



# **PROGRESS TOWARDS COLLABORATIVE NGEM METHODS**

## **A CASE STUDY USING SENSIT FMD**

**Jason Gu<sup>1</sup>, Jacob Melby<sup>1</sup>, Wyatt Champion<sup>2</sup>, Megan MacDonald<sup>2</sup>, Eben Thoma<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>SENSIT Technologies, Valparaiso IN

<sup>2</sup>U.S. EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD), Center for Environmental Measurement and Modeling (CEMM), Air Methods and Characterization Division (AMCD), Research Triangle Park NC

*Disclaimer: The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views or policies of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Mention of trade names or commercial products does not constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.*

*NGEM: Next Generation Emissions Monitoring  
FMD: Fixed Methane Detector*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **BACKGROUND**
- **PROJECT GOALS**
- **EQUIPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT**
- **DATA AND VISUALIZATION**
- **MODELING AND QUANTIFICATION**
- **CONCLUSIONS**

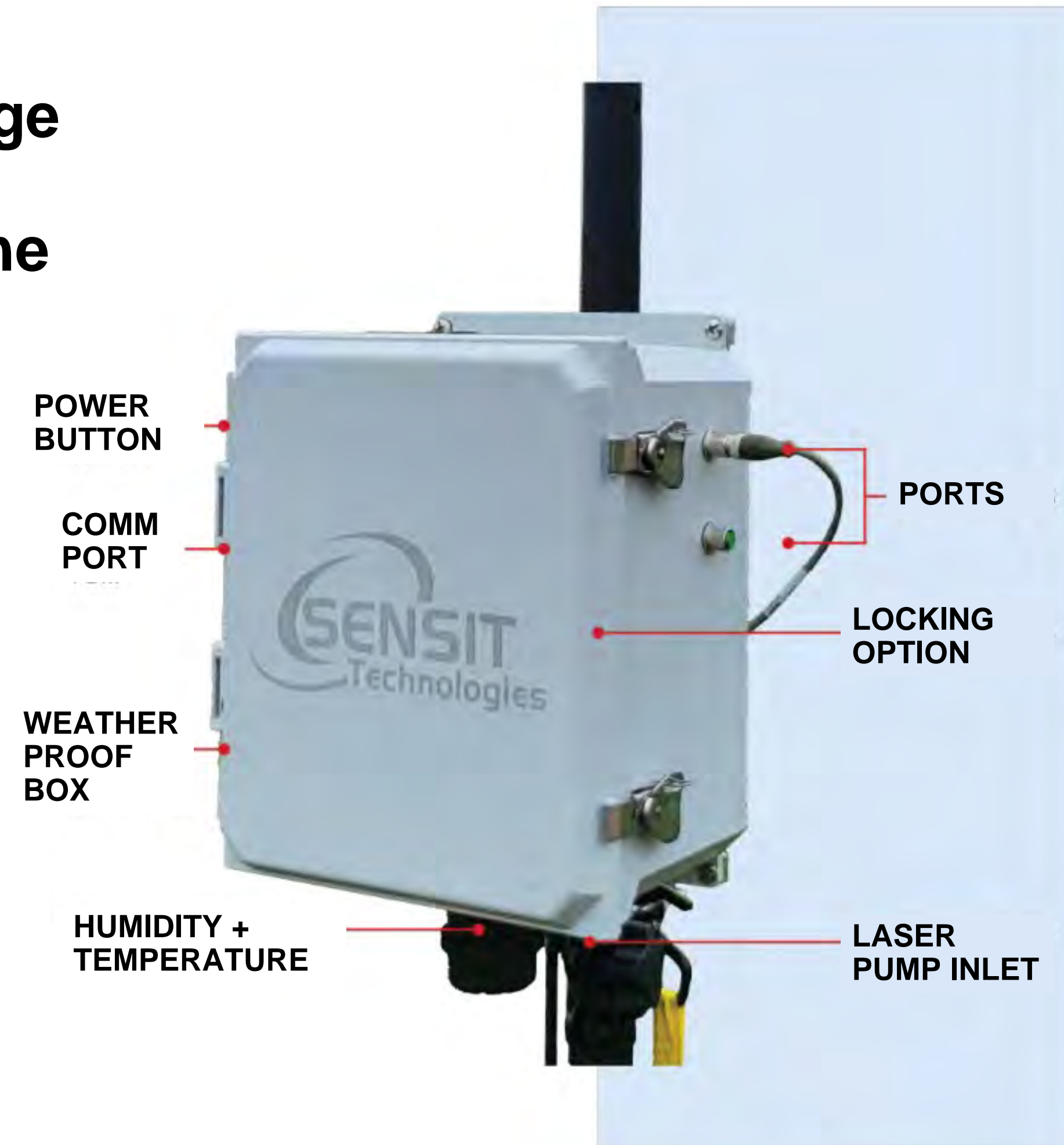


# BACKGROUND

- Fixed Methane Detector (FMD) Tunable Diode Laser Spectroscopy (TDLAS) system tested at U.S. EPA Test Range
- Deployed 6 units at Colorado State University (CSU) Methane Emissions Technology Evaluation Center (METEC)



- Acquired dataset from 6 FMD units along with information regarding calibrated releases
- Approached U.S. EPA to help explore METEC data  
*Joint collaborative activity with open-source publishing goals.  
No compensation provided by U.S. EPA ORD*
- Others are welcomed!

