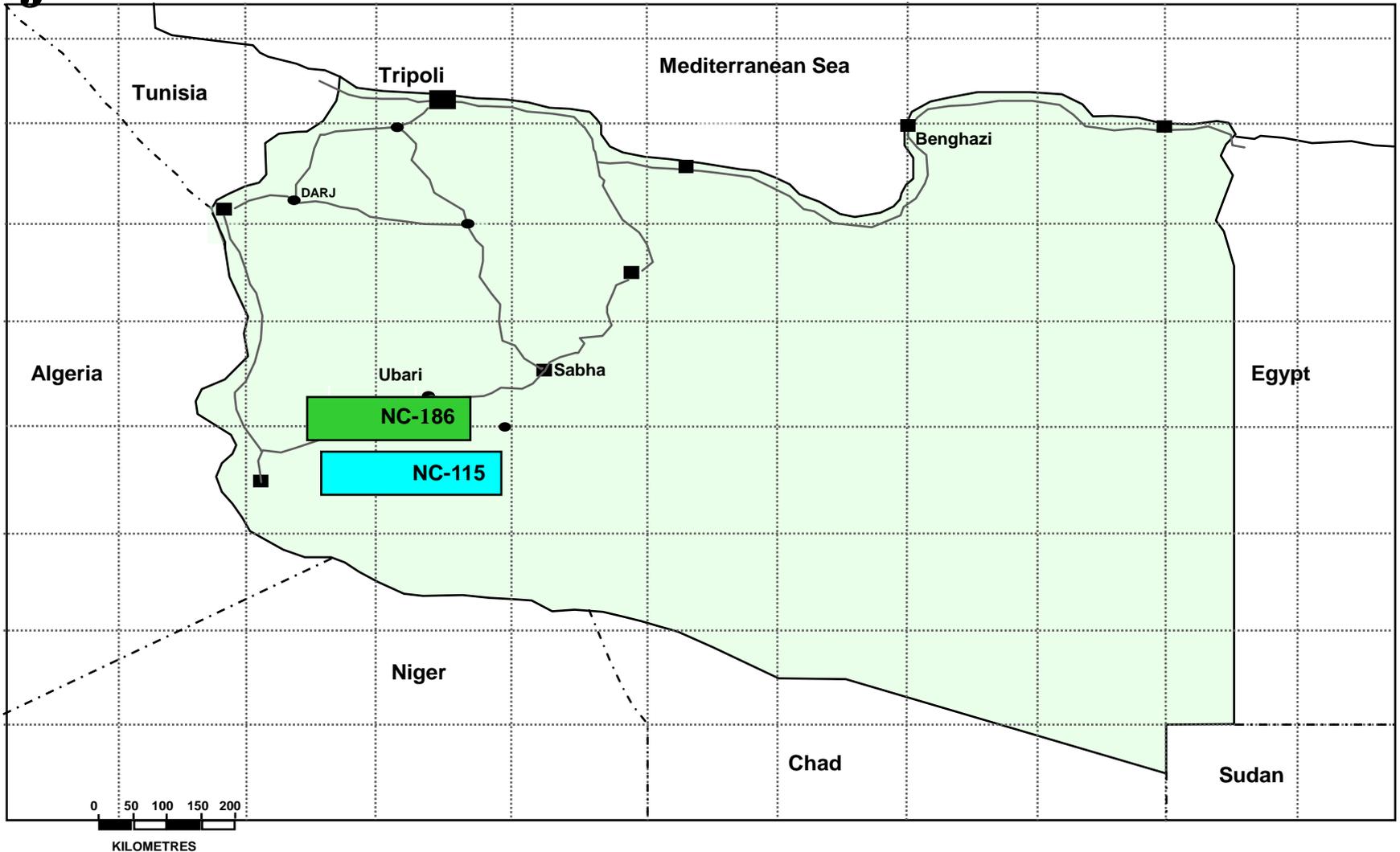
## **AKAKUS OIL OPERATIONS- LIBYA Gas Utilization & Flare Emission Reduction Project**

As presented at the  
Technology of Oil and Gas  
Forum; Tripoli, Libya  
Mr. Mohamed Amari

