

Slipstream GTS by REM Technology

Venting of solution gas to the atmosphere takes place in oil and gas operations, as fugitive emissions and in circumstances where conservation would be prohibitively expensive. As indicated in the ST60-B report from the Alberta Energy Regulator, approximately 80% of vented volumes in Alberta take place in the Bonnyville and Wainwright regions and are related to crude bitumen and crude oil batteries. The most recent ST-60B report indicates that after 14 years of decline and stability, the venting and flaring of solution gas has increased during the last 3 years, mostly due to higher production.

It is therefore important to support the development of practical new technologies that can economically reduce this source of GHG emissions. To date, practical and economic solutions to this challenge have eluded the industry.

The Canadian company REM Technology has worked on such a technology and early indications are promising. It is an adaptation of a technology that REM has deployed in the United States, but it has never been tried in Canada in heavy oil. The technology captures vented gas from the well and from onsite oil tanks and, using a sophisticated control system, uses it to heat the oil tanks. An economic benefit comes from reducing or eliminating propane use. The GHG benefit arises from eliminating venting. The first field trial of SlipStream GTS in Canada will be conducted in 2015 with partial funding from Natural Resources Canada.