



Business Spotlight

TransCanada 2006 Clean Air Award

TransCanada is the recipient of the 2006 Clean Air Award, presented by SCAPCA at a ceremony in January. The Clean Air Award is presented annually to an organization that has consistently demonstrated a commitment to reduce air emissions.

TransCanada received the award for upgrades made to their Compressor Station 6, which has resulted in an impressive reduction of 250 tons of air emissions per year. The Compressor Station, located north of Rosalia in Spokane County, produces the gas horsepower to move natural gas through a pipeline that transmits natural gas from the Canadian border to California.

Three natural gas turbines are operated at the compressor station. Emissions from the turbines result when pipeline-quality (a.k.a., clean) natural gas is burned in the combustion chamber or combustor.

Emissions from the combustion process include oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) and carbon monoxide (CO), with smaller amounts of particulate matter (PM₁₀), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), unburned hydrocarbons (HC), volatile organic

compounds (VOCs) and toxic air pollutants (TAPs).

The oldest turbine at the compressor station was installed in 1969. It is rated at 14,210 hp and does not have any combustion or



Pictured left to right: Stan Berry, Jim Wisor, Jim Clawson, Jeff Gravelle of TransCanada; Ron Edgar of SCAPCA; and Jeff Pollack of TransCanada.

add-on emission controls as there are no applicable federal or state regulatory standards. In 1990, another turbine was installed, rated at 14,100 hp. In 1992 it was retrofitted with SoLoNO_x dry low NO_x combustors to limit NO_x emissions from the combustion process. In 2002, the third turbine was installed, rated at 19,500 hp, with SoLoNO_x dry low NO_x combustion technology, again limiting NO_x formation during combustion.

The installation of newer equipment, both in 1992 and again in 2002, with dry low NO_x combustion technology, has significantly lowered emissions from this facility. Prior to the addition of the newest turbine, the older of the

two turbines operated the most, primarily because it was the more flexible of the two turbines to operate and maintain. Unfortunately, it produced the most air pollution. With the addition of the newer, higher horsepower turbine, the option to operate at variable speeds and loads was realized, and the older, “dirtier” unit was operated less often.

Emissions of NO_x and CO were cut in half starting in calendar year 2002, when the new turbine was put into service, resulting in emission reductions of approximately 150 tons of NO_x and over 100 tons of CO each year.

SCAPCA commends TransCanada for their dedication and commitment to reducing emissions from their compressor station by over 250 tons annually. This results in cleaner air for us all. ■