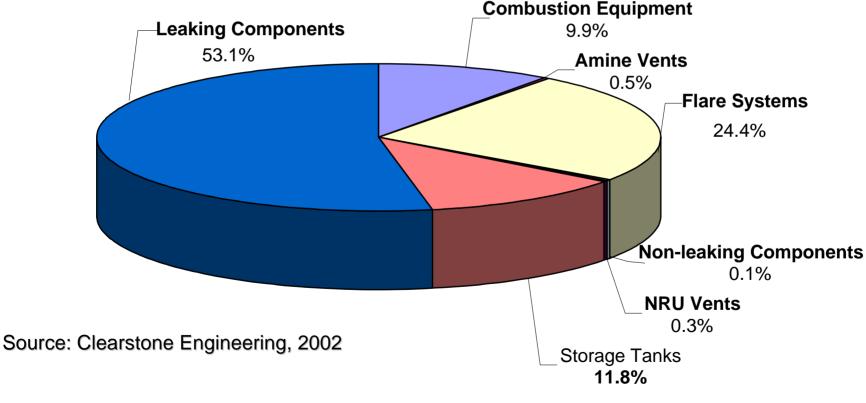
**Fugitive Emissions and Directed Inspection & Maintenance:** Finding the Leaks & A Technical Overview of All Leak Detection Technologies by Wayne A. Sadik, PE **Exxon Mobil Chemical Company** for The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Natural Gas STAR **Implementation Workshop** October 23-25, 2006 Houston, Texas

## **Emission Sources**

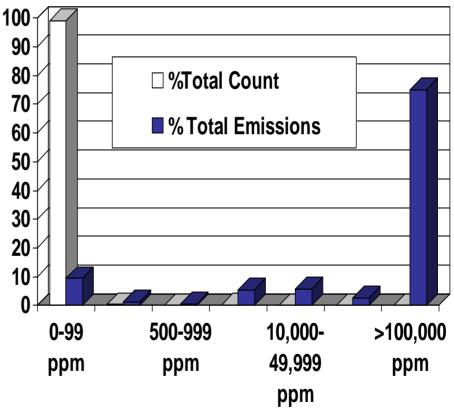
#### **Distribution of Methane Emissions by Source Category**



EPA Natural Gas STAR 13th Annual Implementation Workshop

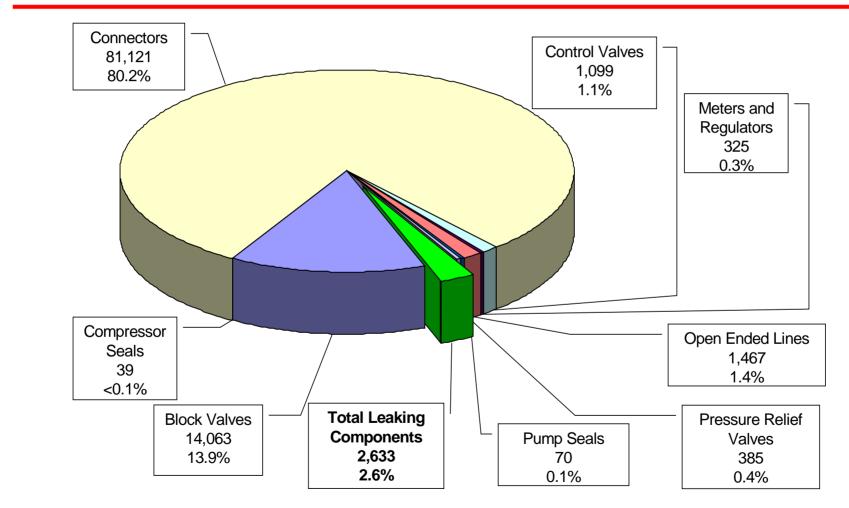
## **Component Contribution**

- API Study Showed That 92% of Reducible Emissions Come From Only ~ 0.13% of Components
- Leaks Occur Randomly
- Few Significant Repeat Leakers Found
- Los Angeles Refineries
  Programs



