# Environmental Updates & Methane Control 614.8

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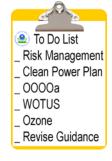


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### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

- Administrator Andrew Wheeler confirmed Feb. 28, 2019
  - Served as Acting Administrator since Jul. 5, 2018
  - Previous EPA employee
  - Worked in various staff positions for U.S. Senate
  - Energy lobbyist for Faegre Baker Daniels
- Working on a long list of regulatory reconsiderations
  - Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions
  - Clean Power Plan
  - Oil and Gas Standards
  - Waters of the United States
- Issuing final ozone non-attainment designations
- Revising agency guidance and guidelines







#### **Chemical Accident Provisions (Risk Management Plans)**

- New provisions to regulation published Jan. 13, 2017
- EPA delayed implementation by extending compliance date
  - EPA stayed all compliance provisions for reconsideration
  - Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit (DCCA) vacated stay
    - Compliance provisions effective Sep. 21, 2018
- EPA proposed removing some provisions on May 30, 2018
  - EPA plans to keep some of the new provisions
    - Emergency planning & response agency coordination
    - Public notification of available information
    - Public meeting following accident



### **Chemical Accident Provisions (Risk Management Plans)**

- Immediately applicable provisions:
  - Annual coordination with county Emergency Management 0 Agency (EMA) and local fire department
  - **Incident investigations** 0
    - Now include "near miss"
    - Must be conducted within 12 months of the incident
    - Investigative teams must be comprised of persons with appropriate knowledge and experience
    - Additional reporting requirements
  - Include findings from incident investigations in planning 0
  - Keep process safety information up-to-date 0





#### **Clean Power Plan**

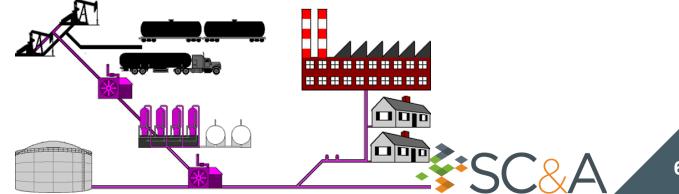
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- EPA has proposed a repeal of the Clean Power Plan
  - Complete removal of the regulation for existing sources
    - New sources installed on or after Jan. 8, 2014 still subject to emissions limits
  - Supreme Court had issued a stay on Feb. 9, 2016
    - DCCA heard arguments in Sep. 2016, but has not ruled
    - EPA keeps requesting a delay on case, since it is repealing the regulation
- EPA has proposed Affordable Clean Energy (ACE) Rule
  - Requires boiler efficiency instead of state-by-state GHG emissions targets



#### **Oil and Gas Standards**

- EPA is modifying parts of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 60 (40 CFR 60), Subpart OOOOa
  - EPA issued a stay to delay compliance dates
  - DCCA vacated EPA stay
- EPA proposal
  - 6 month compressor station leak detection (from 3 month)
  - Final repair within 60 days (from 30 days)
- EPA will continue to consider "broad policy issues" about regulating GHGs from the oil and gas sector, at a later date



#### Waters of the United States

- Definition of "Waters of the U.S." expanded in 2015
  - Added new categories of waterbodies to Clean Water Act
  - Expanded list of excluded ponds
- EPA and Army Corps of Engineers are jointly proposing to repeal the 2015 rule and return to pre-2015 definition
  - May allow states to develop datasets of waters
- Various U.S. District Courts upheld or vacated 2015 rule
  - Ohio uses 2015 rule



# Ohio Updates

#### **Ohio Environmental Protection Agency**

- Laurie Stevenson appointed Director Jan. 11, 2019
  - 20-year veteran of Ohio EPA
  - Former Deputy Director of Business Relations and Chief of Office of Compliance Assistance & Pollution Prevention
- Expanding electronic submittals and reporting options
  - Section 401 Water Quality Certification for wetlands
- Continuing to implement federal requirements and review state environmental regulations
  - General acceptance of U.S. EPA guidance revisions
  - All Ohio environmental regulations subject to 5-year review