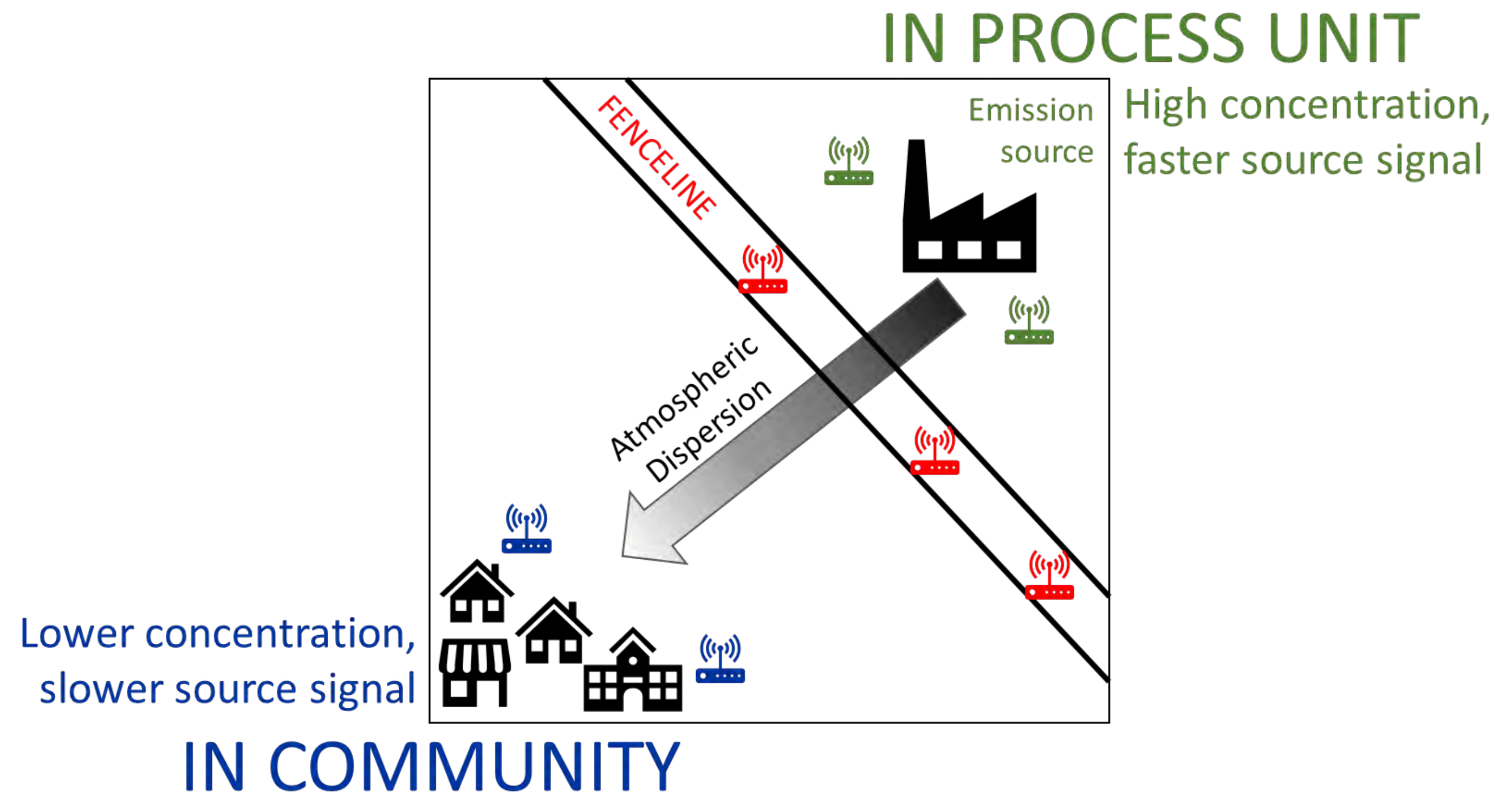


# PROJECT GOALS

## ▪ SENSOR CLASS DEVELOPMENT

Understand the core capabilities and limitations of the technology

Application	Purpose	Sensor/Instrument Needs
<b>In-Process-Unit</b>	Detect and characterize emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fast sensor response is important, however concentrations can be very high</li> <li>• Application-specific accuracy/ precision</li> </ul>
<b>In-Community</b>	Quantify ambient levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fast sensor response not as important</li> <li>• Precise and accurate measurements required</li> </ul>
<b>Fenceline</b>	Detect and characterize emissions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between in process unit and in-community</li> <li>• Fast response can be important to capture “dilute plume” – probe overlap</li> </ul>