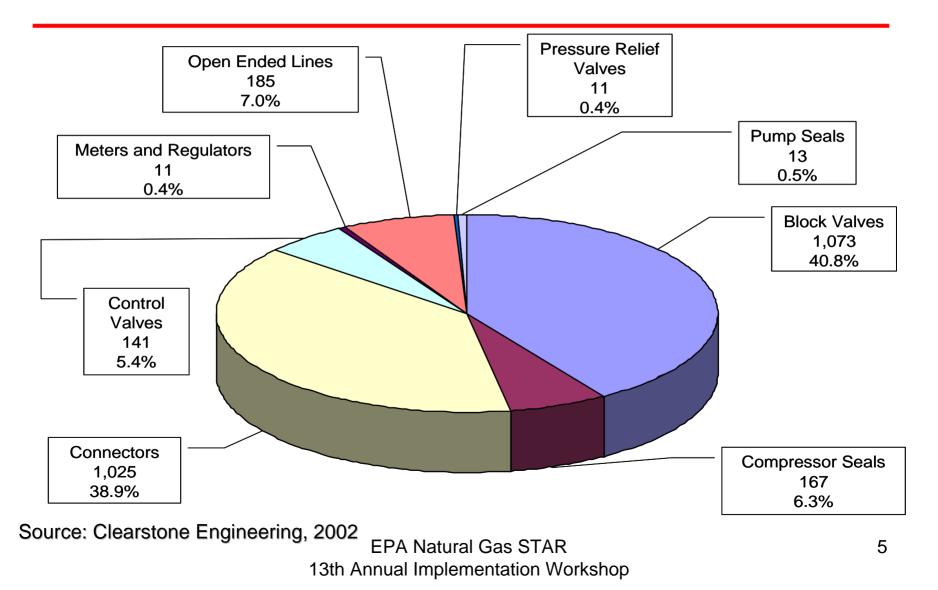
From API Publication 310

## **Total Screened Components**



Source: Clearstone Engineering, 2002 EPA Natural Gas STAR 13th Annual Implementation Workshop

## Leaker Results



### **Traditional Leak Detection Methods**

Soap Solution

Method 21

• Ultrasonic

EPA Natural Gas STAR 13th Annual Implementation Workshop

## **Soap Solution**

Use of detergent solution to detect escaping vapor from a potential leaking interface

#### Pro's

- No initial investment
- Inexpensive to apply
- Minimum Training
- Leak / No Leak result
- Effective detection of moderate level leaks

#### Con's

- Limited by equipment surface temperature
- Does not work on rotating equipment
- Very large leaks don't make bubbles
- Not able to quantify leak rate

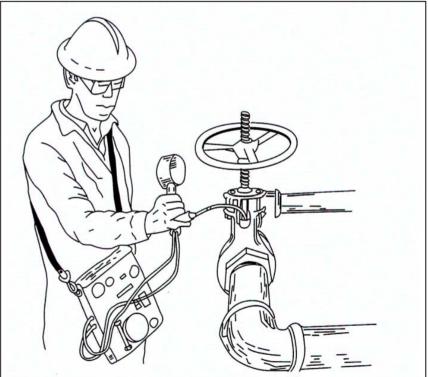
## Method 21

Use OVA/TVA to locate leak from a suspected leaking interface Pro's

- Service can be applied by company or contractor
- Widely accepted and used
- Numeric results

#### Con's

- Labor intensive & high cost
- Less efficient
- Prone to false positives & false negatives



# Sound/Ultrasonic

Portable detector of ultrasonic sound that is produced by escaping pressurized vapor

#### Pro's

- Scans large number of components quickly
- Detects valve, connector and pump leaks
- Can pin point individual leaks

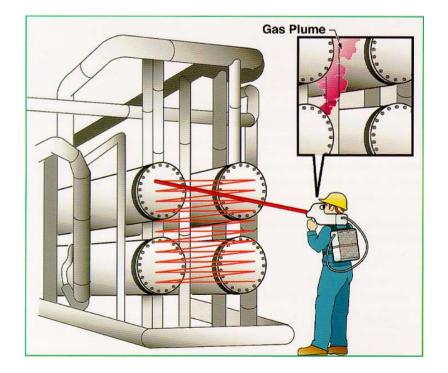
#### Con's

- Detection masked around pneumatic actuated valves
- Detection limited by distance
- High concentration of leaks confuses operator

## Smart LDAR

Portable passive IR camera that detects mass based VOC leaks in real time, by imaging as a black cloud

- Eliminates false positives & false negatives
- Produces leak / no leak result
- More efficient / cost effective for larger / colocated facilities



## RMLD

(Remote Methane Leak Detection)

A eye-safe laser-based natural gas sensor used to locate leaks in transmission and distribution lines. Audible alarm sounds when a high conc. or quickly changing gas cloud is detected.

- Hand held & portable
- Improved operator safety
- Audible alarm

## ANGEL

(Airborne Natural Gas Emission Lidar- ITT)

 Airborne natural gas detection and reporting system that detects, quantifies, images and maps the presence of natural gas in the atmosphere.

- Detects large leaks
- Produces mapped output
- Covers large areas

### GOSAT (Greenhouse Gas Observing Satellite)

Orbiting sensor that detects methane concentration by measuring the solar short wave infrared spectra reflected from the earth's surface.

- Applicable to regional releases
- Spots methane plumes
- Detects CH<sub>4</sub> & CO<sub>2</sub>