# **Ohio Updates**

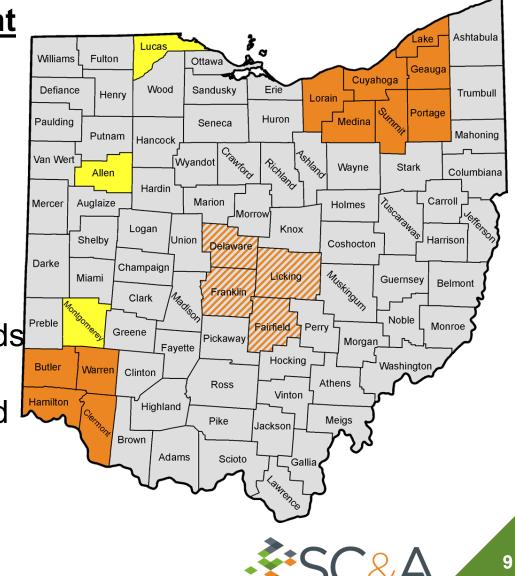
### 2015 Ozone Nonattainment

#### **Current Non-attainment:**

- Cincinnati metro area
- Columbus metro area
- Cleveland metro area

#### Areas of Interest:

- Montgomery County: >0.070 ppm/2 avg periods
- Allen County: >0.070 ppm/1 avg period
- Lucas County: 0.078 ppm/1 year



# **Ohio Updates**

#### **2015 Ozone Nonattainment Areas for Ohio**

- Ohio is beginning process to redesginate Central Ohio as attainment for the 2015 Ozone Standard (0.070 ppm)
  - 2013-15 Average: 0.071 ppm
  - 2014-16 Average: 0.071 ppm (Data used for degination)
  - 2015-17 Average: 0.071 ppm
  - 2016-18 Average: 0.069 ppm
- State Implementation Plans due for Cincinnati / Cleveland by Aug. 3, 2020
  - Additional regulations and controls for sources of volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides
    - Expect more requirements for mobile and area sources
  - Ohio Choice Plus (E-check) already in place in Cleveland



Multiple reasons for increasing permit processing time

- Incomplete application or supplemental information
- Multiple agency review or approval
- Public comment periods

Develop a comprehensive permit strategy for delays

- Review permit comment periods for each agency and permit type (general vs. site-specific permits)
- Create alternatives and contingency plans for delays
- Engage agencies and the public
- Political involvement and legal action <u>INCREASE</u> permit processing time



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#### Methane Control From Taking Compressors Offline:

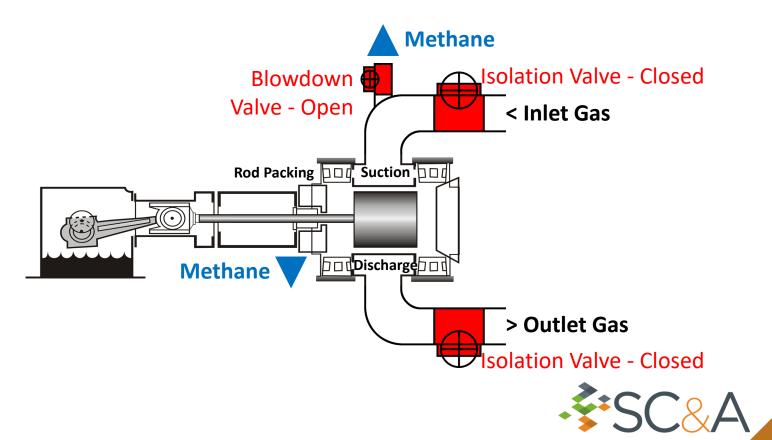
- Natural gas compressors are cycled online and offline as demand fluctuates and due to maintenance and repair
- Blowdown is standard practice for taking compressor offline
  - Close isolation valves to and from compressor
    - Closed valves leak ≈1.4 thousand cubic feet (MCF)/hour
  - Open blow down valves to depressurize compressor
    - Compressor blowdown vents ≈15 MCF/blowdown
- Alternative practices reduce methane emissions





#### **Compressor Depressurized - Blowdown**

- Discharge all natural gas from compressor to atmosphere
  - All blowdown natural gas lost (≈15 MCF/blowdown)
  - Ongoing natural gas loss (≈1.4MCF/hour)