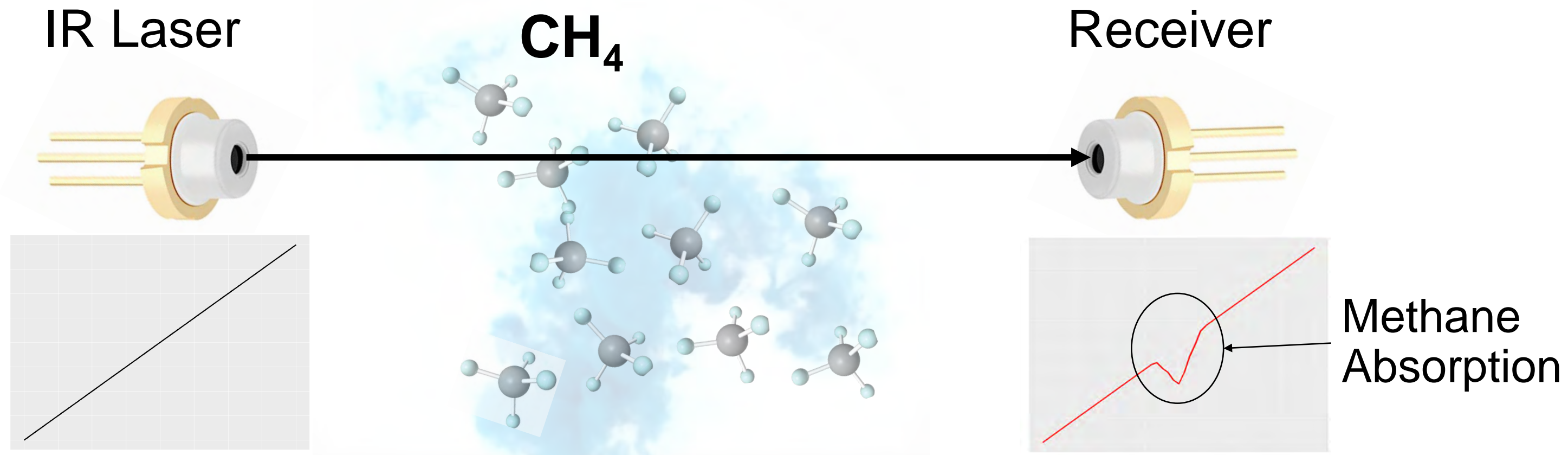


## ▪ OPEN-SOURCE DEVELOPMENT OF METROLOGY AND ALGORITHMS

Provide model for data sharing and transparency

# U.S. EPA TEST RANGE

## TDLAS Operating Principal



### Methane Detector Specifications

Technology	Near Infrared (IR) TDLAS with Multi-Pass Cell
Wavelength	1650 nm
Range	0-100 vol.%
Noise Floor	0.3 Part Per Million (PPM)
T90	10 seconds

- **SENSIT FMD TDLAS system co-located with other methane detectors and reference instruments (Picarro and LiCOR)**

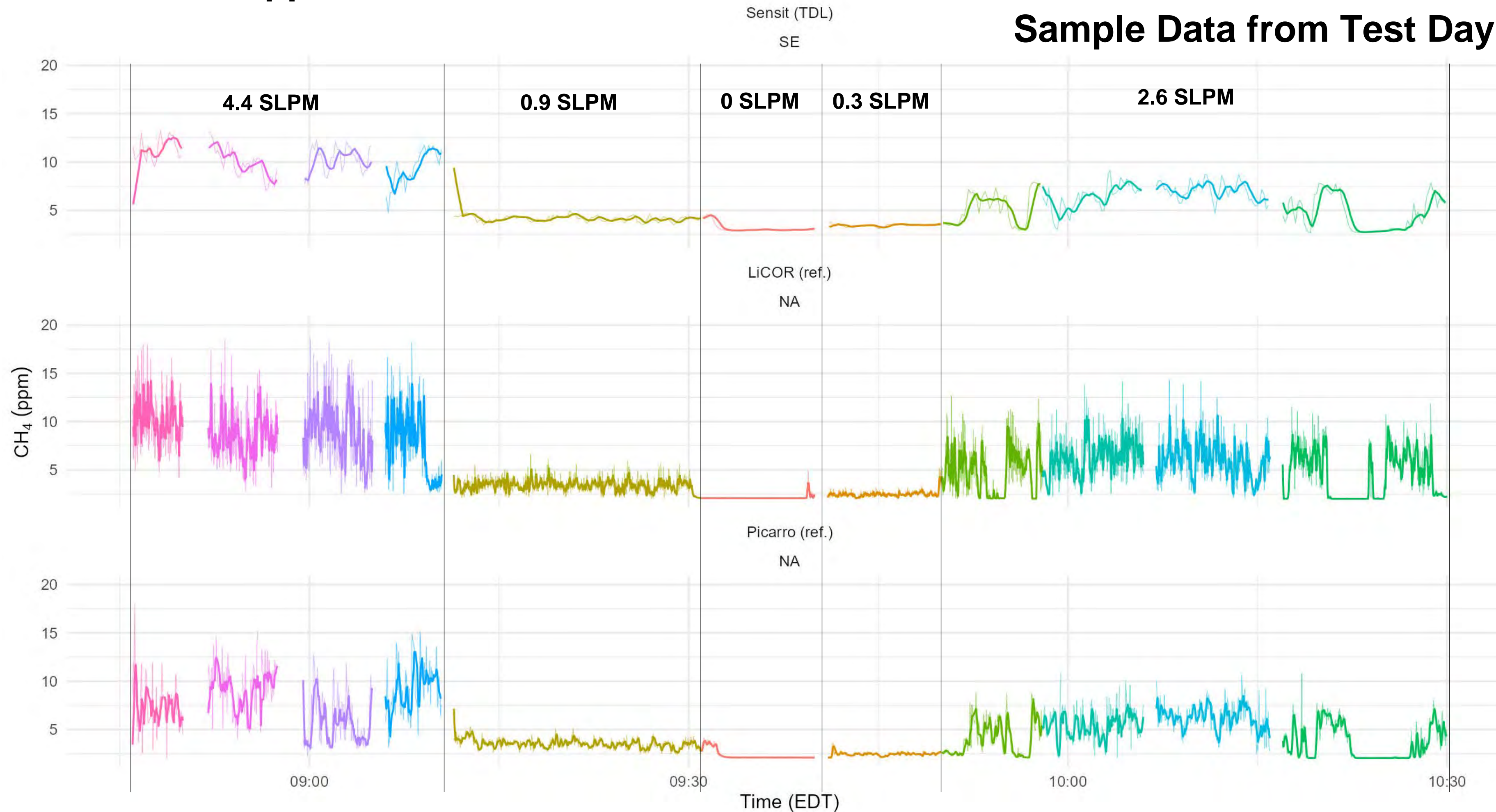


# U.S. EPA TEST RANGE

*Minimum Detection Limit (MDL) = 3 × σ(St. Dev.)*

Co-located with reference instruments (Picarro and LiCOR)

Calculations are 0.1 Hz Noise Based MDL (Excluding Drift Term). No baseline corrections applied



## 10-s FMD Pre-Test [PPM]

Day	$\bar{x}$	$\sigma$	MDL
1	2.96	0.021	0.063
2	3.02	0.030	0.089
3	3.43	0.014	0.044
4	3.14	0.028	0.083
<b>Avg.</b>	3.14	0.234	<b>0.070</b>

