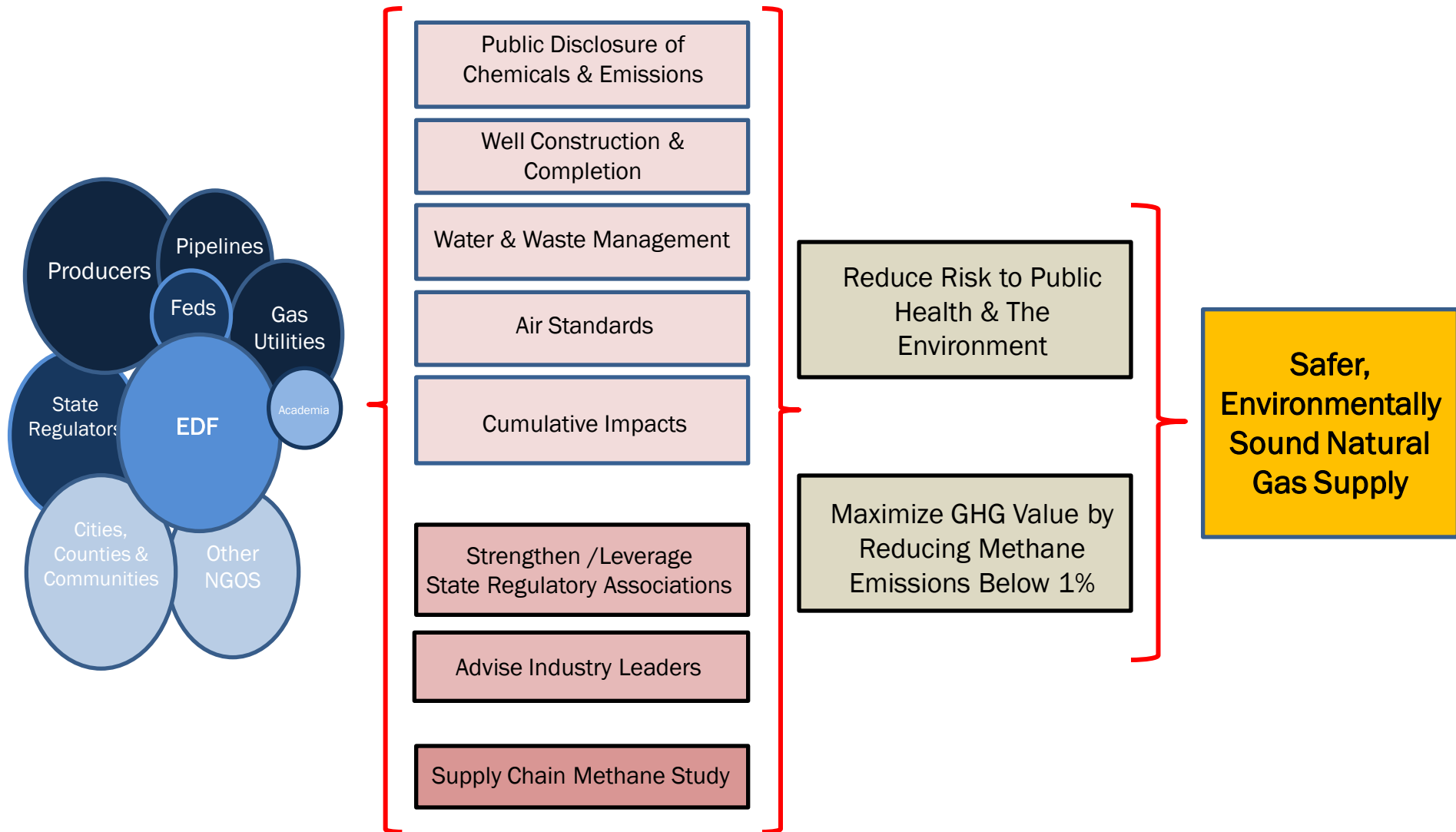


Methane Leaks from the U.S. Natural Gas Value Chain

Robert Harriss
Boulder, CO.
rharriss@edf.org



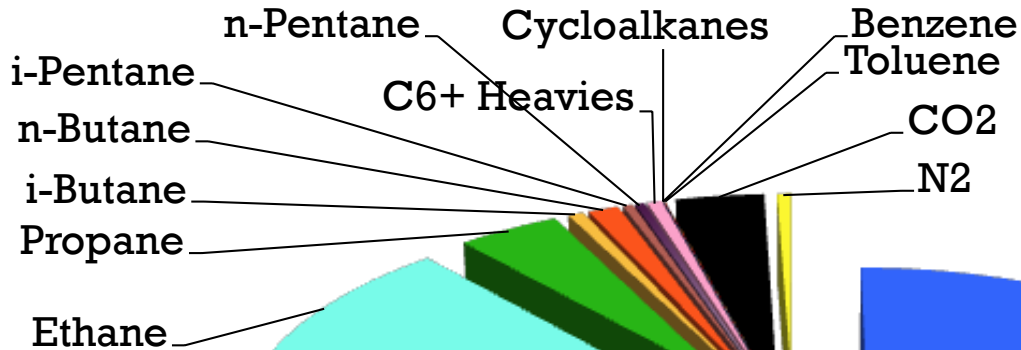
EDF natural gas projects & goals



What's in natural gas?

Surface
ozone
precursors

Air
Toxics



NGLs

Composition of gas varies from one basin/formation/well to another.

Produced “raw gas” is composed of 70-90% methane

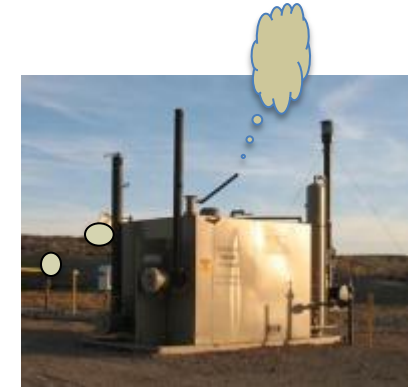


Distribution gas is >90% methane

U.S. natural gas system infrastructures

How much gas is leaking from US natural gas infrastructures?

- 500,000 oil and gas wells,
- 493 processing plants
- over 20,000 miles of gathering pipelines,
- ~ 300,000 miles transmissions pipelines,
- > 1,400 compressor stations
- ~ 400 underground storage facilities
- ~ 2,000,000 miles of local distribution pipelines