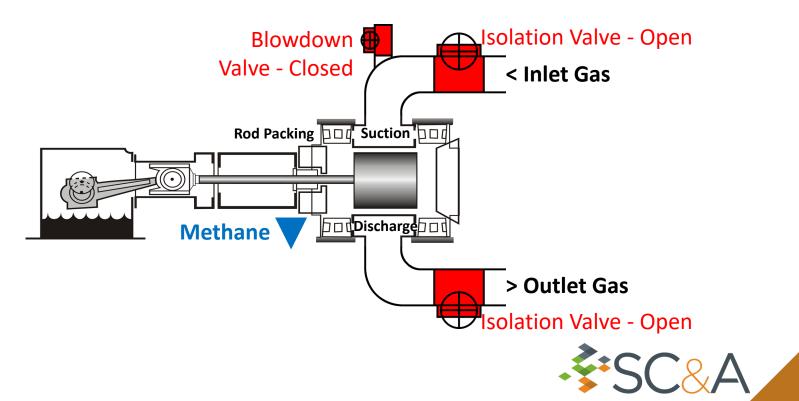
#### Methane Reduction Options from Offline Compressors:

- 1. Compressor Pressurized Line Pressure
- 2. Compressor Pressurized Low Pressure
- 3. Compressor De-/Pressurized Static Seal
- 4. Compressor Depressurized Flare
- 5. Compressor Depressurized Ejector
- 6. Compressor Depressurized ZEVAC



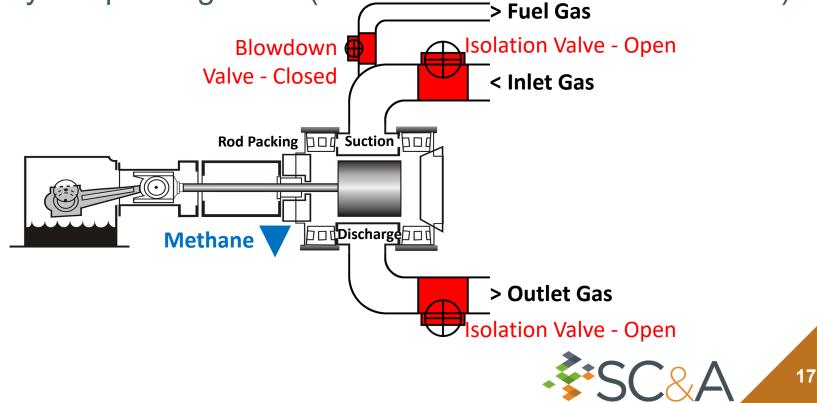
#### **1. Compressor Pressurized - Line Pressure**

- No new equipment needed
- Keep compressor pressurized and isolated
  - No blowdown loss
  - Only rod packing leaks (≈0.3 MCF/hour / ≤68% reduction)

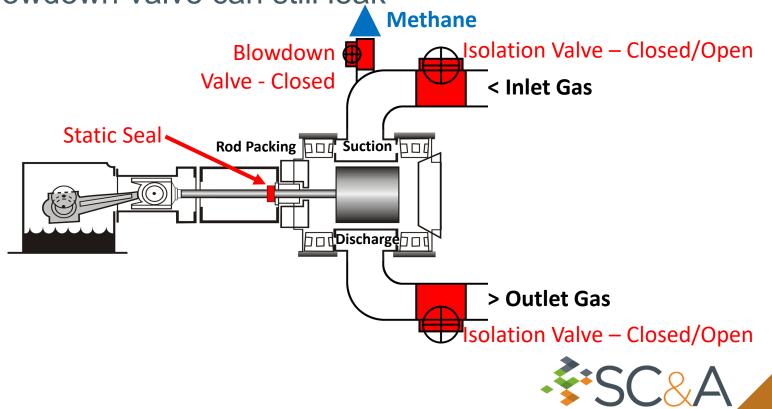


#### 2. Compressor Pressurized - Low Pressure

- Connect blowdown to fuel gas / low pressure system
- Compressor pressurized at lower pressure and isolated
  - No blowdown loss
  - Only rod packing leaks (≈0.1 MCF/hour / ≤91% reduction)

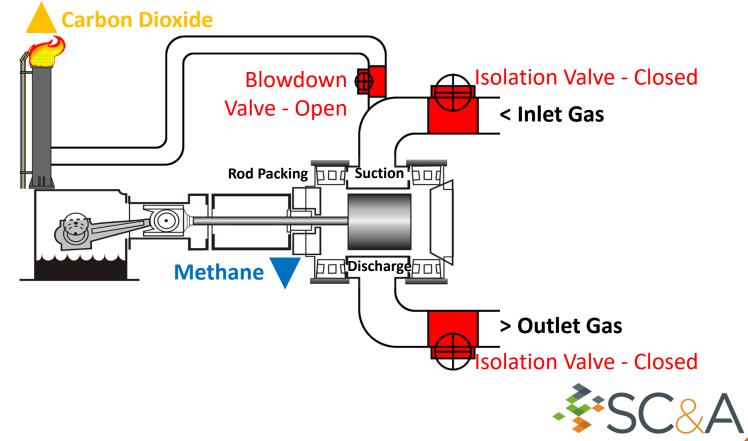


- 3. Compressor De-/Pressurized Static Seal
- Automatic controller seals rod packing when shutdown
- Compressor can be pressurized or depressurized
  - Only controls leaks from rod packing (100% reduction)
  - Blowdown valve can still leak

