## **Customer-Owned Distributed Methane Interconnection Issues**





#### WIDRC Project: Development of a Strategy Paper on Customer-Owned Renewable Natural Gas Interconnection Issues

"The key to utilizing renewable natural gas as a pipeline fuel is the clear delineation of issues, methods and technical solutions for making its use safely interchangeable with the conventional natural gas - without unduly increasing the maintenance burden on pipeline and end-use systems." – from proposal

- 1) Assemble a WIDRC workgroup
- 2) Collect background information
- 3) Prepare first draft strategy paper
- 4) Use workgroup to zero in on important issues
- 5) Produce final strategy paper
- 6) Prepare slideshow of process and results



#### Average Price of Natural Gas in the U.S.; 2007 - 2009



Source: Table 3.





## **Biogas Production**

#### **Farm Digesters**

**Industrial Digesters** 

**Municipal Wastewater Digesters** 

**Biomass Gasification** 

#### **Landfill Gas**



#### **Digester Biogas to Pipeline Quality Methane**



Digester



## **Montchevre-Betin**

Cheese Processing Waste Digester Belmont, WI 335 kW



#### Huckabay Ridge - Stephenville, TX --- pipeline injection of renewable natural gas ---

- 10,000 cows contributing to anaerobic digester
- 6,350,000 therms/year
- pipeline RNG injection
- gas sales to PG&E





Photo courtesy Microgy, Inc.

Developed by Microgy, Inc. (Environmental Power Corporation) Sold in 2010 to EM Biogas, LLC (Element Markets, LLC)



#### **Producer Gas (via Gasification) to Pipeline Quality Methane**





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## **Gas Treatment Methods**

#### Water Removal

- water trap or sump (liquid)
- dehumidification (water vapor)

#### Hydrogen Sulfide Removal

- iron sponge
- water scrubbing (water column absorption)
- oxygen injection
- activated carbon

#### **Carbon Dioxide Removal**

- pressure swing adsorption (PSA)
- water scrubbing (water column absorption)
- molecular sieves
- membranes



#### Pressure Swing Adsorption



#### QuestAir<sup>™</sup> M-3200/M-3100 Specifications

PSA Feed Gas Conditions	
Methane Concentration	25% to 90%
Pressure	5.5 to 31 bar(g) (80 to 450 PSIG)
Temperature	4 to 50°C (39 to 122°F)
PSA Product Gas	
Flow Range	10 to 10,000 Nm <sup>3</sup> /hr (0.01 – 9 mmSCFD)
Methane Concentration	Up to 99%
Pressure Drop	<1 bar (<15 psi)
Temperature	+/-10°C of feed temperature typical
PSA Exhaust Gas	
Pressure	0.2 to -0.5 bar(g), (3 to -7 PSIG) (-7 PSIG for optimal performance)



## Iron Scavenger Sponge for Hydrogen Sulfide Removal





### **Gas Treatment Methods**







CAUTION

Northern Natural Gas

BALDWIN STATION #749251 FOR EMERGENCIES CALL 1-888-367-6671








## Northern Natural Gas Compamy Interconnect Facility - Baldwin, WI





## Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) transported from Emerald Dairy in Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) transport trailer







## **Monitoring Transfer Pressure**





## Gas Quality Monitoring Equipment Building





#### **Oxygen Content**



#### Water Content



#### Hydrogen Sulfide Content



#### Chromatograph



#### **Transfer Flow Rate**





## **Chromatograph Report**

Baldwin-Wisc stream 1 on 10/26/2007 12:37:23			
MolPct	BTUGross	RelDens	
C6+ 50/50/00	0.0000	0.00	0.0000
PROPANE	0.0000	0.00	0.0000
i-BUTANE	0.0000	0.00	0.0000
n-BUTANE	0.0000	0.00	0.0000
NEOPENTANE	0.0000	0.00	0.0000
i-PENTANE	0.0000	0.00	0.0000
n-PENTANE	0.0000	0.00	0.0000
NITROGEN	2.3909	0.00	0.0231
METHANE	96.8446	980.40	0.5365
CARBON DIOXIDE	0.7608	0.00	0.0116
ETHANE	37.2 PPM	0.07	0.0000
TOTAL	100.0000	980.46	0.5712
Compressibility Factor		1.0019	
Heating Value Gross BTU Dry		982.36	
Relative Density Gas Corr.		0.5721	
Total Unnormalized Conc.		99.370	
WOBBE Index		1298.79	



Figure 1. Natural Gas Centers/Hubs in Relation to Production Basins and Major Flow Corridors



Note: DEFS = Duke Energy Field Services Co; EPGT = EPGT Texas Ripeline Co.

Source: Energy Information Administration, GasTran Gas Transportation Information System, Natural Gas Market Hubs Database, as of August 2003.