# Libya VRU Pilot Program

Hy-Bon Engineering

## Project Location



# Libya VRU Pilot Program

Hy-Bon Engineering

**This is a picture of the flares at NC-115 before the VRU's were installed**



# Libya VRU Pilot Program

Hy-Bon Engineering

## GAS UTILISATION PROJECT STRATEGY

### INITIATIVE FOR REDUCTION IN GAS FLARING

- In Jan 2005 AOO achieved ISO 14001 certification with the requirement to gradually minimize the gas flaring. Accordingly several options were explored to achieve the optimum process scenario in terms of utilizing the produced gases for power generation and hydrocarbon recovery.
- In 2006 the Gas Utilization feasibility study was finalized with a recommendation to implement the project in two phases:
- **Phase I:**
  - In this phase the VRU packages were introduced to treat the low pressure tank gas. This was the first installation in Libya, which was focused on flare reduction of Tank vapor/ gas by recovering the condensate and diverting the remaining gas to the main plant compression system. The Project was completed in late 2008 .
  - By installing the VRU and splitting the existing compression systems into two independent trains the fuel gas had increased to allow four power generation units to operate on Gas and maximizing the condensate recovery thereby reduce flaring.
  - **Awarded Vapor Recovery Units design and Fabrication to Hy-Bon Engineering, a company with 55 years experience in this field.**

# Libya VRU Pilot Program

## Tank Gas- Vapor Recovery Units **Hy-Bon Engineering**

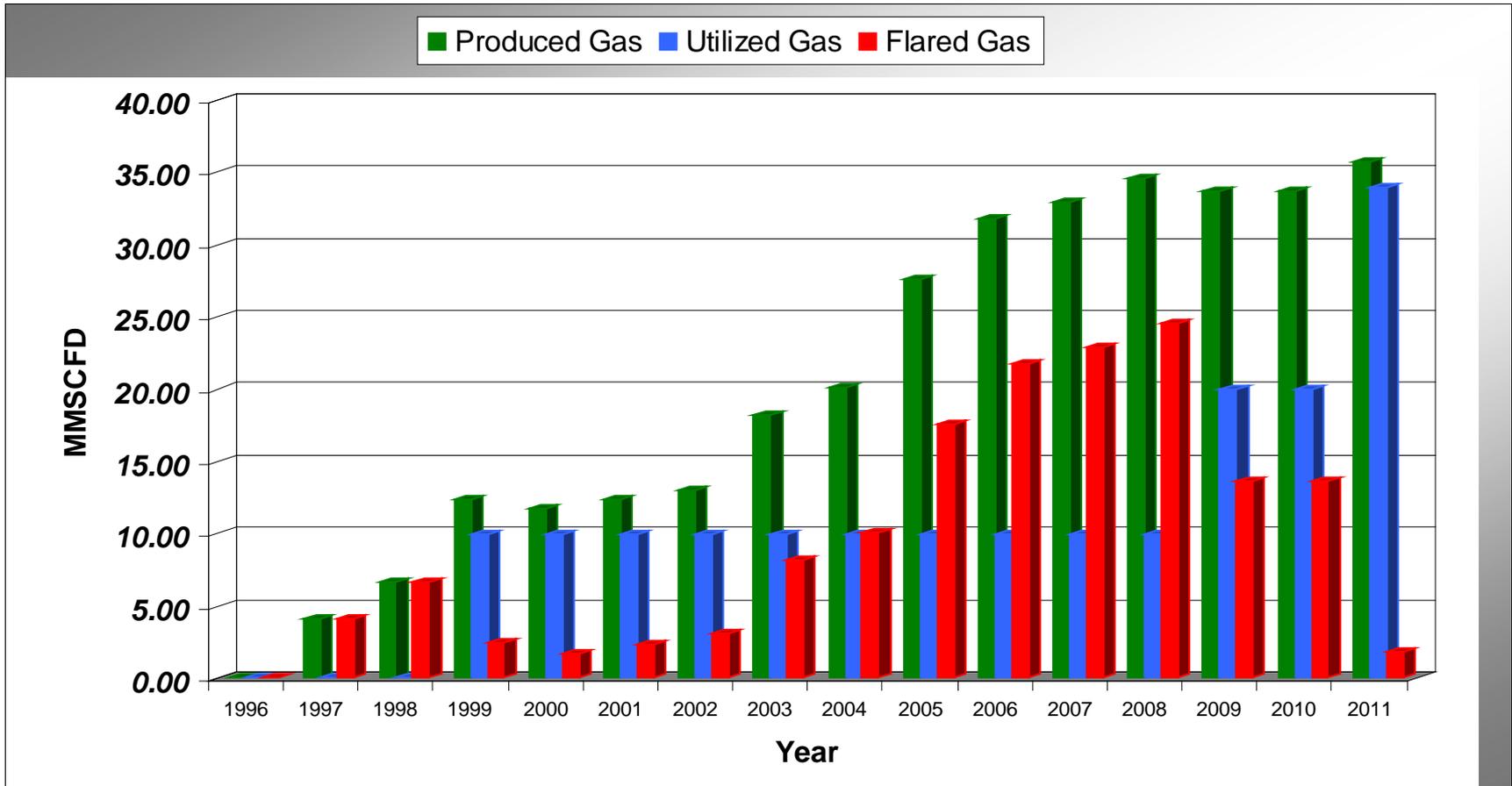
Location	Processed Tank Gas MMSCFD	VRU Recovered Condensate	Additional recovered condensate
NC-115	4	1200 blls/day@ 60 psig	1750 blls /day @ 150 psig
NC-186	2	275 blls/day@ 60 psig	1121 blls/day @ 250 psig

