

Emerging Technology in Air Pollution Measurements for Oil & Gas

ENVIRONMENTAL

A Leading Provider of Environmental Solutions

> Patrick Clark, PE July 18, 2019

# **Overview of Montrose**



**The Premier Provider of Environmental Solutions** 

#### **MEASUREMENT & ANALYTICAL SERVICES**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCY & SUSTAINABILITY**



Environmental Laboratory Services



Air Measurement Services • LDAR

- Stack Testing
- Ambient

Emerging Technology



Environmental Engineering, Planning, Permitting, Remediation & Waste to Energy Resources



# Montrose by the Numbers

- 50+ Offices
- 100+ Mobile Labs
- 1,200+ Employees
- 5,000+ Clients
- National, State and Local Accreditations





# **Todays Talk**

- Part 1 Combustion Efficiency; Flares and Combustors
- Part 2 PTR-TOF-MS Mobile Van
- Part 3 Using VOC Sensor Networks to Mitigate Risks to the Community



**Problem**: Oil & Gas production limited based upon VOC emissions

- VOC combustion efficiency of a flare is permitted at 98%
- If actually 99%, emissions are halved
- If emissions are lowered, production can be increased...







Other Flare Methods For Determining CE

- Extractive
- Path Fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy (FTIR)





- Montrose Partner: Providence
  Photonics
- The Mantis<sup>™</sup> measures flare combustion in real time
- ~\$500K+ instrument
- Portable, fast (~25 readings per second)
- Real time flare parameter tuning
- Video Imaging Spectro-Radiometry (VISR)





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$$CE = 100 \times \left[\frac{CO_2}{\left(CO_2 + VOC\right)}\right]$$



98



Demonstration Test: 2 days -~20 Flares

EPA Comparison Tests Complete

Flares - Ethylene MACT

EPA Combustor Meeting Friday





- PTR-TOF-MS: Proton Transfer Reaction -Time of Flight – Mass Spectrometry
- Fast and continuous
- Mobile
- Single digit PPT detection limit
- Many compounds at once
- Combine with Meteorological (MET) data for source













Three (3) in the USA

~\$950K each

Uses

- Ambient, process, source
- VOCs BTEX
- Odor studies
- Industrial worker safety
- Vapor intrusion
- Defense, security, law enforcement
- Emergency response

Why Oil & Gas?







Background...

- Low cost sensors are becoming commercially available
- Communities empowered to use them





#### Background...

- Colorado 7<sup>th</sup> in the US for Oil Production
- 80% of that production is in the Denver-Julesburg Basin
- 20% population growth in Denver since 2010
- Denver housing prices have doubled since 2008
- Housing near Oil & Gas
- Senate Bill 181





# Why Low Cost VOC Sensor Networks?

- Prevent issues before they reach the community
- Done right could be good for community, regulators and industry
- Done wrong bad data, wasted funds, lawsuits





#### Sensors

- Metal Oxide Sensors (MOX) total VOCs w/methane
- Photo-Ionization Detectors (PIDs) total non-methane VOCs
  - IonScience PID w/hydrophobic filter
- New technologies: absorption spectroscopy for methane, CU, Bioinspira (viruses)
- Meteorological (MET) for source identification (we use ultrasonic)
- Continuous vs Semi-Continuous
- Accuracy Calibration vs certification
- Cost \$750 to 2K (other technologies higher)
- Detection limit Low ppb VOC, to ppm methane + VOC



- Approach
  - Study 1 Parking lots study to evaluate if sensors could identify real time leaks
  - Study 2 Roof top study to evaluate data platform
  - Study 3 Live study(s) on a well pad during drilling and fracking activities (in progress)





- Incorporate all manners of sensors
- Incorporate fixed and mobile sensors
- Perform real time Quality Control on data (e.g. min/max, sticking, etc.)
- Reporting functions (averages, QA summary, monthly reports generation)
- Provide real time alerts via text and/or e-mail
- Mobile app





Pasadena Refining System, Inc.











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#### Part 3 – VOC Sensor Networks, Well Study





#### Part 3 – VOC Sensor Networks, Well Study



<sup>5/10/19</sup> PID Calibrations





#### Part 3 – VOC Sensor Networks, Well Study





### Part 3 - VOC Sensor Networks: Final Thoughts

#### **Data Platform**

- Define
  - Alert threshold and duration?
  - Quality Assurance
    Project Plan
  - Incorporate notes, O&M Logs and other features
- Customize to each use case
- Critical for large scale deployment

#### Sensors

- AQ SPEC for certification
  - http://www.aqmd.gov/aq-spec
  - **EPA 2020 Performance Specification**
- Data capture and down time
  - On the two PIDs was 29% and 71% (data com big issue)
  - 50% on a 1000 sensor study
  - Lost data no local storage
- Sensors will continue to evolve and will evolve quickly
- How to calibrate/certify



## **Special Thanks to Enerplus**

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