



**TARGA**

# **Fixed Roof Storage Tanks Yesterday and Today**

**Presented by:  
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# Agenda

- ◆ *Review of Regulatory Concerns*
- ◆ *Identification of Internal Concerns*
- ◆ *Internal Research Efforts*
- ◆ *Identified External Options*
- ◆ *Lessons Learned*
- ◆ *Questions*

# Review of Regulatory Concerns

- ◆ **Unaccounted for Hydrocarbons**
- ◆ **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Oil and Gas Study**
  - ❖ 2005 - began to identify storage tanks with hydrocarbon plumes through use of flyover imagery using infrared cameras
  - ❖ 2009 – A Targa compressor station was included in the TCEQ Phase 2 ground level study.
  - ❖ TCEQ initiates their “Find It Fix It” Program
- ◆ **Additional TCEQ Efforts**
  - ❖ TCEQ began studying emission modeling methods.
  - ❖ Qualitative Testing
  - ❖ Infra Red Camera



# Identification of Internal Concerns

- ◆ **Targa's Corporate ESH Concerns**

- ❖ Participating in the TCEQ meetings regarding the O&G Study and the changes in storage tank emission calculations
- ❖ Began reviewing modeling options
- ❖ Purchased infrared camera

- ◆ **Targa Reviewed Atmospheric Tanks Across NTX Area**

- ❖ Viewed vent valve and hatches with infrared camera
- ❖ Review of hatch configuration
- Review of vent valve applications

- **What we found**

- ❖ Inconsistent hatch make and model
- ❖ Inconsistent vent valve make and model
- ❖ Suspect hatch gaskets
- ❖ Thoughts about hatch and vent valve settings as it relates to predicted emissions (modeled emissions)
- ❖ Inconsistent scrubber levels
- ❖ Inconsistent scrubber uses



# Follow-up Research to Address Findings

## ◆ Vent Valve

### ❖ Bench Test

- ◆ Tested Existing Valve Efficiency (failed)
- ◆ Valve failing on vacuum seal not pressure
- ◆ Pressure seal prone to fail to reseal
- ◆ Can freeze closed during cold temp
- ◆ Vent valve set at varying pressures.

### ❖ Benchmarked with other companies

### ❖ Methane Reduction

- ◆ Installed prior to Vent Valve
- ◆ Failed due to saturation rate



## ◆ Thief Hatch

- ❖ Used infrared camera to confirm hatch performance
- ❖ Used camera to eventually migrate from 4 ounce springs to 16 ounces springs on all hatches in flash service
- ❖ Formed team of operational experts to visit each compressor station to review scrubber dump configuration and operation
- ❖ Learned that hatches have very poor flow characteristics and cannot be used as your primary over pressure protection
- ❖ Hatches were failing on vacuum seal and base not pressure seal

# Identified Options – Vent Valve

## ◆ Vent Valves

- ❖ Verified rated pressure and vacuum for tanks
- ❖ Contacted Manufacturers
- ❖ Contacted other Operators for Benchmarking
- ❖ Recommended Enardo's 951 Vent Valve (Rockies)
  - ◆ This valve is one dimensional (pressure only eliminating the possible vacuum leak)
  - ◆ Minimizes Vent Flutter and Provides Reliable and Consistent Vent Operation
  - ◆ Consistent Reseating for Improved Seal Memory
  - ◆ 0.5 scfh @ 95% Set Pressure - Per Vent
  - ◆ Reduces Fugitive Emissions
  - ◆ Have built in freeze protection
  - ◆ Bench Tested Internally (Passed)
    - Held the 0.25 pound default limit (80% Of set pressure)



# Identified Options – Thief Hatch

## ◆ Thief Hatch

- ❖ Contacted Manufacturers
  - ◆ Benchmarked with other operators
  - ◆ Rubber backed washers for hatch base bolts
  - ◆ Recommended ES660 Thief Hatch
    - Redesigned the vacuum seal



# What to take as a Best Practice

## ◆ Tank Operation

- ❖ Verify emission models are up to date
- ❖ Verify that scrubbers have proper levels to prevent blow through
- ❖ Verify that all scrubbers stage dump with lowest possible pressure going to fixed roof tank
- ❖ Verify color of tank to lower flash rate
- ❖ Met with crude purchasers about procedures to reclose hatches after picking up a load
- ❖ Use hatch as your vacuum protection not your vent valve

## ◆ Vent Valves

- ❖ Ensure proper setting (weighting) to match modeled tank pressure
- ❖ Keep it simple
- ❖ Use as few vent valves as possible with safety in mind
- ❖ Upgrade your vent valves if using the old style for better operating efficiencies and better overall performance
- ❖ 951 Vent Valve are one dimensional and have no vacuum (Today)

## ◆ Thief Hatches

- ❖ Vacuum and Pressure settings
  - ◆ Pressure 4 ounces Vacuum 4 ounces (Yesterday)
  - ◆ Pressure 16 ounces Vacuum 1 ounce (Today) (Ensure tank ratings)
- ❖ Switch to ES-660 or equal. (Can change insert only to save \$\$)
- ❖ Use rubber backed washers on all base bolts. No sealants
- ❖ Use infrared camera

The End

Questions