Bottom-Up Production Study

Academic lead



Science Advisory Panel

Professor Matthew Fraser
Arizona State University

Professor A. Daniel Hill
Texas A&M University

Professor Brian Lamb
Washington State University

Professor Jennifer Miskimins
Colorado School of Mines

Professor Robert Sawyer
University of California, Berkeley

Professor John Seinfeld
California Institute of Technology

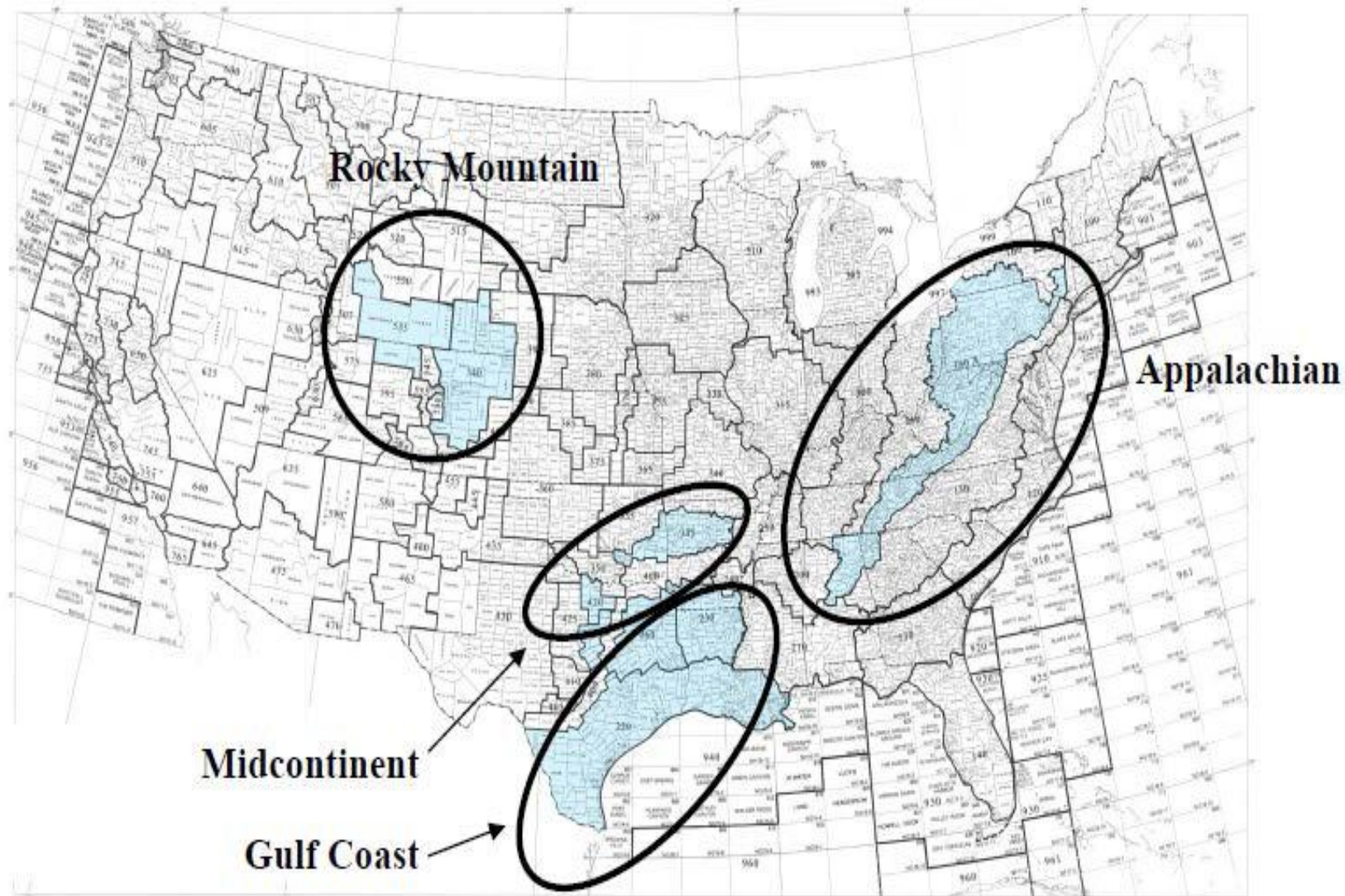
Steering Committee

Technical working group co-chairs

Ramon Alvarez
EDF
Emily Rodgers
Anadarko

Partner companies





Summary of Results

Direct, on-site measurements of CH₄ emissions from gas production operations were made; for some sources (well completions and unloadings) these are the first measurements reported.

67% of well completions sampled during the study had equipment in place that reduces CH₄ emissions by 99%. The well completions were 97% lower than calendar year 2011 EPA national emission estimates, released in April 2013.

Emissions from pneumatic devices were 70% higher than current EPA net emissions estimates, and equipment leaks are 50% higher than current EPA net emission estimates; collectively these emissions accounted for more than 40% of methane net emissions from natural gas production.

Summary (cont.)

Total methane emissions from gas production measured in this study were comparable ($957 \text{ Gg} \pm 200 \text{ Gg}$) to the most recent EPA estimates ($\sim 1200 \text{ Gg}$).

The 957 Gg in emissions for completion flowbacks, pneumatics and equipment leaks, coupled with EPA national inventory estimates for other categories, leads to an estimated 2300 Gg of methane emissions from natural gas production (0.42% of gross gas production).

Comprehensive results at:

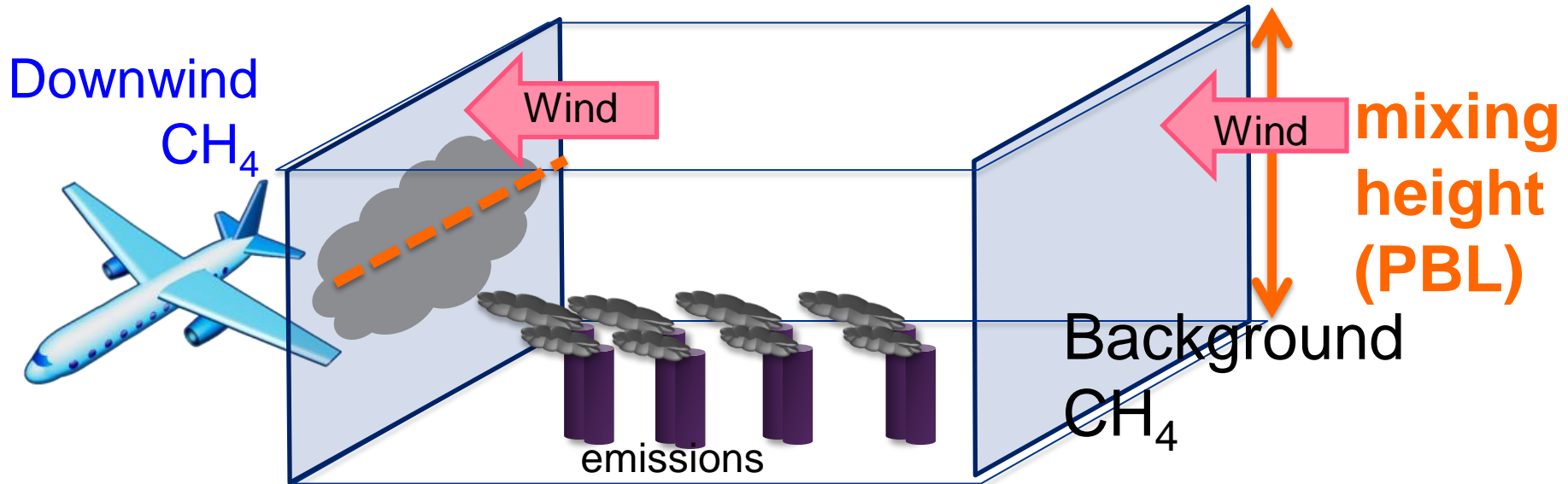
<http://dept.ceer.utexas.edu/methane/study/index.cfm>

<http://www.engr.utexas.edu/news/releases/methanestudy>

EDF Bottom-Up/Top-Down Field Campaigns in Colorado & Texas



Top-Down Aircraft Mass Balance Method



CH₄ flux

Molar CH₄ enhancement in PBL

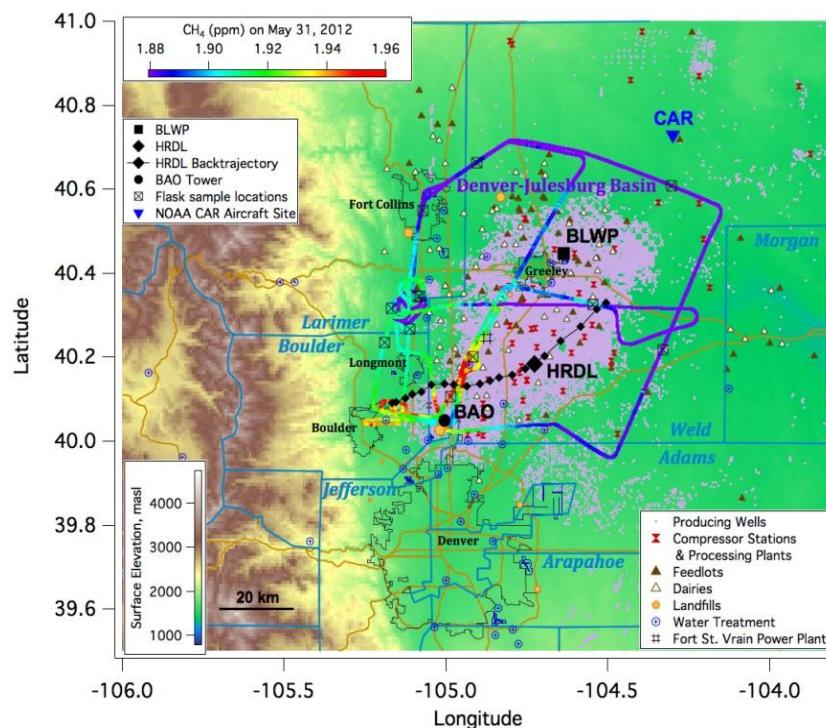


$$\dot{n}_{CH_4} = V \cos \theta \int_{-b}^{+b} \Delta X_{CH_4} \left(\int_{z_{gnd}}^{z_{PBL}} n_{air} dz \right) dx$$