## 10-s Reference Grade [PPM]

Inst.	$\bar{x}$	$\sigma$	MDL
Picarro	2.20	0.003	<b>0.010</b>
LiCOR	2.17	0.010	<b>0.030</b>

## 10-s FMD Between Tests

Day	$\bar{x}$	$\sigma$	MDL
1	2.49	0.041	0.122
2	2.97	0.029	0.086
3	3.25	0.081	0.243
4	-	-	-
<b>Avg.</b>	2.90	0.050	<b>0.150</b>



*Preliminary data - MDL measurements and calculations are ongoing and contain the noise term only.*

# CSU METEC DEPLOYMENT

## Deployed FMD

Measuring wind speed, wind direction, CH4 concentration



6 FMDs DEPLOYED AT A SIMULATED OIL AND GAS SITE. CONTROLLED EMISSIONS INTRODUCED.



ADVANCED METHANE DETECTION SYSTEM CAPABLE OF IDENTIFYING AND LOCATING INTRODUCED EMISSIONS.

<b>Deployment</b>	Start	2/8/2023	End	4/28/2023
<b>Temperature</b>	Minimum	-25.5°C	Maximum	29°C
<b>Events</b>	Experiments	279	Releases	565
	Avg. Release Size	1566 g/hr	Avg. Duration	3.11 hr

Grid # [default: 15]

Min Red [default: 5PPM]

Max

Generate Wind Rose

Cluster Analysis

Cluster Limit [default is 5PPM]

Choose File

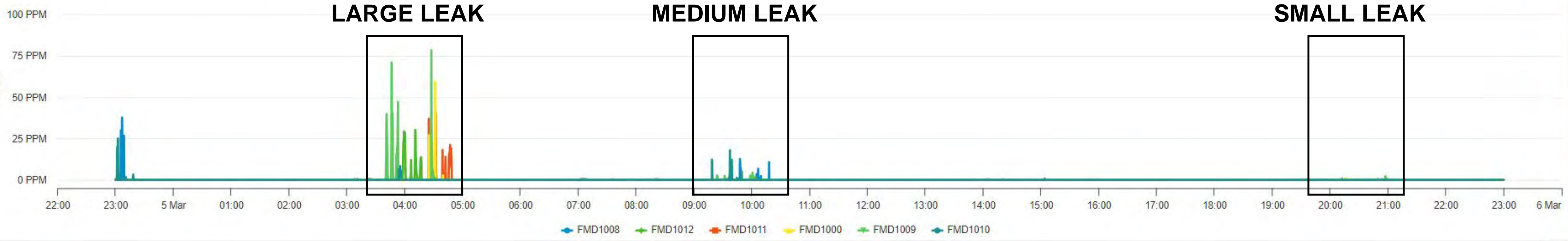
230305 aggregate\_data.csv

Detection ID

EmissionID



Methane by Hour [Zoom past 3 hours to enable Map-Update Mode]





Grid # [default: 15]    Min Red [default: 5PPM]

Max

Generate Wind Rose

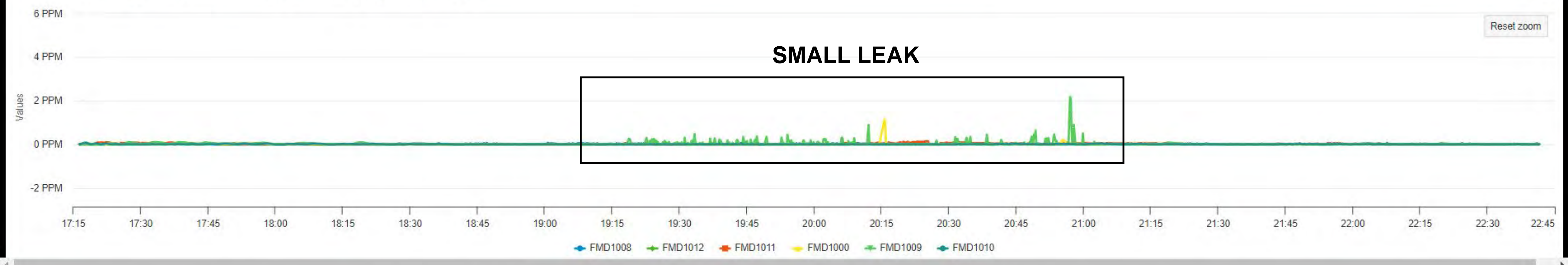
Cluster Analysis    Cluster Limit [default is 5PPM]

Choose File    230305 aggregate\_data.csv

Detection ID    EmissionID



Methane by Hour [Zoom past 3 hours to enable Map-Update Mode]



Grid # [default: 15]

1

Max

Choose File

230305 aggregate\_data.csv

Remove Wind Rose

Cluster Analysis

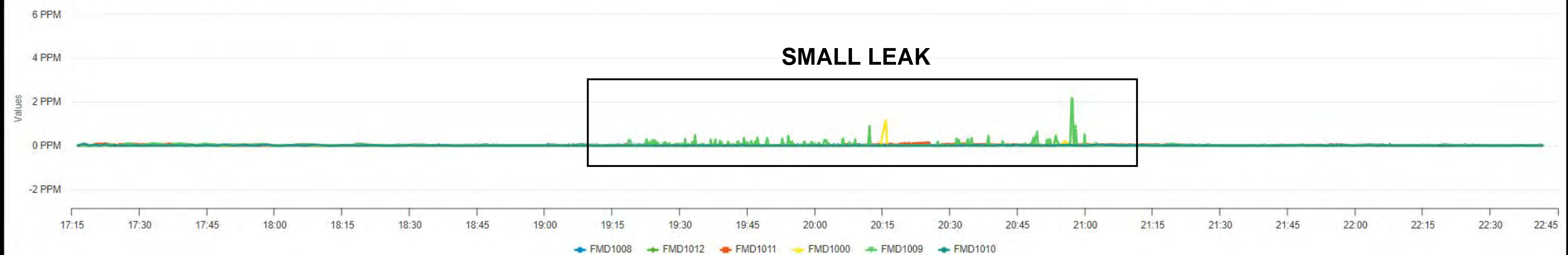
Cluster Limit [default is 5PPM]

