



ConocoPhillips



# Optical Fugitive Emission Detection and Measurement Pilot Study

Terence Trefiak P. Eng.

ConocoPhillips Canada

# OVERVIEW

- BACKGROUND
- PILOT STUDY SCOPE
- STUDY FINDINGS
  - Source Data
  - Facility Comparison
  - Economics
- PATH FORWARD
- SUMMARY



# FUGITIVE EMISSIONS

Losses (leaks) of HC product  
(methane, propane, VOC's)

## UNINTENTIONAL FUGITIVES

- normal wear and tear / damage
- improper or incomplete assembly of components
- inadequate material specification
- manufacturing defects

## INTENTIONAL FUGITIVES

- venting (tanks, controllers, comp. seals, stacks, etc.)



“Why worry about some little leaks?”

What is the Problem?...  
“Gas leaks are *invisible*,  
*unregulated* and *go*  
*unnoticed*”

# STUDY OBJECTIVE

Evaluate new leak detection and measurement technologies and determine actual facility fugitive emission rates

## Drivers

- Increase production & reduce costs by recovering lost gas
- CAPP Fugitive Emission Management BMP
- Increase operations Health & Safety
- Reduce GHG emissions / Carbon Credits
- Part of CPC E/E, Gas Star Program, and BIC Initiative



# DETECTION TECHNOLOGY

## GasfindIR®

- optical emission technology
- infrared video camera with hydrocarbon/VOC filter
- provides visible images of a HC gas emissions in real-time

### Benefits :

- Rapid, accurate and safe detection
- Scan hard-to-reach components from a distance
- Assessments performed without interruption of operations
- Inspection times are minimal, which can keep costs down.
- With exact leak source info, repairs are less time consuming and less expensive.
- Cost-effectively scan hundreds of components simultaneously

**Approx. Cost:** \$75,000.00USD



# MEASUREMENT TECHNOLOGY

## Hi Flow<sup>®</sup> Sampler

- volumetric leak measurement
- vacuum flow rate detection uses dual-element hydrocarbon (methane) detector
- measures hydrocarbon concentrations in the captured air stream and determines the leak flow rate (+- 10%)

### Benefits :

- offers a much higher accuracy of measurement (compared to conventional methods)
- allows an objective cost-benefit analysis of each repair opportunity

**Approx. Cost:** \$14,000 USD





# SCOPE

- Evaluate 22 facilities (9 gas plants and 13 comp. stns.) from various asset areas
- Obtain fugitive emission data
- Complete repair cost/benefit analysis
- Create recommendations for applying a Canada-wide program (CAPP BMP)



# RESULTS SUMMARY

# of Sources	144
Total Yearly Rate (mcf/year)	58,416
Savings Potential (US\$/year)	\$357,718.82
Average Payback (years)	0.37
NPV (US\$)	\$2,002,602.72
CO <sub>2</sub> e Emission Rate (tonnes/year)	21,421
CO <sub>2</sub> e Credit Value (US\$)	\$535,525.00

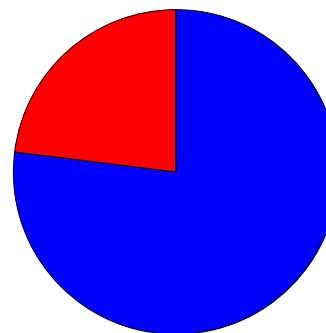
\* Using \$5.50 USD/mmbtu and \$25.00 USD/tonne CO<sub>2</sub>e



# SOURCE INFO

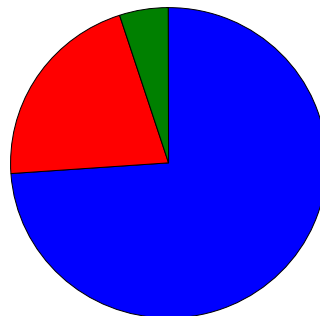
## # of Sources

- **77%** leaking components (111)
- **23%** other fugitive emission sources (33)
- **92%** economical to repair (133)



## Composition

- **75%** Process gas (108)
- **21%** Fuel gas (30)
- **4%** Propane (6)

