



NETL Life Cycle Inventory Data

Process Documentation File

Process Name: Transmission Pipeline Fugitives
Reference Flow: 1 kg of natural gas
Brief Description: Fugitive emissions of natural gas from natural gas transmission pipelines

Section I: Meta Data

Geographical Coverage: United States **Region:** United States
Year Data Best Represents: 2016
Process Type: Basic Process (BP)
Process Scope: Gate-to-Gate Process (GG)
Allocation Applied: No
Completeness: All Relevant Flows Captured
Flows Aggregated in Data Set:
 Process Energy Use Energy P&D Material P&D

Relevant Output Flows Included in Data Set:

Releases to Air: Greenhouse Gases Criteria Air Pollutants Other
Releases to Water: Inorganic Emissions Organic Emissions Other
Water Usage: Water Consumption Water Demand (throughput)
Releases to Soil: Inorganic Releases Organic Releases Other

Adjustable Process Parameters:

6_PIPEFUG_EF

[kg CH₄/mile] Fugitive emission factor for transmission pipelines

6_overview_mi

[miles] Pipeline length

6_transfer

[Mcf] Annual throughput of pipeline, volume

6_transfer_kg

[kg] Annual throughput of pipeline, mass

nat_mCH4

[dimensionless] Mass fraction of CH4 in natural gas.

Fugitive_pipelines

[kg NG/kg NG] Fugitive emissions from transmission pipelines per unit of natural gas through transmission pipelines

NG_transmission

[kg] Natural gas input (from transmission facilities to transmission pipelines); equals the natural gas product stream that exits transmission pipeline plus natural gas that is emitted as fugitives from transmission pipelines.

Tracked Input Flows:**Natural gas [from transmission facilities]**

[Intermediate Flow] Natural gas input (from transmission facilities to transmission pipelines)

Tracked Output Flows:**Natural Gas [intermediate flow]**

Reference flow

Transmission pipeline fugitives [to venting and flaring]

[kg NG/kg NG] Fugitive emissions from transmission pipelines per unit of natural gas through transmission pipelines

Section II: Process Description

Associated Documentation

This unit process is composed of this document and the data sheet (DS) *DS_NG_Pipeline_Fugitives_2018.01.xlsx*, which provides additional details regarding relevant calculations, data quality, and references.

Goal and Scope

This unit process provides a summary of relevant input and output flows associated with fugitive emissions from natural gas transmission pipelines. The outputs of this unit process are the reference flow of natural gas, and an intermediate flow of fugitive emissions that are to be connected to NETL's venting and flaring unit process for speciation of whole natural gas into its hydrocarbon and other components. The reference flow of this unit process is: 1 kg of natural gas

Boundary and Description

This unit process provides a summary of relevant input and output flows associated with fugitive emissions from natural gas transmission pipelines. The outputs of this unit process are the reference flow of natural gas, and an intermediate flow of fugitive emissions that are to be connected to NETL's venting and flaring unit process for speciation of whole natural gas into its hydrocarbon and other components. The reference flow of this unit process is: 1 kg of natural gas

Fugitive emissions are unintentional releases to the atmosphere. They are leaks that occur during routine natural gas operations.

Figure 1 shows input and output flows of the unit process. The reference flow is 1 kg of transmitted natural gas. Outputs includes an instance of natural gas sent to another unit process where it is speciated into specific hydrocarbons and other gas components and then released as air emissions.