Detection ID

EmissionID

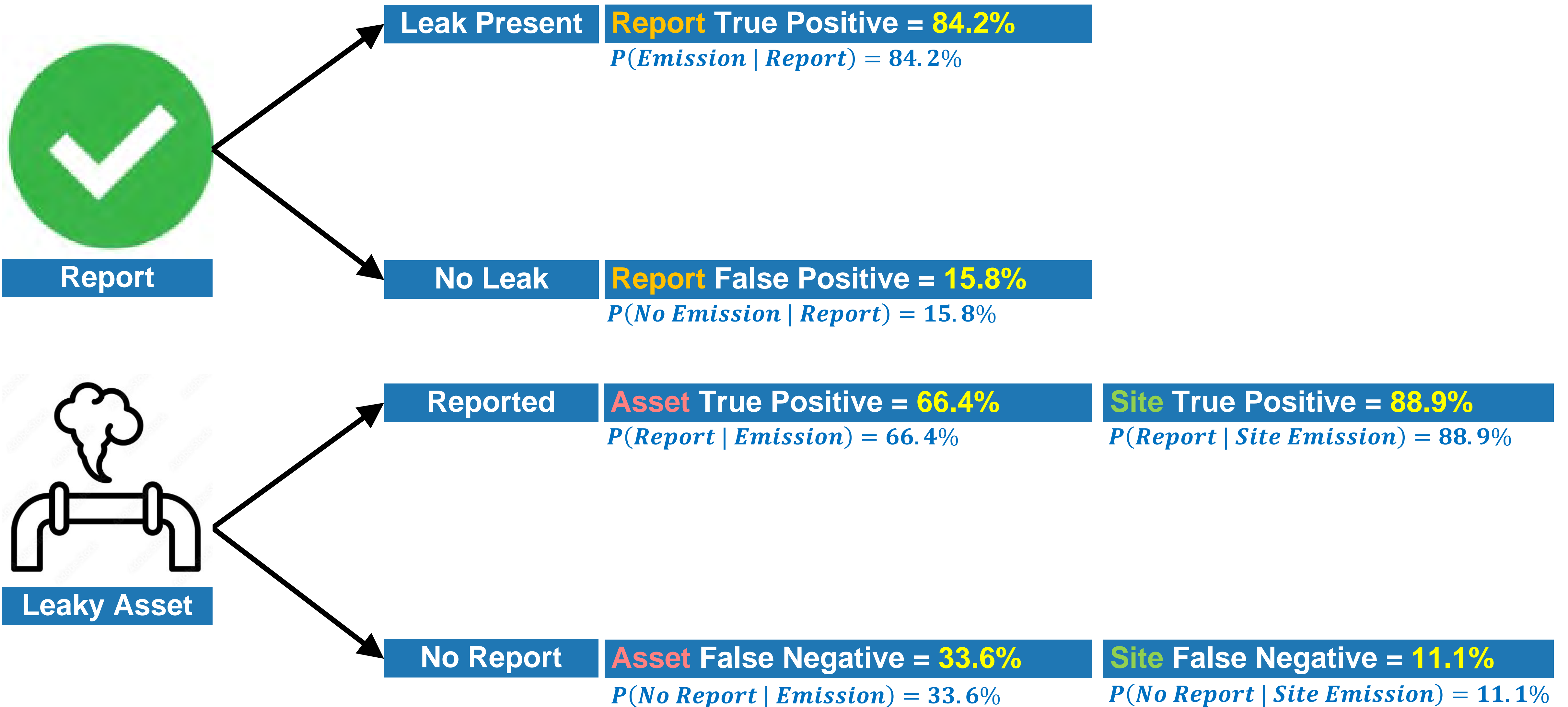


Methane by Hour [Wind Rose Active - Map Mode Disabled]



# METEC RESULTS – Provider P

- Accomplished via manual visual inspection of the data\*



\*Sensit only analysis, no collaboration with EPA ORD at this point.

FMD 1100

FMD 1012



FMD 1008

# Quantification using open-source methods

FMD 1000

FMD 1009

FMD 1010



FMD 1100

FMD 1012



5.24 kg/hr (4T-1)