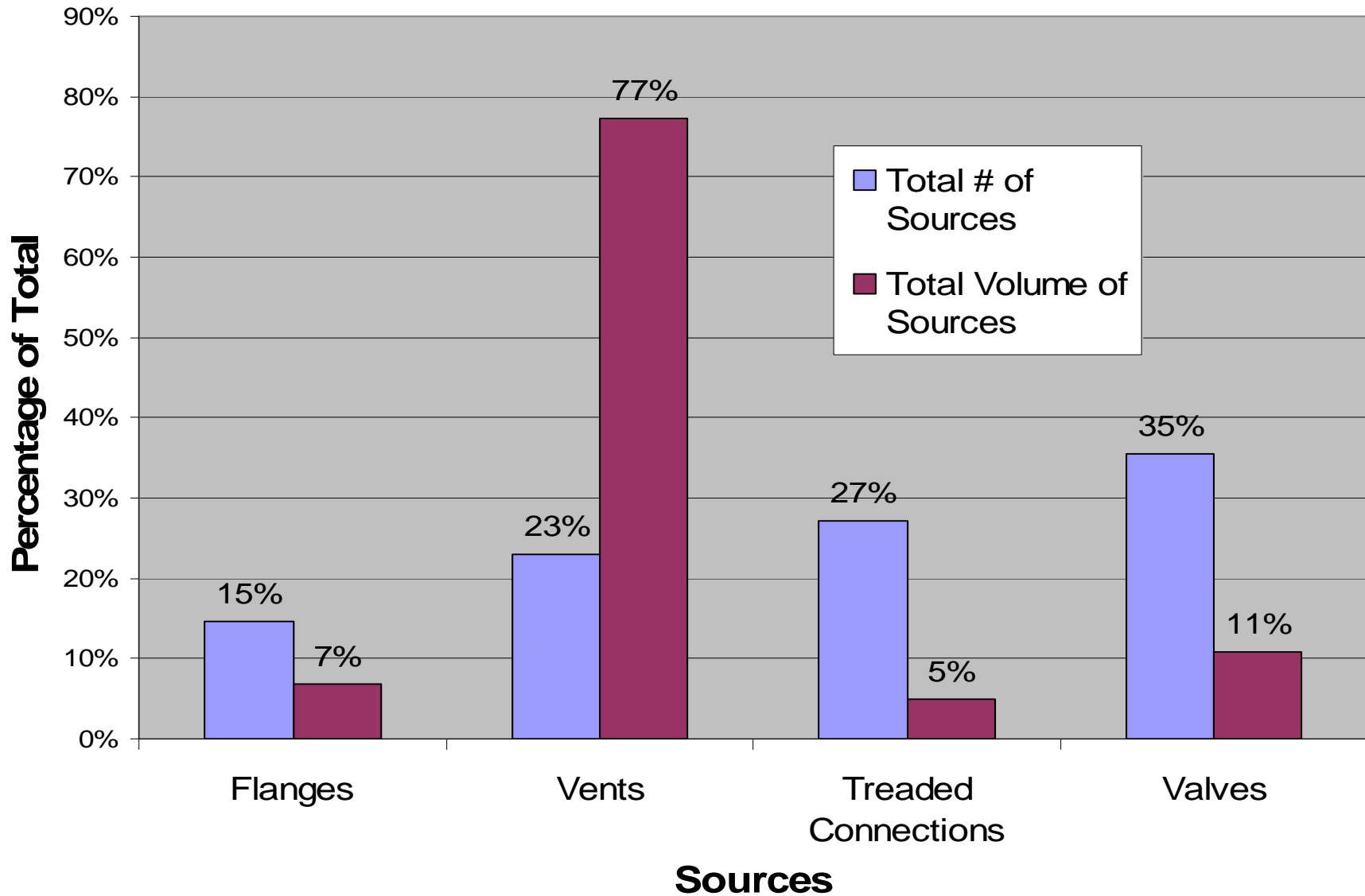


## Location

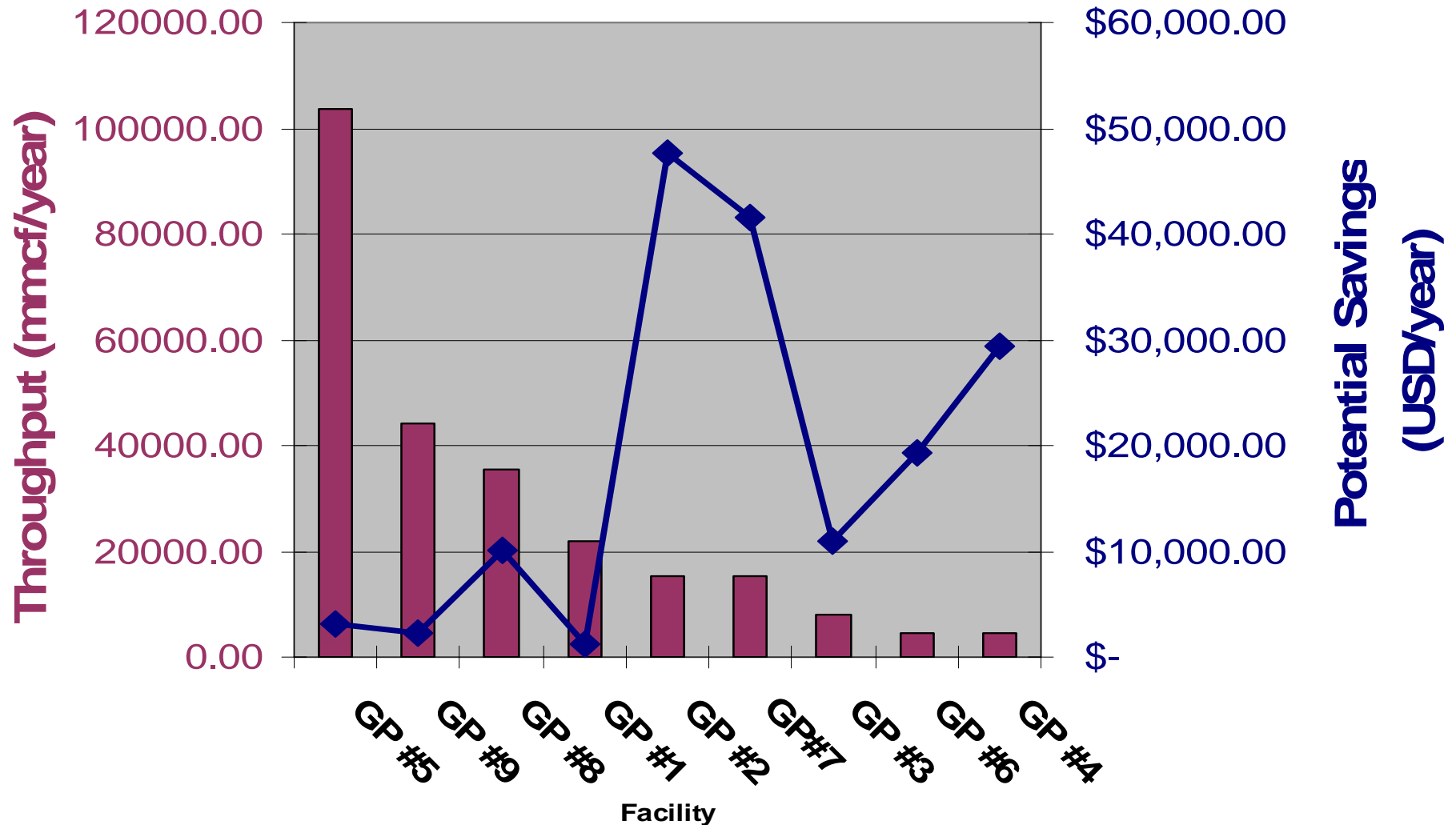
- **72%** Compressor Buildings
- **20%** Process Buildings
- **4%** Outside piping
- **4%** Tanks