Perpendicular wind speed in PBL

Denver-Julesburg Basin



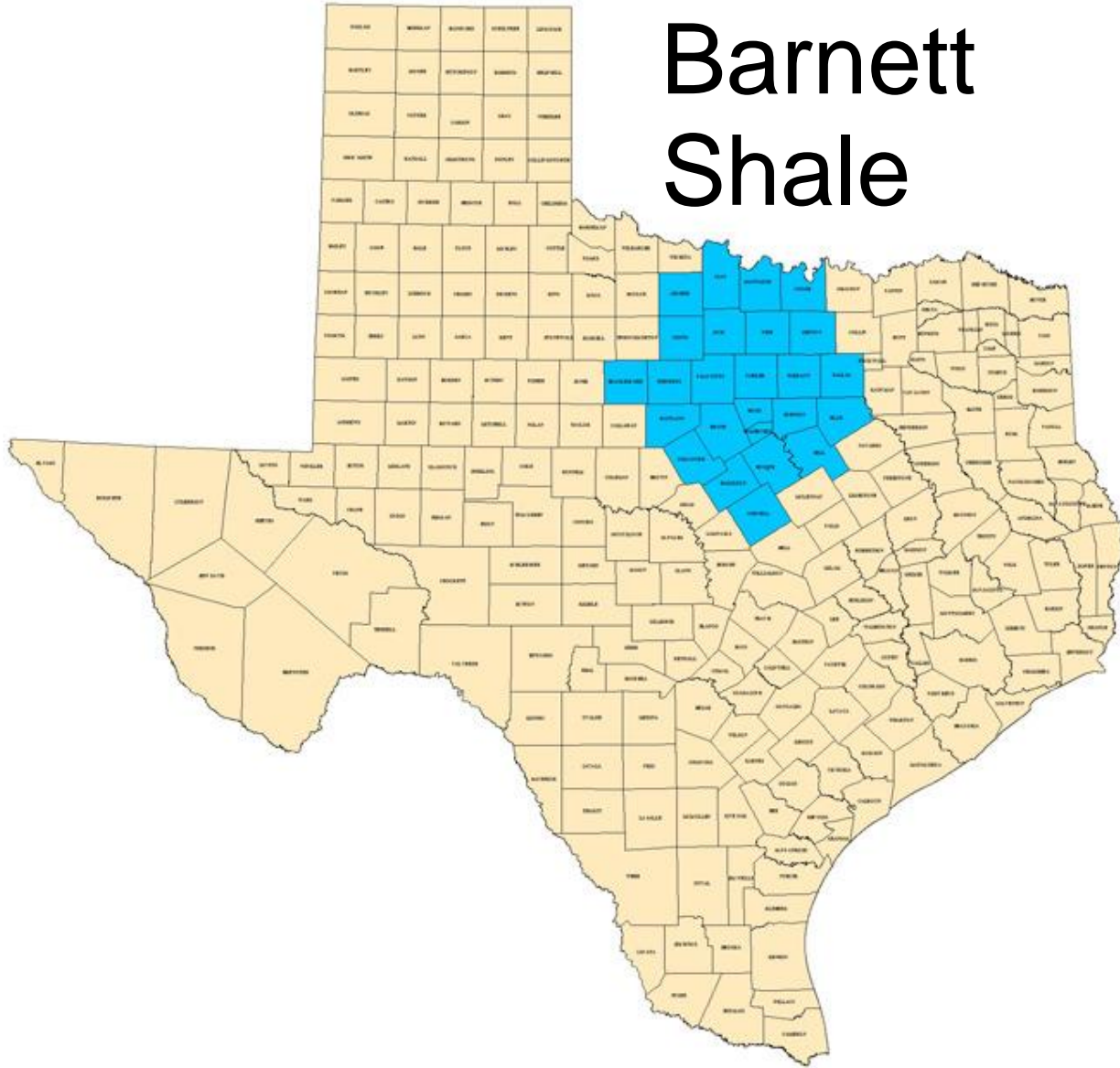
Flux estimate	Total CH ₄ source (tonnes/hr)	Relative 1-s Uncertainty in CH ₄ source
May 29 ^a	25.8±8.4	33%
May 31	26.2±10.7	41%
Average	26.0±6.8	26%

Denver-Julesburg Basin CH₄ Emissions Budget

Source	May 29 (tonnes/hr)	May 31 (tonnes/hr)	Uncertainty (1- σ)
Total Emissions	25.8	26.2	26%
Enteric	5.15	5.15	18%
Livestock	0.97	0.97	100%
Landfill	1.44	0.66	100%
Waste treatment	0.47+0.47	0.47+0.47	15%+25%
Natural Seepage	0.1	0.1	100%
Remaining Emission	17.3±8.6	18.5±10.8	54%

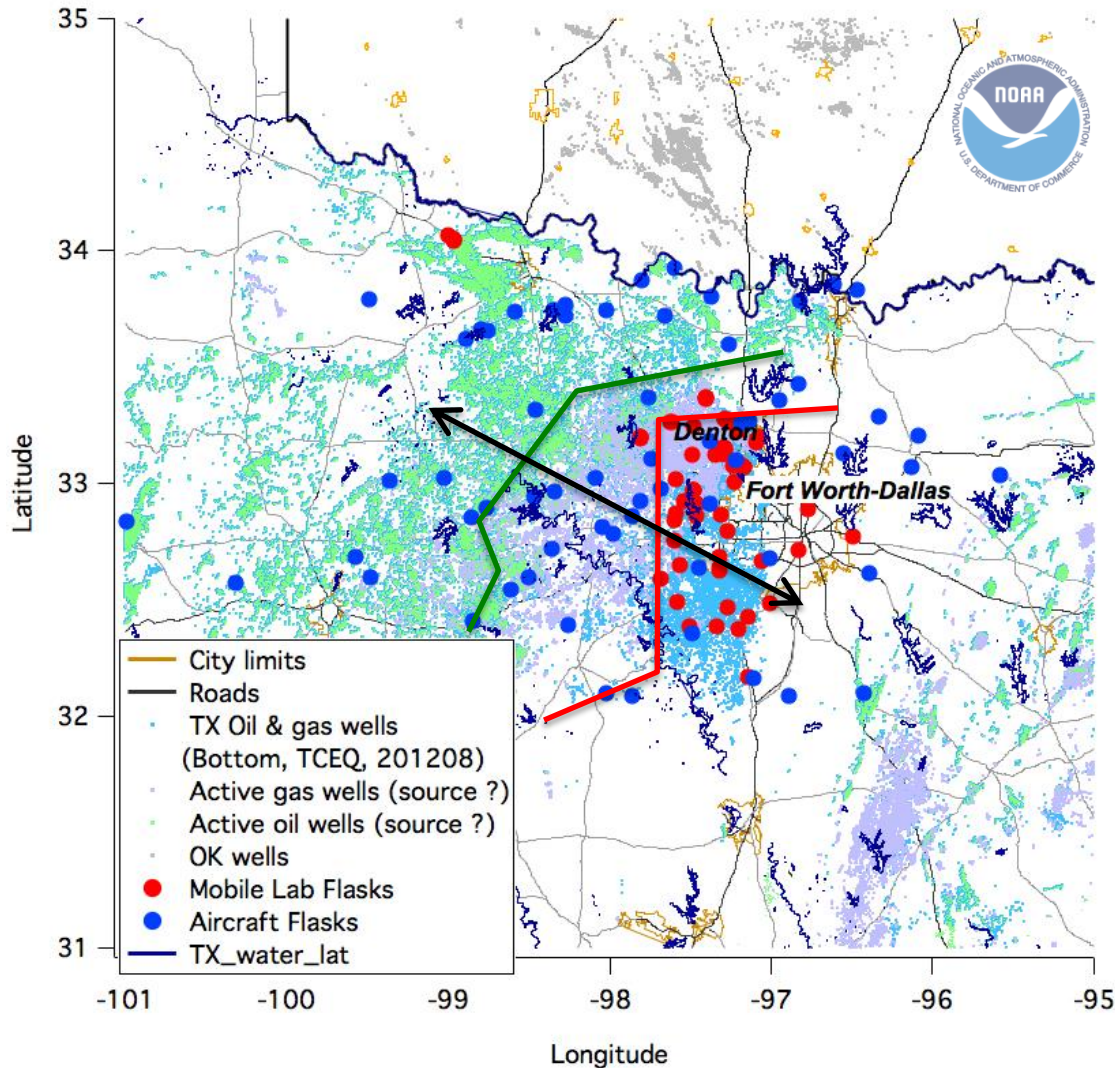
Average O&G production = 17.9±9.7 tonnes/hr
67% of total emissions
(assuming highest possible non O&G emissions)