FMD 1008

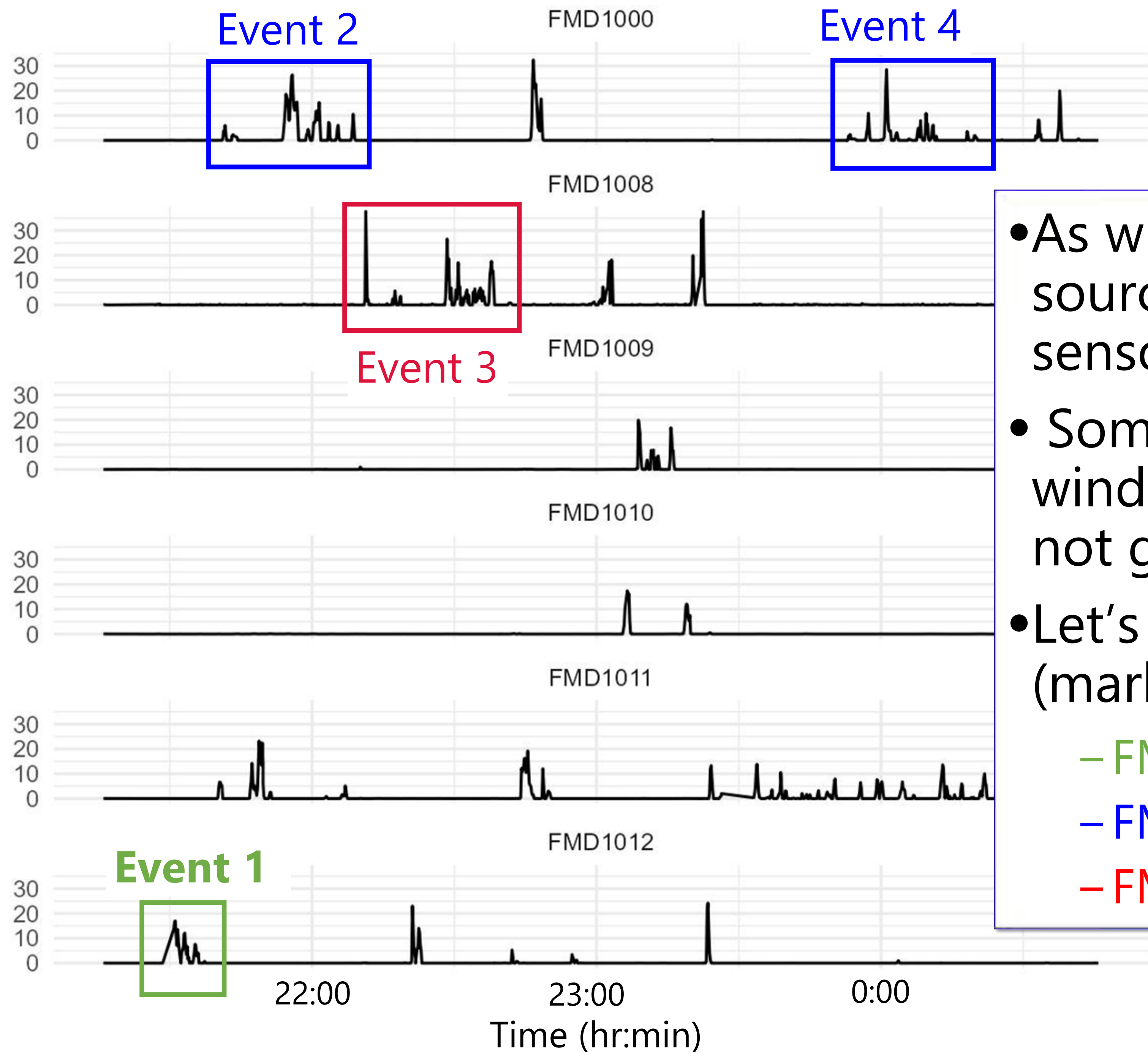
FMD 1000

FMD 1009

FMD 1010

Source at night observed by multiple sensors as wind shifts

Methane Concentration (ppm) - Background Corrected



- As wind direction changes, the source is observed by different sensor nodes
- Some detections at very low wind speed are off-axis and are not good for quantification
- Let's look at 4 sub-events (marked by colored squares)
  - FM1012 (North) – Event 1
  - FM1000 (West) – Events 2 and 4
  - FM 1008 (East) – Event 3