Location	No of VRU	Pay back time	Co2 emission reduction
NC-115	3	3 months	866 tons/day
NC-186	2	8 months	406 tons/day

# Libya VRU Pilot Program

Hy-Bon Engineering

## Gas Production & Utilization



# Libya VRU Pilot Program

Hy-Bon Engineering

## **Benefits:**

**Gas:** The gas captured by the VRUs is directed to the suction of booster compressors that go to the turbines that generate electricity.

**Condensate:** Along with the gas being utilized the condensate is sent to the flash drum at the front of the system to be blended back into the crude oil.

**Pollution:** Less pollution to the atmosphere is always a benefit to any application. It is truly a waste to just burn these resources and pollute the planet in which we live.

**Goal:** The goal is to eliminate these flares completely. They would only be used in an upset situation. At that time all gas and condensate would be used for the purpose of making Akakus Oil more money and help clean up the environment at the same time.

# Libya VRU Pilot Program

Hy-Bon Engineering

## 5. ECONOMICS

### Recovered Vapors

Heating Value	-	3080 Btu/ft <sup>3</sup>
Wobbe Number	-	2289 Btu/ft <sup>3</sup>
Volume	-	6.0 MMSCFD

### Condensate Production

Volume	-	1475 bbl/d
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### Valuation

**Savings per Month (gas at a conservative worldwide rate of \$3 mscfd) - \$1,600,000**

**Savings per year - \$18,630,000**

**While not as easily estimable (due to spiking the condensate into the crude oil) it can be determined that the produced volume of condensate adds another \$2,655,000 per month (based on a conservative \$60/bbl rate) or \$31,860,000 per year to the Akakus bottom line.**

# Libya VRU Pilot Program

**This is a picture of the flares at NC-115 after the VRU's were installed**



# Libya VRU Pilot Program

**Eliminate the flares**



# CASINGHEAD GAS CAPTURE



## STRATEGIES AND CASE STUDIES



# CASINGHEAD GAS

- 🔥 Approximately 18 Bcf/yr of Methane is estimated to be lost from well venting and flaring in the U.S. In many oil producing countries these numbers could be measured in the Bcf per DAY.
- 🔥 2 Primary Sources Include:
  - 🔥 Separator gas vented or flared during oil processing
    - 🔥 Occurs at each stage of separation process (typically 3) as water and gas are separated from the oil for collection
  - 🔥 Casinghead gas
    - 🔥 Most mature formations produce more oil if the gas pressure on the casing (or annulus) is reduced.
    - 🔥 This is often accomplished by venting this casinghead gas at or near the wellhead