Barnett Shale

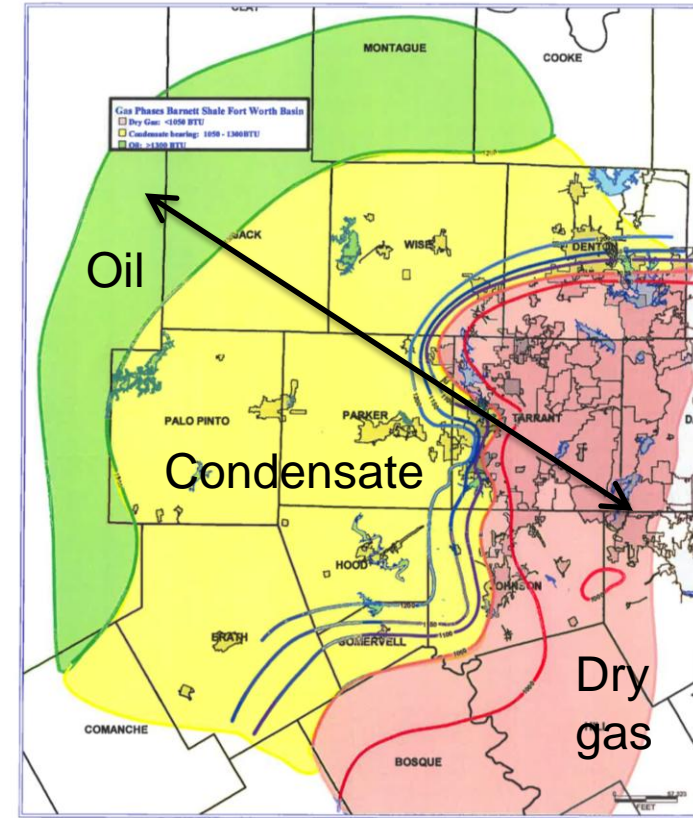


Texas Railroad Commission

Barnett Natural Gas, NGL's, & Oil

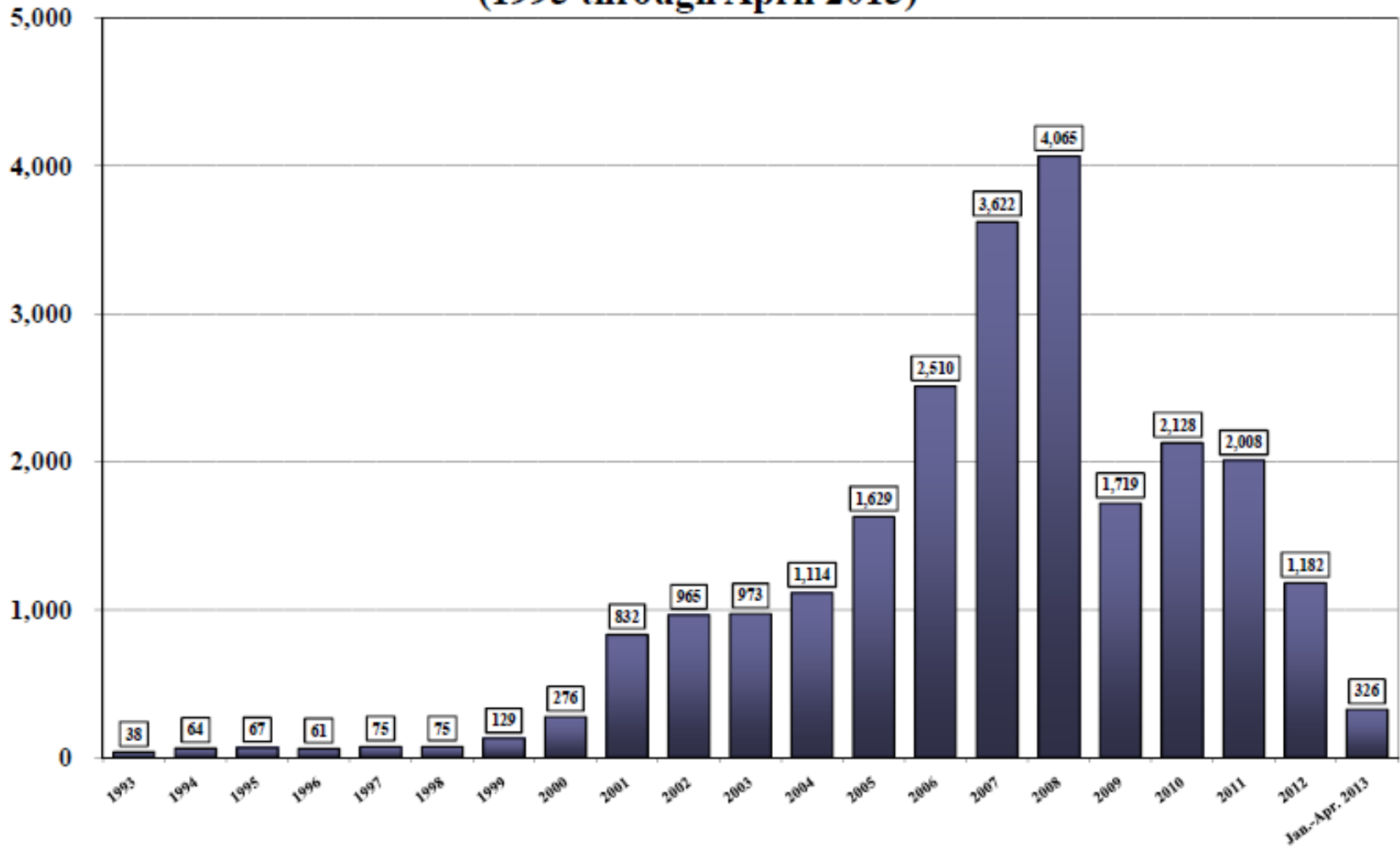


Production zones



The ratio of VOC to CH_4 will vary along the oil <--> dry gas gradient.