FMD 1100

FMD 1012



FMD 1008

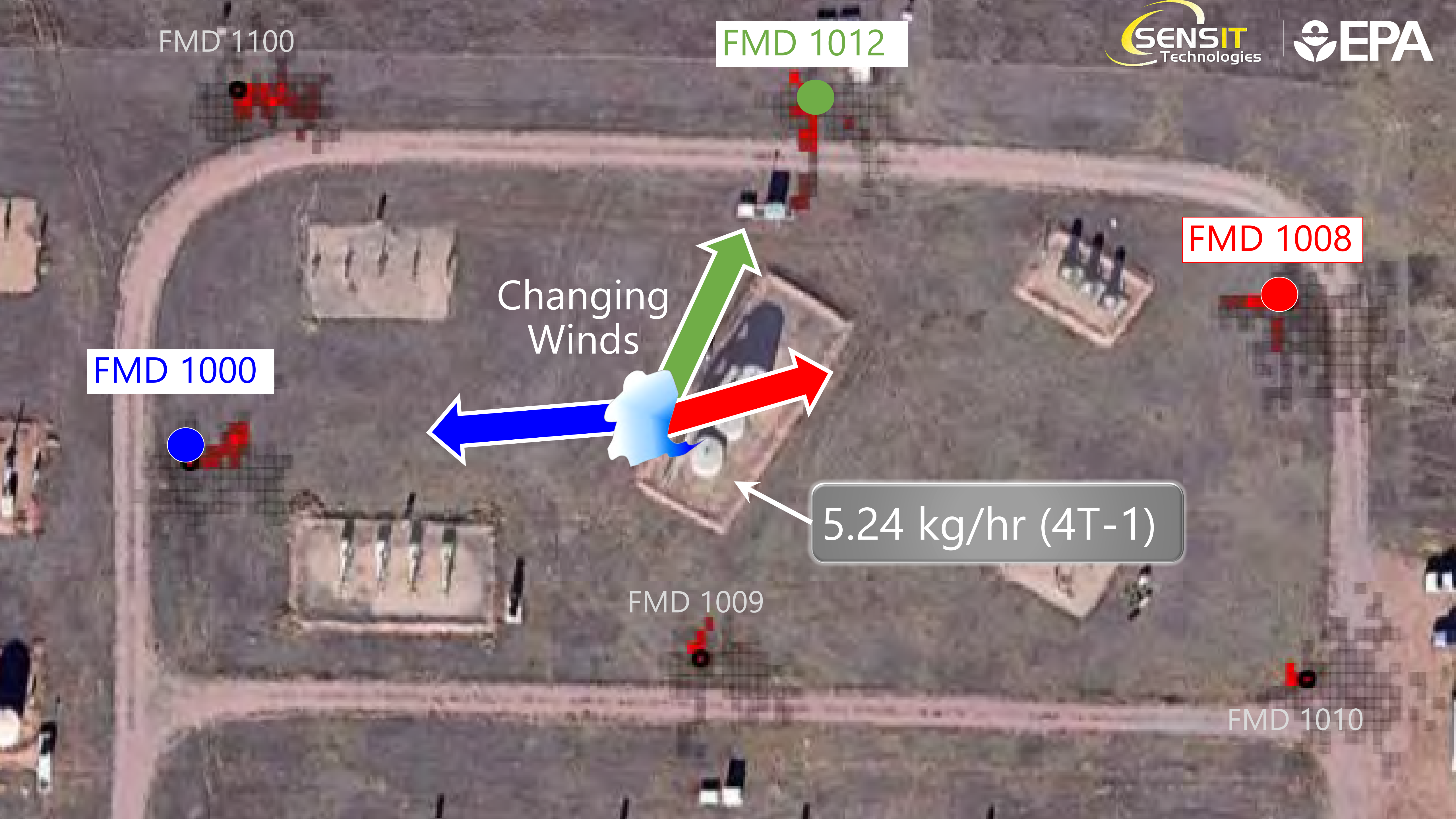
FMD 1000

Changing Winds

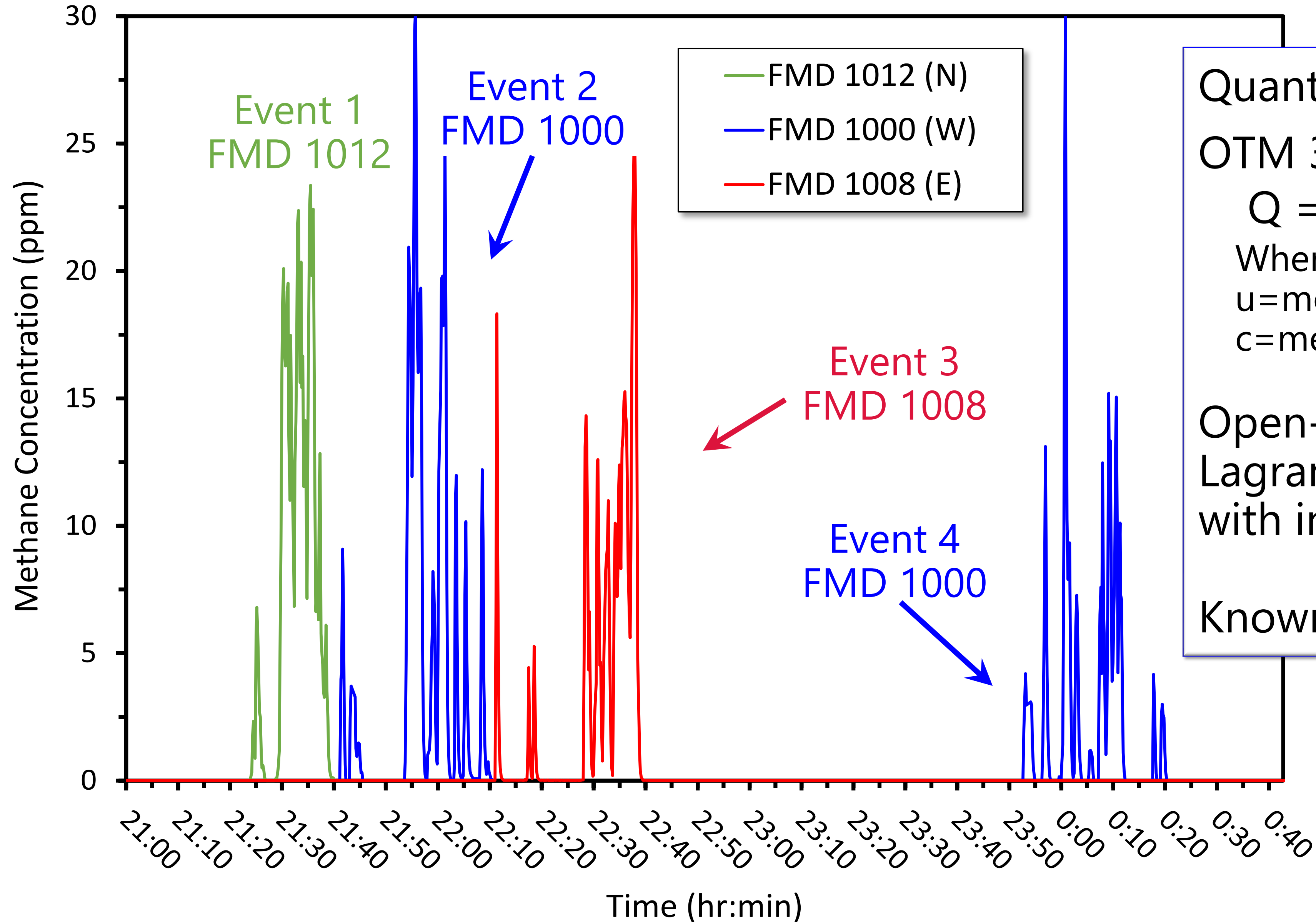
5.24 kg/hr (4T-1)

FMD 1009

FMD 1010



# Measured Concentrations for quantification trials



Quantification by:  
OTM 33A<sup>1</sup> simple emission estimate  
$$Q = 2\pi * u * c * \sigma_y \sigma_z$$
  
Where:  
u=mean wind speed (max bin)  
c=mean max bin concentration (kg/m<sup>3</sup>)  
  
Open-source WindTrax™ backwards  
Lagrangian stochastic (bLs) model  
with inputs from OTM 33A binning.  
  