# CASINGHEAD GAS REDUCTION

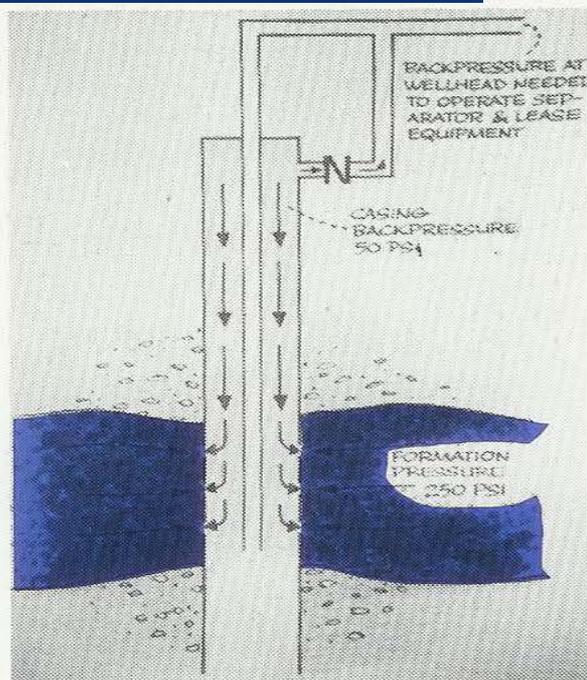
## The Concept

- 🔥 Casinghead gas relatively wet (.85 spec gravity / 16gpm)
- 🔥 Weight of this column of wet gas sitting on the formation has an incremental effect on bottom hole pressure
  - 🔥 Dictated by oil specific gravity and the well depth
- 🔥 When you add wellhead pressure (i.e., flowline or 1<sup>st</sup> stage separator), this pressure on the formation is significantly impacted
  - 🔥 Further complicated by fluctuating wellhead pressure from the pipeline
- 🔥 Concept is simple – relieving this pressure in the casinghead reduces the weight (pressure) on the formation, allowing oil or gas to more easily flow from the formation into the well bore.

# Relieving Back Pressure

## BEFORE COMPRESSION

Restricting Back pressure holds back the flow of Hydrocarbons into the well bore.



## AFTER COMPRESSION

Back pressure is relieved from the face of the formation allowing more hydrocarbons to flow into the well bore.

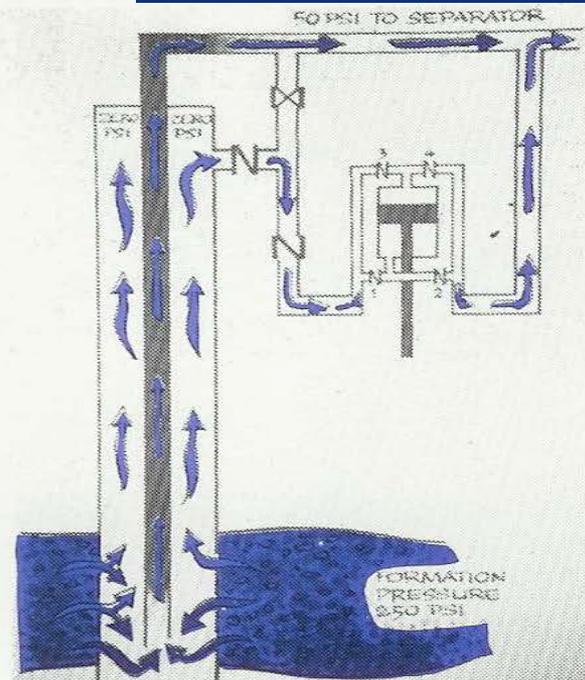


Diagram courtesy of Permian Production Equipment



# CASINGHEAD GAS REDUCTION

## How It Works

- 🔥 Goal is to maintain a casinghead pressure as close to zero as possible without pulling a vacuum
- 🔥 Low horsepower compressor units utilized
  - 🔥 Can be rotary vane, rotary screw or small recip based on gas stream
- 🔥 Pressures as low as 1/2" water column are maintained using a bypass system with a recycle/ throttling valve
  - 🔥 Bypass pilot control maintains this pressure / gas recycled below set point
- 🔥 Steady pressure is maintained on the well bore, and produced gas is sent down the flowline or gas line

