Methane Mitigator – Development of a Scalable Vent Mitigation Strategy to Simultaneously Reduce Methane Emissions and Fuel Consumption from the Compression Industry

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Project Team

WVU – Team – 3 faculty, 4 GRAs, Post-doc

TAP –
- WVU
- CAT
- Bryan Marlow – Ariel
- Tracey Footer – ERG
- Nathan Fowler – Cenergy
- Richard Atkinson
Project Goal: Develop a stand-alone vent mitigation system and fuel delivery control system capable consuming transient vent gas emissions in well site engines to reduce GHG and other pollutants.

Focusing on well site components: compressor engine crankcases, seals/vents, pneumatic vent manifolds, produced water and condensate tanks.
Literature Summary

Sources

- **Engine crankcases**
  - Vary with engine load and age
  - Short term steady
  - Inerts, oil vapor, and methane
  - ~1 SCFM of CH$_4$

- **Compressor vents**
  - Vary with load and age
  - Short term steady
  - Gas with oil vapor
  - ~4.3 SCFM of CH$_4$

- **PCs**
  - GPUs – collocated
  - Short term variable
    - Stovern, et al. - 4.9 PC per well
    - CPC up to 9.9 SCFH (time average)
    - IPC 0.1 up to 31.3 SCFH (time average)
    - Luck, et al. - 0.2 SCFM (time average)
    - Peak rates up to 200 SCFH (3 SCFM) (instantaneous emissions for actuations)

- **Tanks**
  - Variable composition – high VOCs
  - Short term variable
  - Variable based on gas, condensate and water production
  - ~13.7 SCFM CH$_4$ – time average
Engine Crankcases and Compressor Vents

- Full Flow Sampler
- Vehicle mounted system as in other ONG audits
- Excessive dilution – laser based, 4 gas analysis
- Samples – GilAir
  - Class 1 Div. 1 sampler to fill 10L Tedlar bags – dilute and raw
Field Equipment Update

Long Term
- Centrally located, solar powered DAQ trailer – safe perimeter location
- Uses in-house Scimitar
- Auto-record
  - 1-4 hr files
- Beagle bone platform
- Cellular notifications
- SD card storage
Field Equipment Update

PCs
• 6 – 250 SLPM Whisper MFM
  o Low pressure drop for atmospheric vents
• 2 – 50 SLPM Whisper MFM
  o Lower flows
• Class 1 Div. 2
• Sealed 50’ cables to DAQ trailer
• 1-10 Hz – serial com recorded
Tanks
- 1 – Kurz 2” thermal based
  - Low pressure drop
  - Up to 250 SCFM methane
- 1 – 2” LFE viscosity based
  - Low pressure drop
  - Up to 100 SCFM air
- 1 – 4” LFE viscosity based
  - Low pressure drop
  - Up to 400 SCFM air
- 1 – 6” LFE viscosity based
  - Low pressure drop
  - Up to 1000 SCFM air

Sensors for LFEs
- 1 – Intrinsically safe DP
  - 0-10”
  - 4-20 mA
- 1 – Intrinsically safe DP
  - 0-1”
  - 4-20 mA
- 1 – K-Type TC
  - Isolation barrier for IS
Basic Model

- CAT G3508J
  - 1200 RPM

- Inputs
  - Engine load
  - # of GPUs per site
  - Compositions
    - C1-C9, CO₂, CO, O₂, N₂

- Modeling goals
  - Assess various potential scenarios
  - Aid in the development of the methane mitigator, its control, and buffer/processing
  - A tool to assess various site/engine/designs
Modeling Summary

- Sub models
  - Engine
  - CC, CV, PCs, Tanks
- Captured Stream
  - Temporally varying parameters
  - Fuel flow rate
  - Capture flow rate
  - MN and HV

Example Sub-Model for 2 GPU Site
Modeling Summary

- **Methane Number**
  - ASTM
  - ISO H/C
  - ISO linear check

- **Total volume**
  - Relative fuel percentage
  - P, T

Total Capture Stream Properties
Engine Equipment

- CAT G3508J
  - 1200 RPM for gen
- SR4 500 kW generator
- Cooling Skid – SCAC
  - Remote
  - 50 HP WEG
  - VFD
- Simplex Mars 700kW load bank
- 8” LFE – intake flow
- Bacharach gas monitoring for safety
Thank you!!!

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