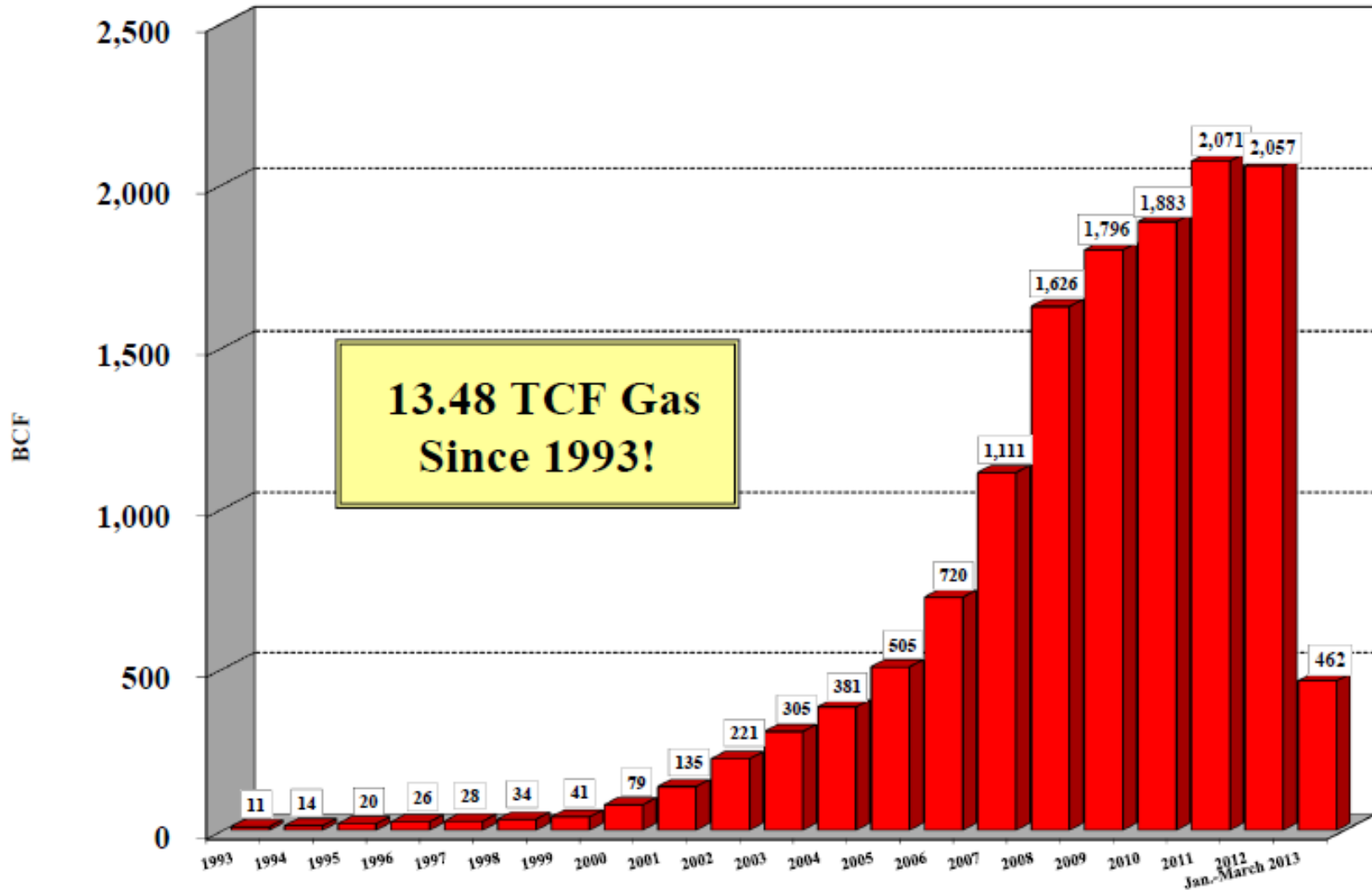
Newark, East (Barnett Shale) Drilling Permits Issued (1993 through April 2013)



05/02/2013

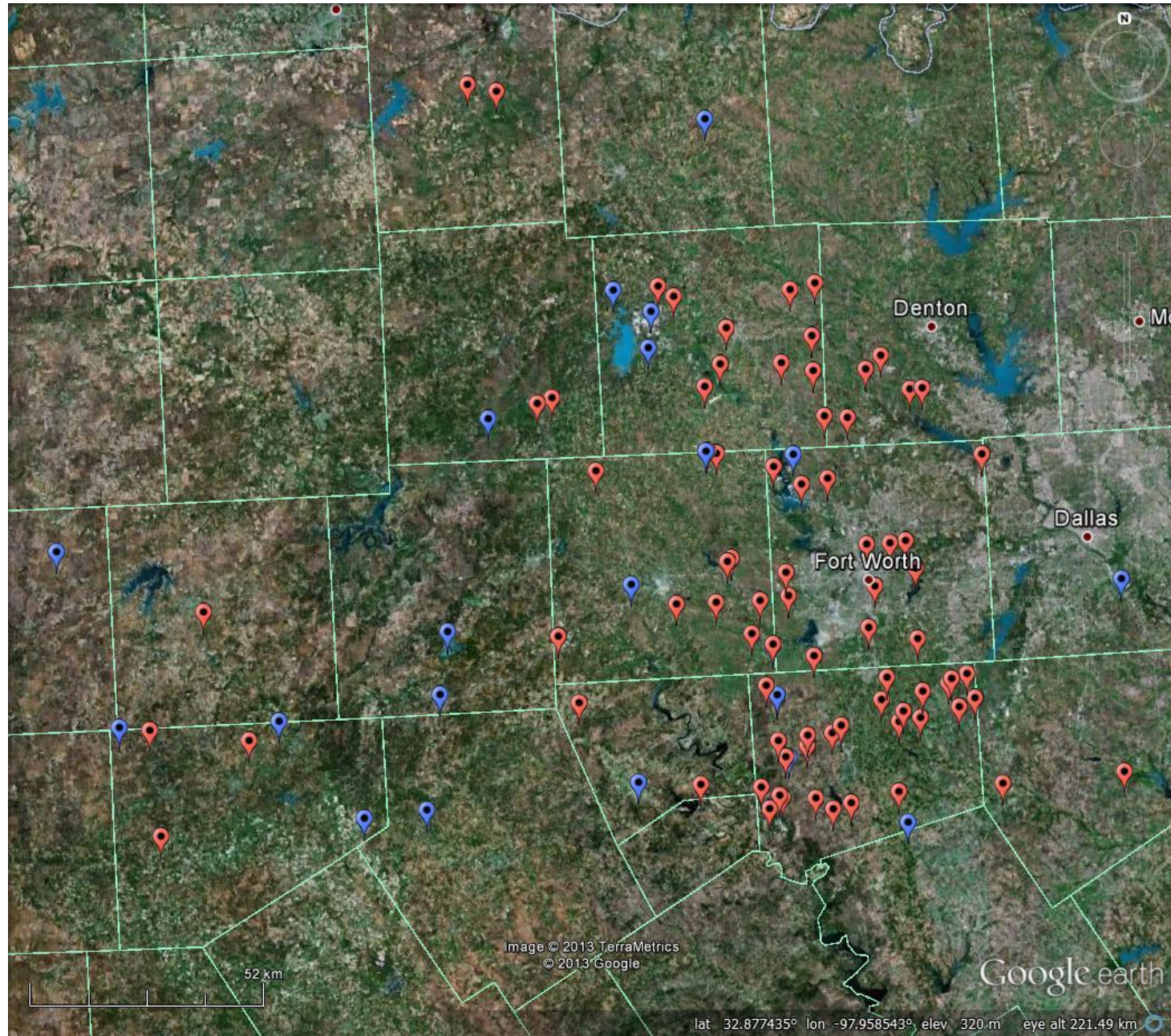
Source: Texas Railroad Commission DrillingPermitQuery(Includes New Drill & ReEnter Permits)

Newark, East (Barnett Shale) Total Natural Gas Production 1993 through March 2013



Midstream O&G Facilities

- 83 compressor stations & 21 processing plants in 2011 NEI
- 400 midstream facilities in TCEQ 2009 special EI
- 40 compressor stations & 23 processing plants with 12.5 Gg CH₄ emissions in 2011 GHGRP



Landfills

- 23 landfills with 88.5 Gg CH₄ emissions in 2011 GHGRP
- ~60 smaller landfills

CH₄ (Mg)