# CASINGHEAD GAS REDUCTION

## Benefits

- 🔥 The majority of wells tested in older, mature basins tend to respond favorably to a reduction in casinghead pressure
- 🔥 Many wells respond with dramatic increases in oil and or gas production – particularly in water flood or CO<sub>2</sub> flood projects
- 🔥 Often allows subsurface pumps to operate more efficiently, and often eliminates “gas locking” problems
- 🔥 Eliminates the impact of fluctuating or rising pipeline pressures on your production
- 🔥 On wells that respond favorably, the payback economics are extremely compelling

# CASINGHEAD GAS REDUCTION

## Weaknesses

- ⚡ Not all formations respond favorably; even individual, adjacent wells in the same formation often respond differently
- ⚡ While we know some entire formations that do not respond, within areas that do respond it requires well-by-well testing
- ⚡ Some formations respond with increased produced water
- ⚡ In some cases, wells respond incredibly for 7 to 10 days, and then drop to previous levels
- ⚡ While oil production gains after 30 days generally remain constant, gains in gas production may drop to previous levels

# CASINGHEAD GAS REDUCTION

## Lessons Learned

- 🔥 Ask the questions – you may be venting this gas and not know it
  - 🔥 Especially when contract pumpers are being used
- 🔥 Make your decisions based on fact
  - 🔥 Like tank testing, the key is accurately quantifying the gas stream, so true payback economics can be evaluated
- 🔥 Look at the opportunities across the entire field, not simply well by well
  - 🔥 Linking multiple wellsites can dramatically improve the economics of gas capture
- 🔥 Align field incentives to your gas capture goals
  - 🔥 If field personnel incentives are strictly tied to increased oil production and cost containment, the field solution will always be to vent this gas (i.e., a ball valve is much cheaper than a compressor package)

# Additional Info



# CASE STUDY - LEA CO., N.M.

## Hobbs Area

	<b>BEFORE COMPRESSION</b>	<b>AFTER COMPRESSION</b>	<b>GROSS MONTHLY INCOME INCREASE</b>
<b>CASINGHEAD PRESSURE</b>	<b>50 PSIG</b>	<b>2 PSIG</b>	
<b>GAS PRODUCTION</b>	<b>200 MSCFD</b>	<b>250 MSCFD</b>	<b>50 X \$3.00 X 30 = \$4500.00</b>
<b>OIL PRODUCTION</b>	<b>30 BBLD</b>	<b>35 BBLD</b>	<b>5 X \$20.00 X 30 = \$3000.00</b>
<b>DISCHARGE PRESSURE</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>50 PSIG</b>	<b>Total = \$7,500 per Month</b>

# Case Study – Ector County

## 4 Separate Compressors / Multiple Wells

### Cowden Area

	<b>BEFORE COMPRESSION</b>	<b>AFTER COMPRESSION</b>	<b>GROSS MONTHLY INCOME INCREASE</b>
<b>CASINGHEAD PRESSURE</b>	<b>45 PSIG</b>	<b>2 PSIG</b>	
<b>GAS PRODUCTION</b>	<b>Incremental Gas Produced</b>	<b>18 MSCFD 12 MSCFD 7 MSCFD 8 MSCFD</b>	<b>45 X \$3 X 30 = \$4,050</b>
<b>OIL PRODUCTION</b>	<b>160 BBLD 50 BBLD 46 BBLD 17 BBLD</b>	<b>180 BBLD 115 BBLD 58 BBLD 27 BBLD</b>	<b>107 X \$20.00 X 30 = \$64,200.00</b>
<b>DISCHARGE PRESSURE</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>45 PSIG</b>	<b>\$68,250 per Month</b>

# RECOMMENDED PROCESS

- 1) Determine which fields may respond most favorably, and then prioritize well locations.



Picture Courtesy of Hy-Bon Engineering

# RECOMMENDED PROCESS

- 2) Following well selection, a mobile, trailer mounted unit (natural gas engine driven) is moved to location for a 45 day test.



