# ON SYSTEM EMISSION REDUCTION

**EPA Methane Challenge** 



## **NW NATURAL**

- Nearly 160 years of service
- Serving two million people in 140 communities in Oregon and SW Washington
- Completed system-wide bare steel and cast iron pipeline replacement in 2016
- Strategic focus on carbon emission reduction.
- Founding member of the EPA Methane Challenge



## STRATEGIC FOCUS

#### We Agree

• There is a climate imperative

#### **We Believe**

• NW Natural has an important role to play in a smart and affordable climate strategy in Oregon

#### **Our Vision**

 Long-term goal of deep decarbonization that leaves no one behind.

#### We Are Taking Action Today

 We are pursuing emission reductions through our voluntary company savings goal

# OUR METHANE CHALLENGE PARTICIPATION

#### **Starting State:**

- Accelerated pipeline replacement complete
- Evaluation of new opportunities :
  - Procedures for pipeline blowdown emissions:
    - No program requiring blowdown minimization
    - Established deodorization program to reduce odor calls
    - Embedded practices to reduce emissions of blowdowns, but not in standard operation procedure

#### **Challenge Focus:**

- Formalized emission reduction practices
- Introduction of flaring equipment
- Continued advancement



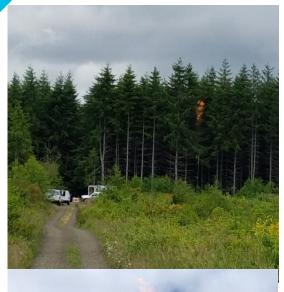
## **COLLABORATIVE PROCESS**

- New program required coordination across company work areas-
  - Engineering
  - System Operations
  - Construction
  - Environmental Management
  - Environmental Policy

- Government Affairs
- Communications
- Community Affairs
- Business Operations/IT

 Unexpected benefit: Better connection and coordination for future projects.

## WHY BLOW DOWNS?



- Direct release of gas to atmosphere is not in alignment with environmental goals
- Reducing impact fell within challenge recommendations
- Finite but meaningful savings and multiple strategies to achieve them
- Near term anticipated construction and system reinforcement with significant opportunity.

## **FLARING V. BLOWDOWNS**

- Blowdowns
  - Fast
  - Less visible to community
  - Environmentally Impactful
- Flaring
  - More time consuming
  - Complimentary to other mitigation practices
  - Visible
  - Less environmentally impactful



## PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

- 1. Integration of methane mitigation into Standard Operating Procedures
- 2. Integration of flaring equipment into company equipment fleet
- 3. Training in equipment use and reporting
- 4. First year- collecting feedback from field staff
- 5. Expansion into distribution pressure



## PROGAM LEARNINGS

### Challenges

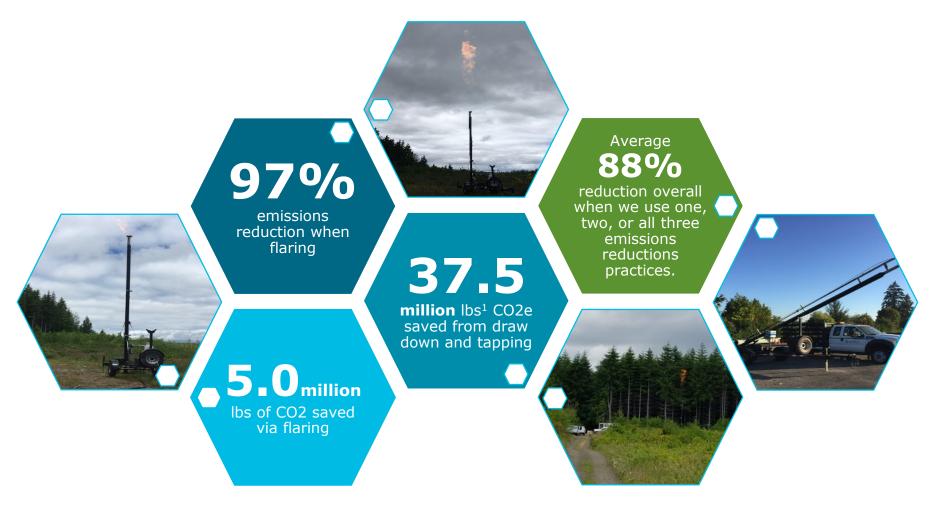
- Behavior Changeadoption of new practices and recording requirement
- Volume and time constraints
- Equipment size and setback
- Radiant heat considerations

## Opportunities & Wins

- System Operations integration into procedure
- Regulator & Consumer advocate support
- Developing a more reliable reporting mechanism
- Communications support

## METHANE MITIGATION IMPACTS

complete year, 2018



1. Note, in 2018 the company completed a number of very large pipeline evacuations.

## **FUTURE OPPORTUNITY**

Additional smaller flares for increased coverage.