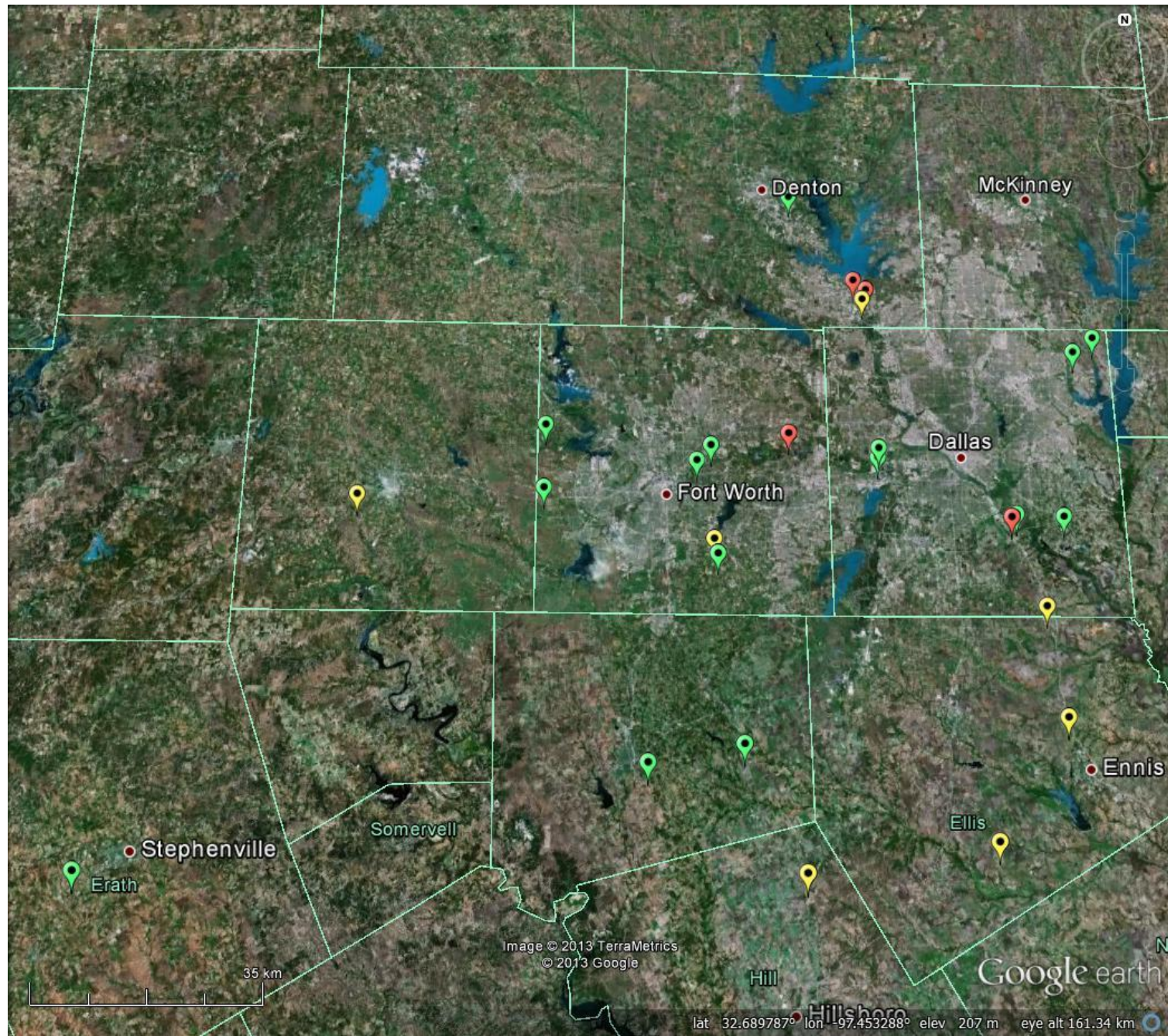
0 to 5,000



5,000 to 10,000



10,000 to 16,405



Barnett Methane Experiment

➤ Phase I: March 2013

- University of Colorado
- NOAA/ESRL (GMD, CSD)
- Picarro
- Shell / Sanders Geophysics
- Aerodyne
- Penn State



➤ Phase II: October 2013

- Purdue
- University of Michigan
- University of Cincinnati
- UC Irvine
- University of Houston
- West Virginia University
- Duke
- Princeton & UT Dallas



Barnett II Methane Experiment: Aircraft

Purdue Duchess



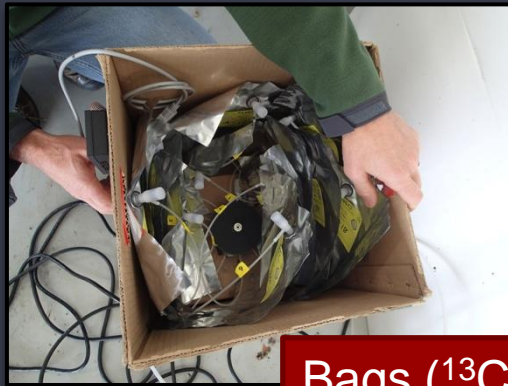
Scientific Aviation Mooney



Aircraft Instrumentation

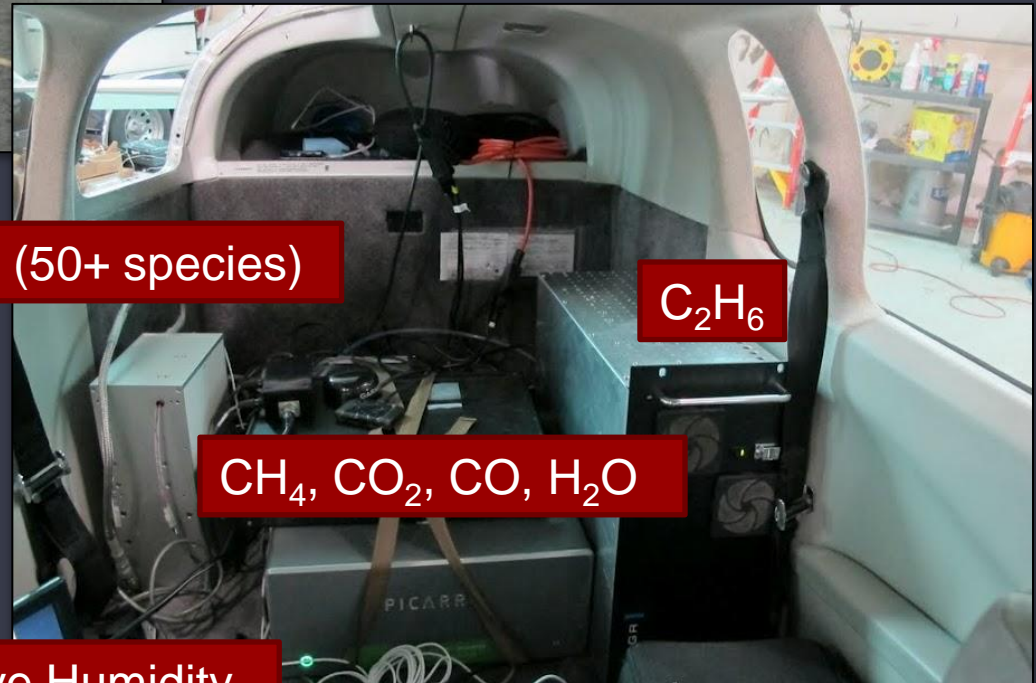


Measurement of additional species (such as ethane and $^{13}\text{CH}_4$) help with attribution of methane to an oil and gas source.



Bags ($^{13}\text{CH}_4$)

Flasks (50+ species)

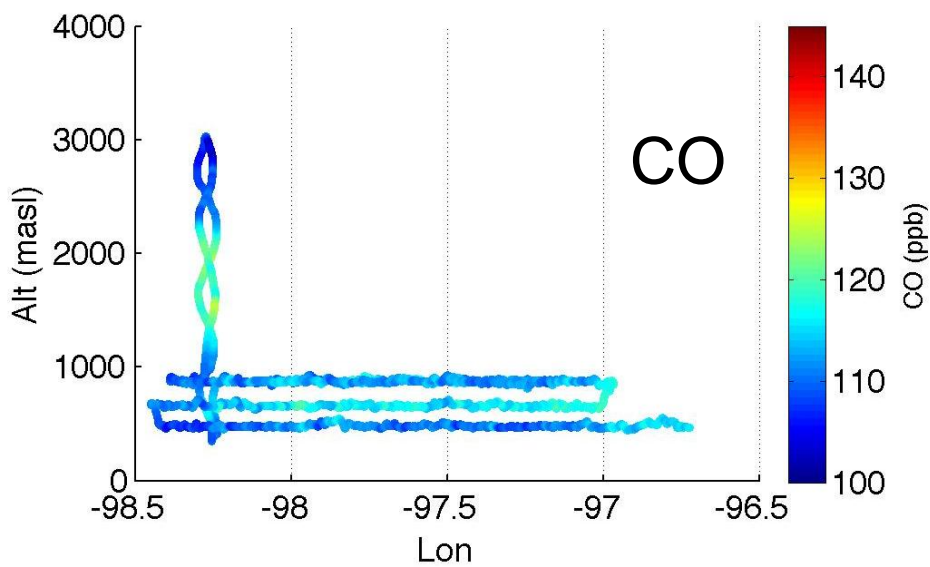
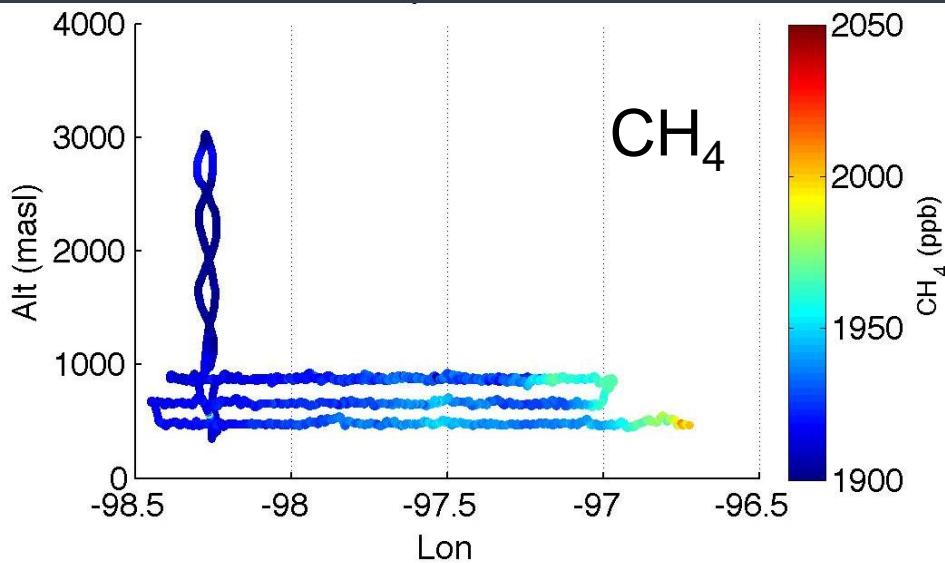