# RECOMMENDED PROCESS

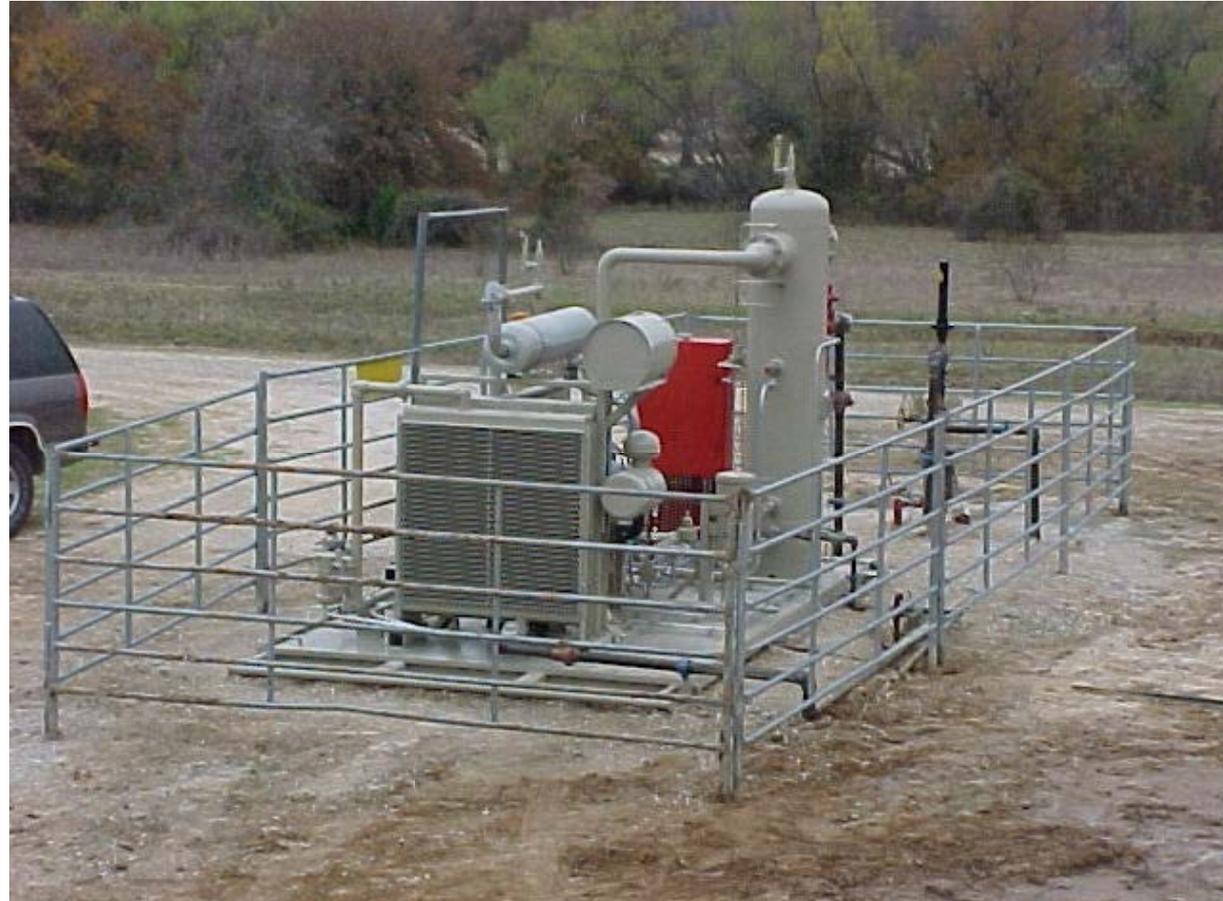
- 3) Following 30 days of sustained production increase, an electric drive, skid mounted unit is moved to location, and the trailer is released to test the next candidate well.



Picture Courtesy of Hy-Bon Engineering

# RECOMMENDED PROCESS

- 4) Based on the proximity of the wells and line pressure, evaluate linking opportunities for multiple well gathering systems.



Picture Courtesy of Hy-Bon Engineering