Known source location (4T-1)

<sup>1</sup><https://www.epa.gov/emc/emc-other-test-methods> – draft, results, nonstandard wind data, night observations (10° max bin mean for a1 and wind speed)

<sup>2</sup><http://www.thunderbeachscientific.com/> - inputs for bLs determined by OTM 33A max fit. Used Pasquill-Gifford (PG) Class D OTM33A PGI index 6



FMD 1012

Obstruction lowers measured concentration



Event 1  
5.24 kg/hr



Event 1

**OTM33A = 1.81 kg/hr** (-65.5% error)  
[1.03 kg/hr to 2.87 kg/hr]

**WindTrax = 1.84 kg/hr** (-65.1% error)  
[0.83 kg/hr to 2.85 kg/hr]

FMD 1000

FMD 1008

FMD 1009

FMD 1010

Preliminary uncertainty estimates  
OTM 33A at PGI 6 and 68 m [ $\pm 2$  m,  $\pm 1$  PGI class]  
WindTrax at PG Class D [ $\pm 2$  m,  $\pm 5$  deg,  $\pm 1$  PG class]

Poor coupling for Event 4,  
need to develop QA flag.  
More measurements of the  
source over time will help

FMD 1012

FMD 1008

FMD 1000

Event 2 and Event 4  
5.24 kg/hr

Event 2

**OTM33A = 6.37 kg/hr, 21.6% error**  
[3.70 kg/hr to 9.99 kg/hr]

**WindTrax = 5.55 kg/hr, 6.1% error**  
[2.34 kg/hr to 8.77 kg/hr]

Event 4

**OTM33A = 2.18 kg/hr, -58.4% error**  
[1.27 kg/hr to 3.42 kg/hr]

**WindTrax = 1.82 kg/hr, 65.3% error**  
[0.80 kg/hr to 2.84 kg/hr]

FMD 1009

1010

Preliminary uncertainty estimates  
OTM 33A at PGI 6 and 68 m [ $\pm 2$  m,  $\pm 1$  PGI class]  
WindTrax at PG Class D [ $\pm 2$  m,  $\pm 5$  deg,  $\pm 1$  PG class]

FMD 1100

FMD 1012

FMD 1008

**Event 3**  
**5.24 kg/hr**



FMD 1000

**Event 3**

**OTM33A = 5.41 kg/hr, 3.6% error**  
*[3.15 kg/hr to 8.42 kg/hr]*

**WindTrax = 4.31 kg/hr, -17.8% error**  
*[1.76 kg/hr to 6.86 kg/hr]*

FMD 1009

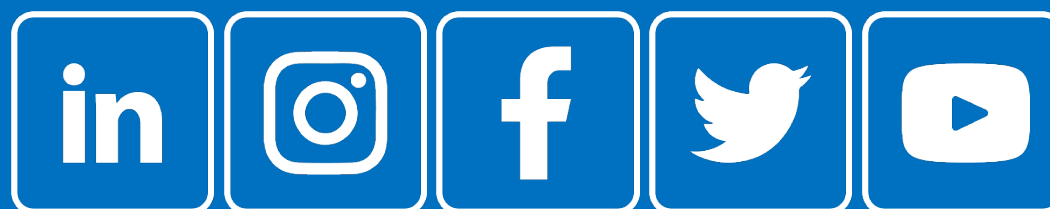
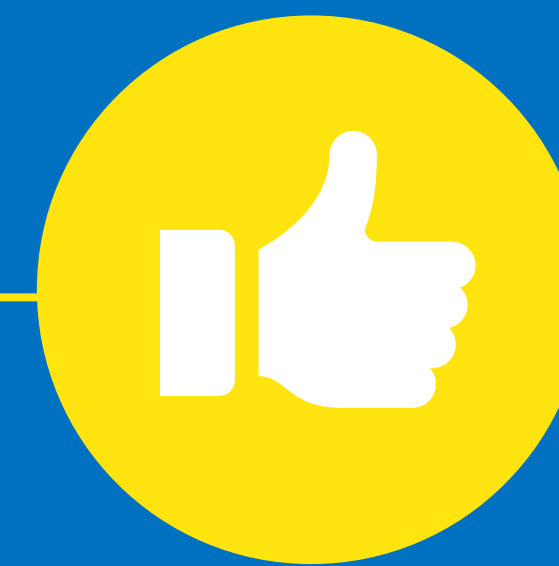
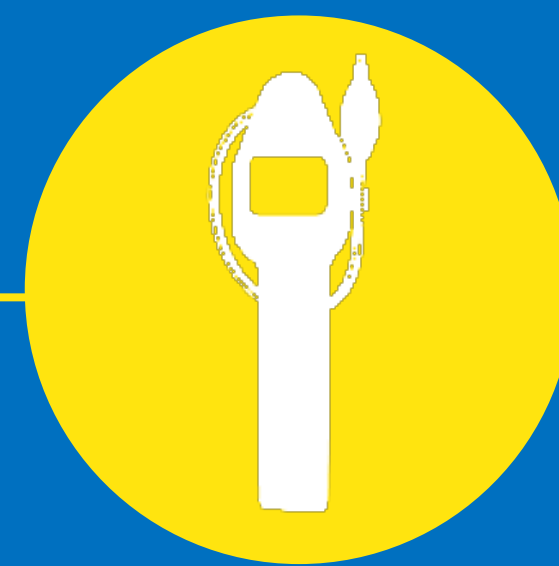
FMD 1010

*Preliminary uncertainty estimates*  
OTM 33A at PGI 6 and 68 m [ $\pm 2$  m,  $\pm 1$  PGI class]  
WindTrax at PG Class D [ $\pm 2$  m,  $\pm 5$  deg,  $\pm 1$  PG class]

# CONCLUSIONS

- Open collaboration leads to better understanding of the data and greater transparency
- SENSIT FMD is for capturing plume-probe overlap within process units and at the fence line.
- Deployment at METEC was able to identify and localize leaks.
- Freeware modeling packages capable of providing approximate estimates of leak rates.
- Be careful of model assumptions – know when they aren't applicable
- Work on this data set continues!





[www.gasleaksensors.com](http://www.gasleaksensors.com)

*Protecting life, property, and the environment from hazardous gases*