C_2H_6

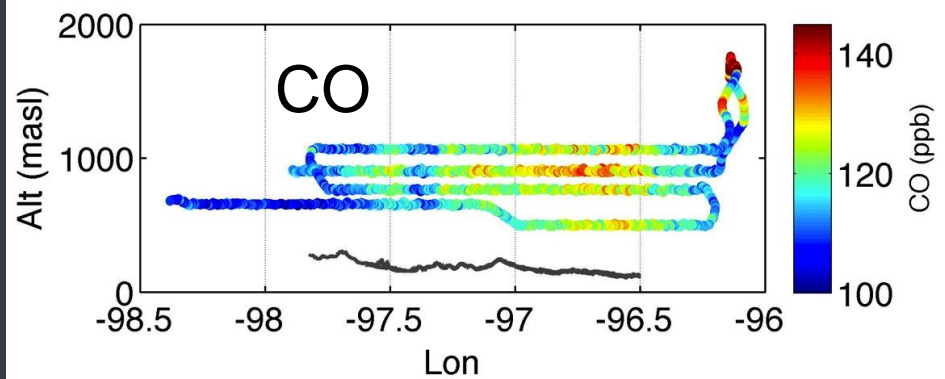
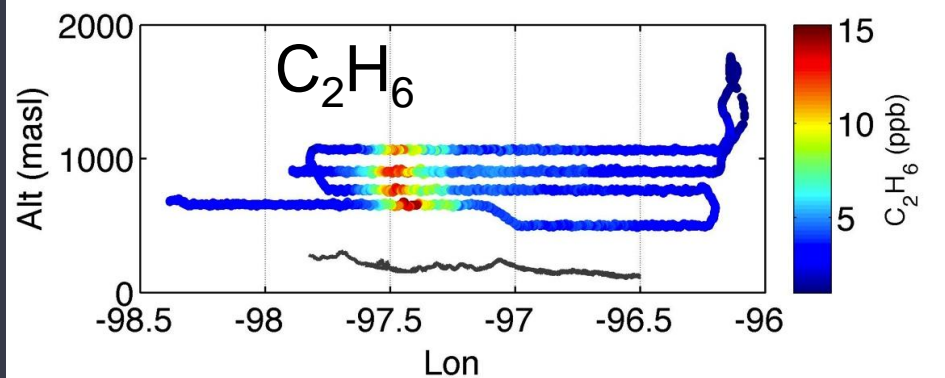
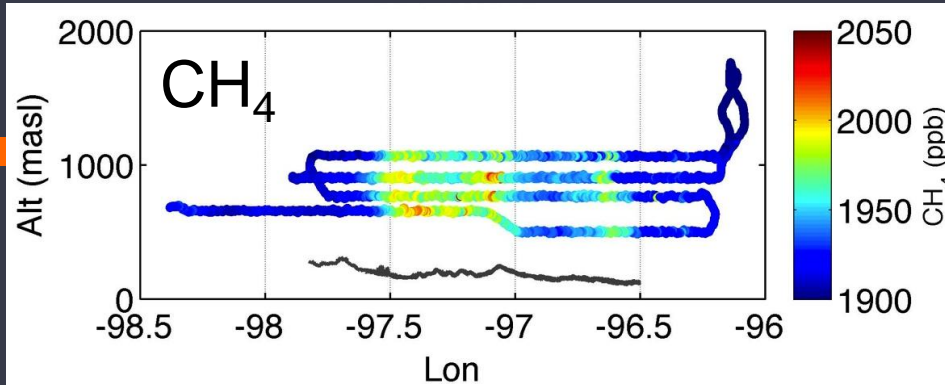
CH_4 , CO_2 , CO , H_2O

Also: Wind, GPS, Temperature, Relative Humidity

Upwind (Duchess)



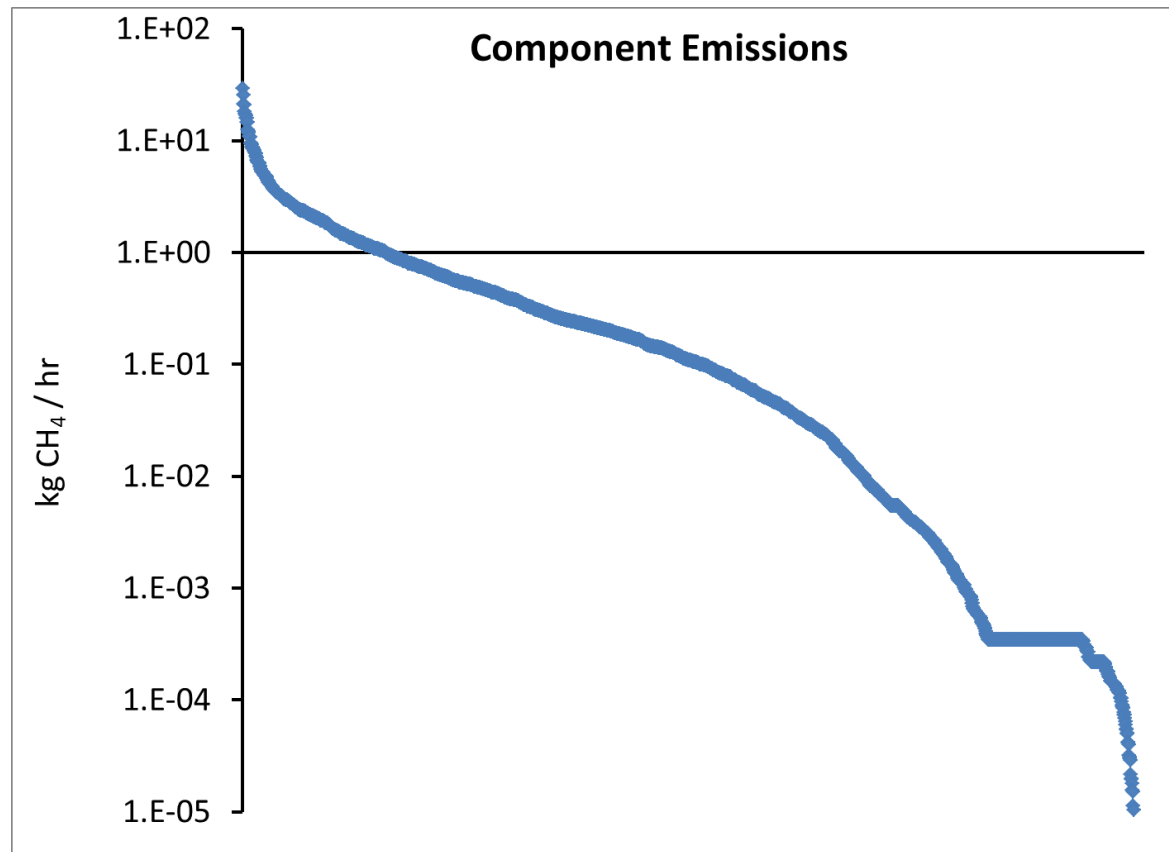
Downwind (Mooney)