Figure 1: Unit Process Scope and Boundary

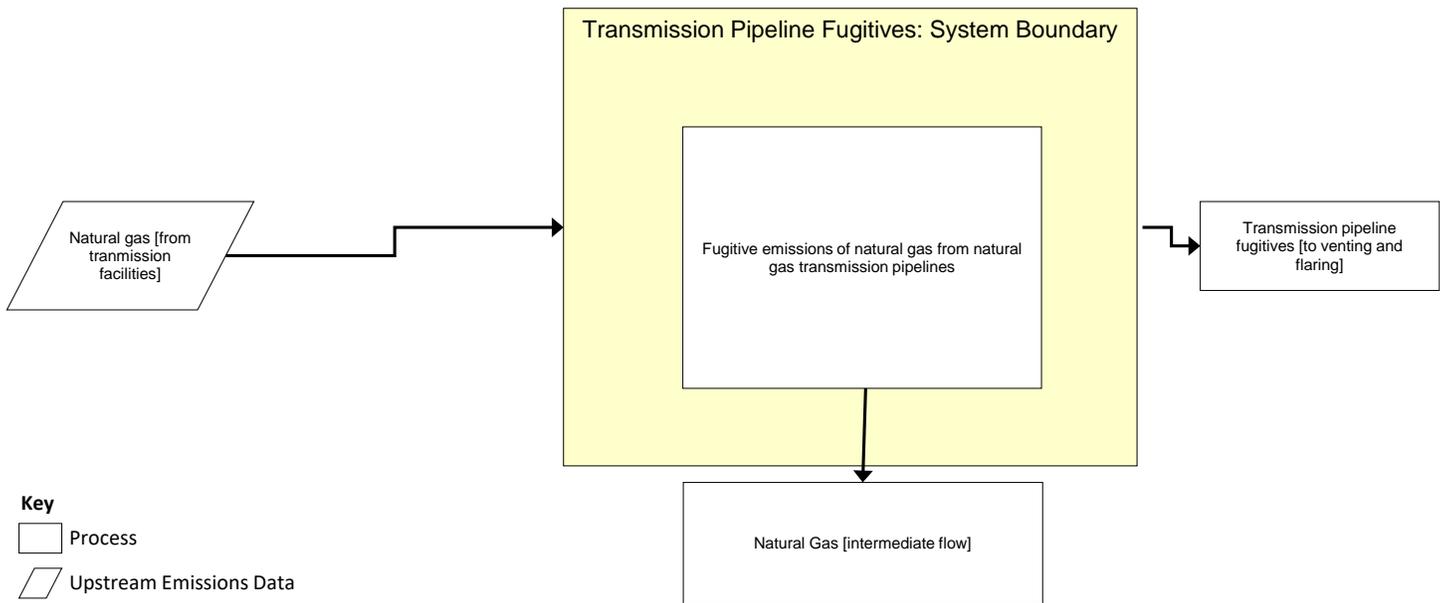


Table 1 shows the input parameters, which include emission factors and activity factors for each fugitive emission source. The emission and activity factors are based on EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP) (EPA, 2016a) and EPA's Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGI) (EPA, 2018). The low, expected, and high bounds represent the variability in the underlying data and were developed via throughput-weighted statistical bootstrapping. The bootstrapping technique allows computation of the confidence intervals around average activity factors. The DS file has a parameter scenario (PS) worksheet with 27 scenarios that match the scenarios for the onshore production unit processes, but at this stage in the supply chain, the average U.S. is the only supply chain scenario that is modeled. After natural gas is gathered, the remaining supply chain stages model it as a commodity for which the energy requirements and emissions are the same for all sources of natural gas.

Table 2 shows the output values for natural gas resource and venting flows for Appalachian production scenario. The natural gas resource flow accounts for the total amount of input natural gas resource that goes to product (the reference flow of 1 kg) and total fugitive emissions; this allows the model to account for the total amount of natural gas resource extraction associated with this process. The fugitive output shows the quantity of natural gas to be sent to separate instance of NETL's "venting and flaring" unit process wherein the vented flows are speciated into hydrocarbons and other gas components and emitted to the atmosphere.

Table 1: Input Parameters

Parameter	Expected Value	Low	High	Units	Description
6_PIPEFUG_EF	1.12E+03	1.12E+03	1.12E+03	kg CH4/mile	[kg CH4/mile] Fugitive emission factor for transmission pipelines
6_overview_mi	8.28E+03	6.86E+03	9.63E+03	miles	[miles] Pipeline length
6_transfer	1.33E+09	8.70E+08	1.88E+09	Mcf	[Mcf] Annual throughput of pipeline, volume
nat_mCH4	7.34E-01	7.31E-01	7.38E-01	dimensionless	Mass fraction of CH4 in natural gas.

Table 2: Unit Process Input and Output Flows

Flow Name	Expected	Low	High	Units (Per Reference Flow)
Inputs				
Natural gas [from transmission facilities]	1.0005	1.0004	1.0006	kg NG
Outputs				
Natural Gas [intermediate flow]	1.00	1.00	1.00	kg NG
Transmission pipeline fugitives [to venting and flaring]	4.99E-04	6.29E-04	4.13E-04	kg NG

* **Bold face** clarifies that the value shown *does not* include upstream environmental flows.

Note: Inventory items not included are assumed to be zero based on best engineering judgment or assumed to be zero because no data was available to categorize them for this unit process at the time of its creation.

Embedded Unit Processes

None.

References

EPA. 2016a. Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program. Environmental Protection Agency. <https://www.epa.gov/enviro/greenhouse-gas-customized-search>. Accessed August 22, 2018.

EPA. 2018. Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks, 1990-2016. EPA 430-R-18-003. Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Sinks, 1990-2016. https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-01/documents/2018_complete_report.pdf Accessed August 20, 2018.

Section III: Document Control Information

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