# SOURCE TYPES

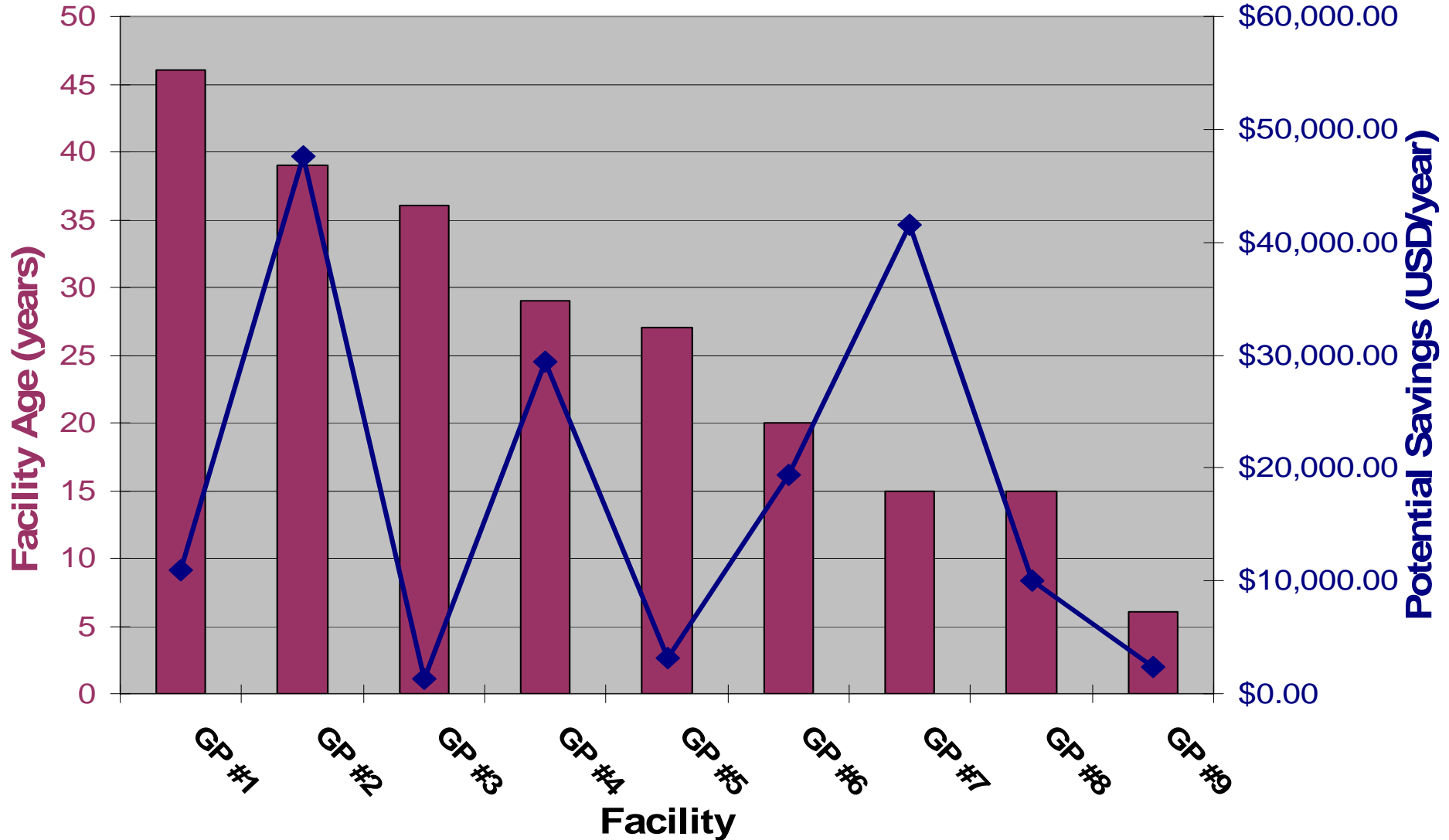


# GAS PLANT THROUGHPUT COMPARISON





# GAS PLANT AGE COMPARISON



# ECONOMIC PROJECTION

Average Yearly Savings/Facility (US\$/year)	\$16,300.00
Average Total Cost/Facility (US\$/year) (assessment and repairs)	\$8,000.00
Average Est. Payout Period (years)	0.50
Total Gross Est. Annual Savings (US\$/year)	\$10,400,000.00
Total Est. NPV (US\$/year)	\$35,000,000.00
CO <sub>2</sub> e/year Reduction (tonnes)	630,000
CO <sub>2</sub> e Credit Value (US\$)	\$15,750,000.00

\* Using \$5.50 USD/mmbtu and \$25.00 USD/tonne CO<sub>2</sub>e

# GHG REDUCTION POTENTIAL

630,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction represents:

- **67%** reduction in CPC Fugitive Emissions
- **18%** reduction in CPC total direct GHG emissions



# PATH FORWARD

- **Develop Fugitive Emission Management Program**
  - Set assessment schedule
  - Imbed into Operations and Facility Design
  - Develop repair tracking system and refine data management system
- **Evaluate pipeline & wellsite opportunities**
- **Education / Knowledge Sharing**



# SUMMARY

## Facility Emissions

- Emission rates vary significantly with no evidence of a correlation with facility throughput and slight correlation with facility age
- Common (“targeted”) sources were identified, however, it was determined that sources can vary significantly
- High majority of sources were economical to repair
- Company-wide fugitive emission assessments would significantly help to reduce health and safety hazards, GHG emissions, costs (fuel gas and propane usage) and increase production

## Technology

- GasfindIR® and Hi Flow® Sampler pose numerous advantages over conventional detection and measurement methods
- Training and experience of equipment technicians is fundamental to performing effective fugitive emission assessments.
- ConocoPhillips Canada will be using these technologies as fundamental tools for its Fugitive Emission Management Program



# QUESTIONS?

## CONTACT INFO:

Terence Trefiak P.Eng.  
Environmental Engineer  
ConocoPhillips Canada

Office (403) 233-3371  
Cell (403) 613-4153

[Terence.W.Trefiak@conocophillips.com](mailto:Terence.W.Trefiak@conocophillips.com)