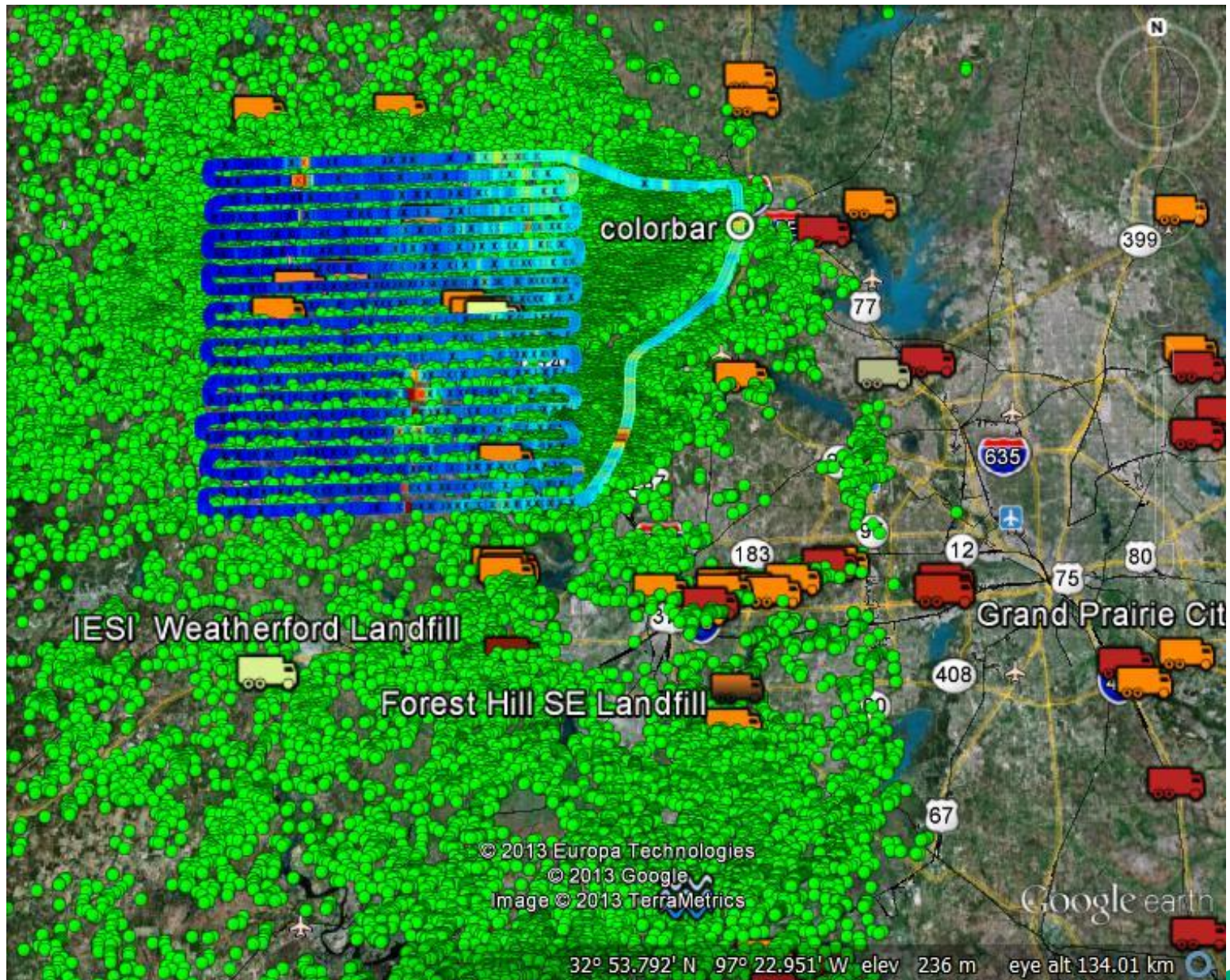
Fort Worth Air Quality Study

- 388 sites surveyed with infrared camera for leaks
- CH₄ emissions measured from 2,126 components
- 68% of emissions from 10% of components

	kg/hr CH4
Minimum	0
25%	0.004
Mean	0.67
Median	0.11
75%	0.52
90%	1.6
99%	9.1
Maximum	29.5

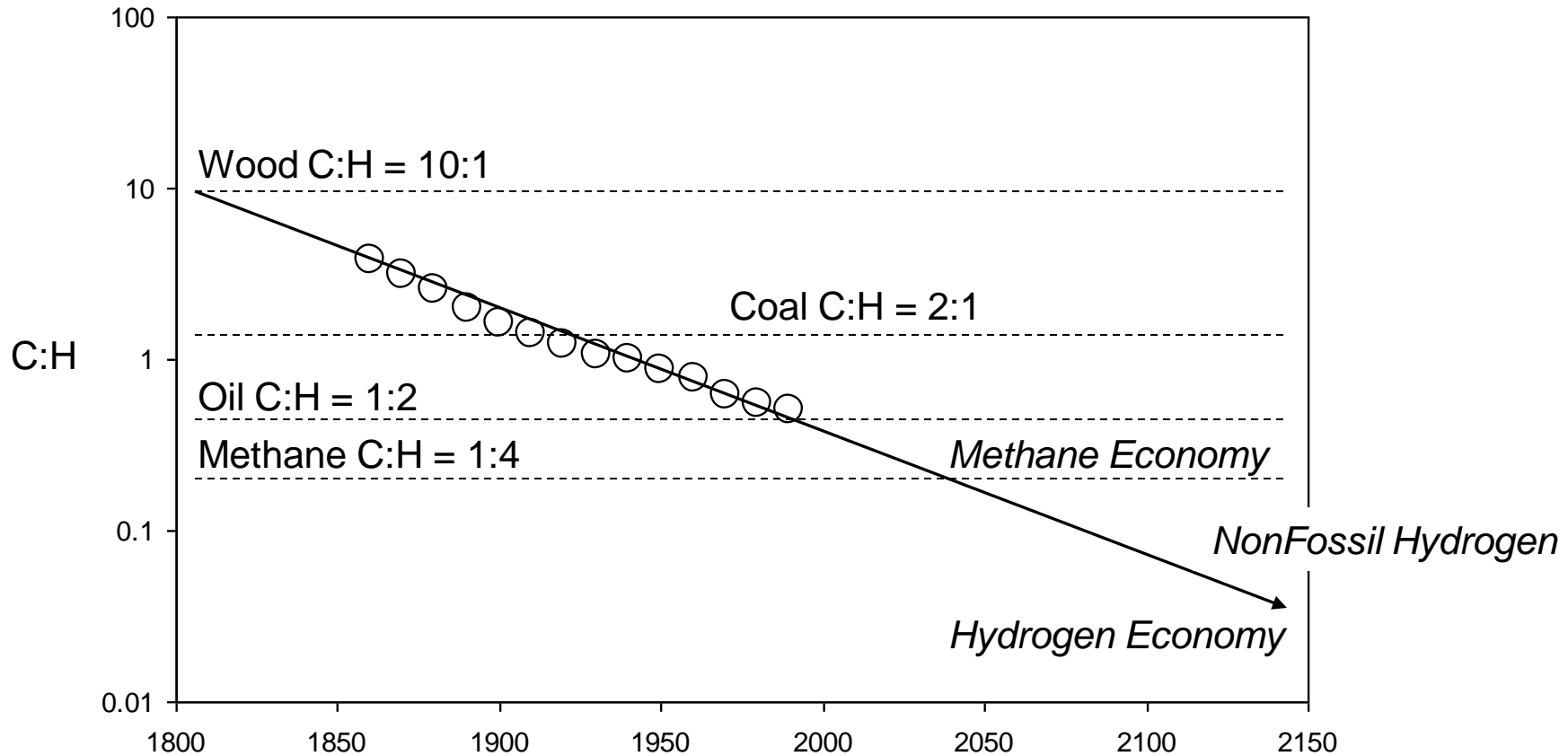


Sanders Geophysical & Shell: Low altitude CH₄ mapping



Decarbonization

Evolution of C:H Ratio in Global Fuel Mix



Source: Ausubel 2007, after Ausubel, 1996 and Marchetti, 1985



Robert Harriss
rharriss@edf.org

