

Background

CenterPoint Energy, Inc., headquartered in Houston, Texas, is a domestic energy delivery company that includes electric transmission & distribution, natural gas distribution, and energy services operations. With more than 7,400 employees, CenterPoint Energy and its predecessor companies have been in business for more than 140 years. As a long time member (1997) of the EPA Natural Gas STAR Program, CenterPoint Energy has achieved cumulative methane emission reductions of over 170,000 million cubic feet (Mcf). CenterPoint Energy has found the STAR Program an important tool to move forward with system improvements not only to ensure system safety but to minimize methane emissions.

With EPA's Methane Challenge, CenterPoint Energy intends to participate in the Best Management Practice (BMP) Commitment option for Cast Iron and Bare Steel replacement. As a founding member of the Methane Challenge Program, CenterPoint Energy will continue to implement technologies and practices to reduce emissions of methane.





Historical Highlights

Identify and Rehabilitate Leaky Distribution Pipe

Since joining the EPA Natural Gas STAR Program in 1997, nearly 55% of the over 170,000 Mcf cumulative methane emission reduction has been achieved by completing leak surveys and repairing identified leaks.

Inject Blowdown Gas Into Low Pressure Mains

The decision whether or not to lower pipeline pressure prior to replacement of pipe is determined on a caseby-case basis by Engineering staff. Factors that are taken into consideration include (1) location of the pipe, (2) if the area has adequate backfeed, and (3) if there is a lower pressure distribution system available to bleed the gas into. Over 24% of the cumulative methane emission reduction has been achieved by incorporating this practice.

Identify and Rehabilitate High-Bleed Pneumatic Devices

The replacement, retrofit, and maintenance of high-bleed pneumatic devices has contributed to 20% of the cumulative methane emission reduction accomplished since 1997.

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