## **Natural Gas Pipeline System**





## **Partial List of Interconnection Issues**

## **Technical Issues Category:**

- Dew Point
- Heating Value (HHV)
- Gas Composition
- Interchangeability Index
- Hazardous Substances
- Pressure
- Temperature
- Pipeline Mixing
- Operational Requirements

## **Business Issues Category:**

- Insurance
- Warranty
- Indemnification
- Metering



Component	Average Natural Gas
Methane	93.40
Ethane	3.20
Propane	0.69
n-Butane	0.25
i-Butane	0.00
n-Pentane	0.10
i-Pentane	0.00
Hexanes (+)	0.06
$N_2$	1.50
H2	0.00
CO <sub>2</sub>	0.80
H <sub>2</sub> O	0.00
Air	0.00
Total	100.00
Higher Heating Value (Btu/scf)	1032.3
LHV (Btu/scf)	931.0
LHV (Btu/lb)	20,363
Specific Gravity	0.5971
Ideal Density (lb/scf)	0.04557
Real Gas Density (lb/scf)	0.04565
Wobbe Number (HHV)	1336.0
Wobbe Number (LHV)	1204.9
H/C Ratio	3.884
Est. Octane Rating (MON) (Gas Data)	131.0
Est. Octane Rating (MON) (H/C ratio)	130.8
MN (CARB)	93.3
Stoichiometric A/F ratio	16.736
Molecular Weight	17.292

### Specifications for Average Natural Gas



## **Biogas Utilization**



## **Indicators of Interchangeability**

## **Wobbe Index**

 $W = HV / \sqrt{G}$ 

where HV = gross heating value/scf G = relative density of gas

(ratio of density of gas to density of air @STP)

- The thermal burner load is directly related to the Wobbe index of a gas.
- The air supply to the combustion zone is independent of the gas composition.
- The impact of gas quality is determined by the Wobbe index
- Simple, easy to use
- Common practice in other countries

#### **Other Indicators**

### **AGA, Weaver Index and Methane Number**

- Provide better description of incomplete combustion
- Complex, not easy to use
- Provide a relative adjustment to Wobbe index







Wobbe Number

#### **ANR Pipeline Company**

- Physical and Chemical Properties or Characteristics of Interest -

Property or Characteristic	Symbol	Specified in Tariff
High Heating Value	HHV	Yes
Low Heating Value	LHV	Yes
Temperature	F	Yes
Water	H <sub>2</sub> O	Yes
Hydrocarbon Dewpoint	D <sub>HC</sub>	Under Review
Nitrogen	N <sub>2</sub>	Yes
Carbon Dioxide	CO <sub>2</sub>	Yes
Oxygen	O <sub>2</sub>	Yes
Total Sulfide	S <sub>TOT</sub>	Yes
Hydrogen Sulfide	$H_2S$	Yes
Particulates		Yes
Other Solids or Liquids		Yes



## **Northern Natural Gas Specification**

Component / Property	Units of Measure	Pipeline Spec <sup>1</sup>	CNG Spec per DOT <sup>2</sup>
Water vapor	Lbs per mmscf (million std cu ft)	Less than 6	Less than 0.5
Hydrogen sulfide	Grains per Ccf	Less than or equal to 0.25	Less than or equal to 0.10
Total sulfur	Grains per Ccf	Less than or equal to 20	Less than 0.1
Heating value	Btu per Cubic Foot	Greater than or equal to 950	
Temperature	Degrees Fahrenheit	Less than or equal to 120 F.	
Oxygen	Per cent by volume	Less than or equal to 0.2	Less than 1.0
Carbon dioxide	Per cent by volume	Less than or equal to 2.0	Less than 3.0
Non-hydrocarbon gases	Per cent by volume	-	Less than 4.0

<sup>1</sup> Issued May 1, 2003 Northern Natural Gas Company FERC Tariff - fourth revised sheet 281

<sup>2</sup> DOT regulations DOT-E-8009 13<sup>th</sup> revision



#### **California Public Utilities Commissions - California Rule 30**

Specifications	Min	Max
Btu/cu ft	970	1150
Wobbe number	1272*	1437*
MN	NA	NA
Methane (%)	NA	NA
Ethane (%)	NA	NA
Propane (%)	NA	NA
Inerts (%)	0	4

#### **Southern California Gas Company-** Rule No. 30 Transportation of Customer-Owned Gas



## **Pipeline Mixing**

## How long will it take to mix customer-owned methane with pipeline natural gas in a pipeline?

LNG Interchangeability/Gas Quality: Results of the National Energy Technology Laboratory's Research for the FERC on Natural Gas Quality and Interchangeability U.S. Department of Energy National Energy Technology Laboratory DOE/NETL-2007/1290; June 2007

Computational fluid dynamics simulations and calculations using an analytical formula were used to illustrate:

- continuous (steady) cross-sectional mixing and
- transient axial mixing

of gases in pipe junctions.





The pressure and flow volume of the utility gas pipeline will influence the degree of natural gas mixing with customer-owned methane.



#### How long will it take to mix customer-owned methane with pipeline natural gas in a pipeline?

It has been shown that *steady* injection of a gas into a flowing NG pipeline would mix to an average composition in a relatively short distance; typically within 100 pipe diameters.

• Steady state gas blending is completed in a relatively short distance.

It has also been shown that during *transient* injection, new and original gas compositions would move through the pipeline as discrete packets of gas.



# - Short List of Some Applicable Standards

- Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), parts 190, 191, 192, and 199
- Public Service Commission of Wisconsin: PSC 133, 134 and 135
- Wisconsin Electrical Code Part 1 and 2 (NEC & NESC compliant)
- American Gas Association Report No. 4A
- American Gas Association Research Bulletin No. 36



"Pipeline Quality Biomethane: North American Guidance Document for Introduction of Dairy Waste Derived Biomethane Into Existing Natural Gas Networks" Final Reports – Tasks 1,2 and 3 Gas Technology Institute, Des Plaines, Illinois Report No. GTI-09/0011; September 30, 2009

- Task 1: Technology Investigation and Assessment
- Task 2: Develop laboratory testing program to evaluate raw biogas
- Task 3: Prepare guidance document with reference to AGA Report 4A"Natural Gas Contract Measurement and Quality Clauses"



## **Questions?**



Larry Krom --- Wisconsin Distributed Resources Collaborative ---608.588.7231 LK@LSTechnical.com www.WisconsinDR.org



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