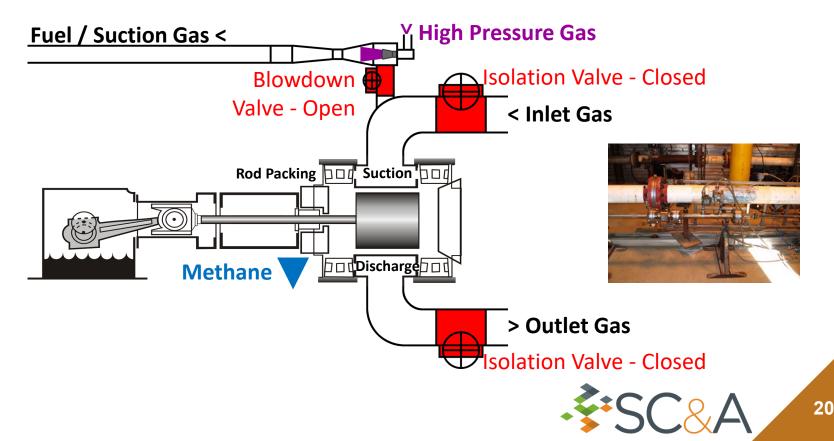


#### 4. Compressor Depressurized - Flare

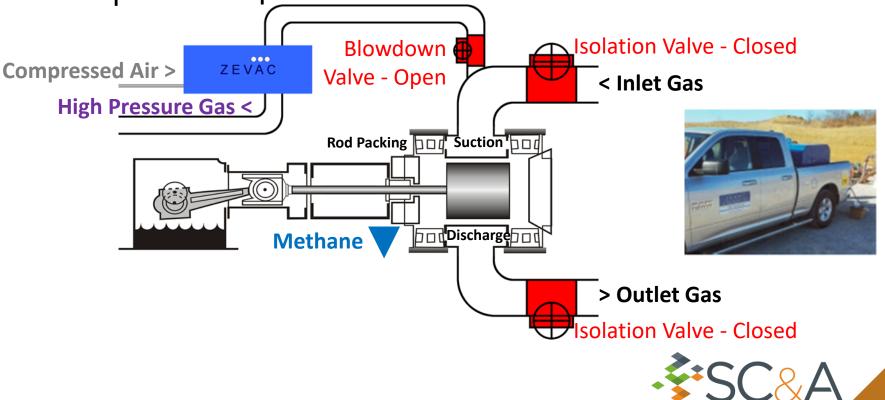
- Attach flare for blowdown
  - Blowdown converted to carbon dioxide (100% reduction)
  - Isolation valves still leaking (≈1.4MCF/hour)



- 5. Compressor Depressurized Ejector
- Attach venturi nozzle to fuel / suction gas for blowdown
  - Blowdown captured (≤100% reduction)
  - Isolation valves still leaking (≈1.4MCF/hour)



- 6. Compressor Depressurized ZEVAC
- Connect ZEVAC unit to high pressure gas for blowdown
  - Blowdown captured (≤100% reduction)
  - Isolation valves still leaking (≈1.4MCF/hour)
- Requires compressed air



#### Subpart OOOOa Applicability (After Sep. 18, 2015)

- OOOOa requires leak detection on <u>ALL</u> fugitive emissions components new, modified, & reconstructed compressors
  - **<u>New</u>**: Compressor(s) installed at empty site
  - <u>Modified</u>:
    - Additional compressor(s) installed at an existing site; or
    - Compressor(s) replaced with greater horsepower
      - Replacing compressors with equal or less horsepower is <u>NOT</u> a modification
  - <u>Reconstructed</u>: fixed capital costs of new components
    >50% of fixed capital costs for a comparable new facility
    - Request determination from EPA Region 5 60 days before construction