Revisit blowdown compression

Continuous improvement of data capture and use.

Application of this program's success to future multi-discipline initiatives.

Likely regional carbon regulation in OR and WA supports pursuit of additional emission reduction initiatives.

## **BLOWDOWN COMPRESSION**

#### **Opportunity to Revisit**

- Flaring success adds to context to older ideas
  - Experience with operational adjustments
  - Another tool in the toolbox

#### Challenges

- Even more time restrictive
- More expensive
- More equipment to mobilize

#### **Opportunities**

- 100% emissions reduction
- Neither seen nor heard... nor smelled
- Fight complacency

# **THANK YOU**

**Questions, contact Mary Moerlins mom@nwnatural.com** 

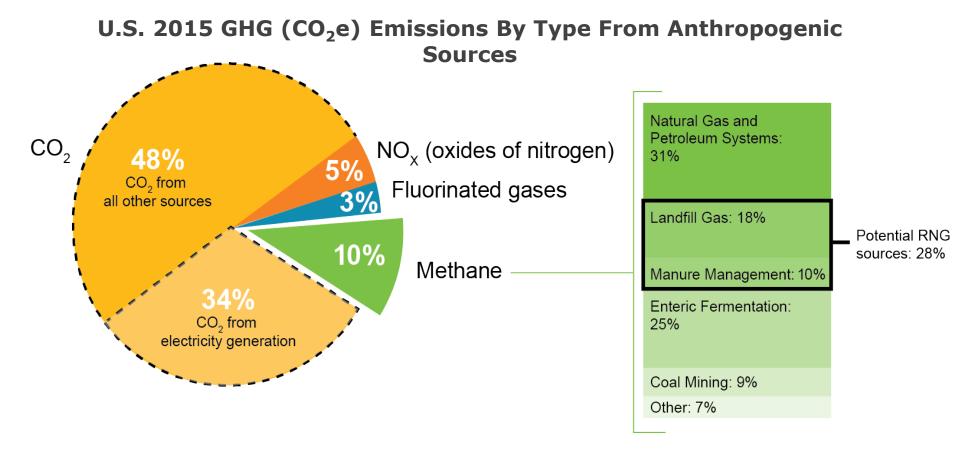


# **APPENDIX**



## GREENHOUSE GAS IMPACTS OF CH4

Waste streams that could be RNG emit as much methane as oil and natural gas sectors <u>combined</u>.



Source: US EPA, https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/overview-greenhouse-gases#methane

## **EMISSIONS IN SUPPLY CHAIN**

### High Level of Interest in Lifecycle Emissions of Natural Gas

- Conflicting research has increased public interest in topic
- Carbon policy decisions and trends highlight upstream fugitives

#### Regional Emission Intensity Varies

- Regional regulation and geology lead to significant variance within North American NG supply
- Most policy and research focus is on national averages, and/or on combustion emissions

#### Production Best Practices are Known

- NRDC and ICF work to identify wellhead reduction opportunities
- Production Sector adoption- Ex. Environmental Partnership through API
- NW Natural participation in Natural Gas Supply Collaborative.





## FIELD DATA COLLECTION

Blowdown Emissions Calculator	for PCAD		Diameter 1	(required)		Diameter 2	(optional)		Diameter 3	(optional)	
Starting Pressure	350	[psig]	Pipe Material	Steel		Pipe Material	Steel		Pipe Material	Poly	
High Pressure Blowdown											
Flare?	Yes		Diameter	10	[in]	Diameter	2	[in]	Diameter	1	[in]
Pressure Remaining After Flare	0	[psig]	Length	5280	[ft]	Length	500	[ft]	Length	0	[ft]
Flare Start Time	8:00 AM			Total Volume		72021	[SCF]	Assume gas quality of		1065	[BTU/SCF]
Flare End Time	8:30 AM		Total Blowdown Volume			69118	[SCF]	missions if fully released		250278	[lb CO2e]
Blowdown Duration	0:30	[h:mm]	Total Flare Volume			69118	[SCF]	Emissions from Flaring		8613	[lb CO2e]
Flare Flow Rate	138237	SCFH	Remaining Gas Released After Flare			0	[SCF]	nissions Saved by Flaring		241665	[lb CO2e]
										97%	