



## **PROGRESS TOWARDS COLLABORATIVE NGEM METHODS**

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

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*NGEM: Next Generation Emissions Monitoring*

*FMD: Fixed Methane Detector*

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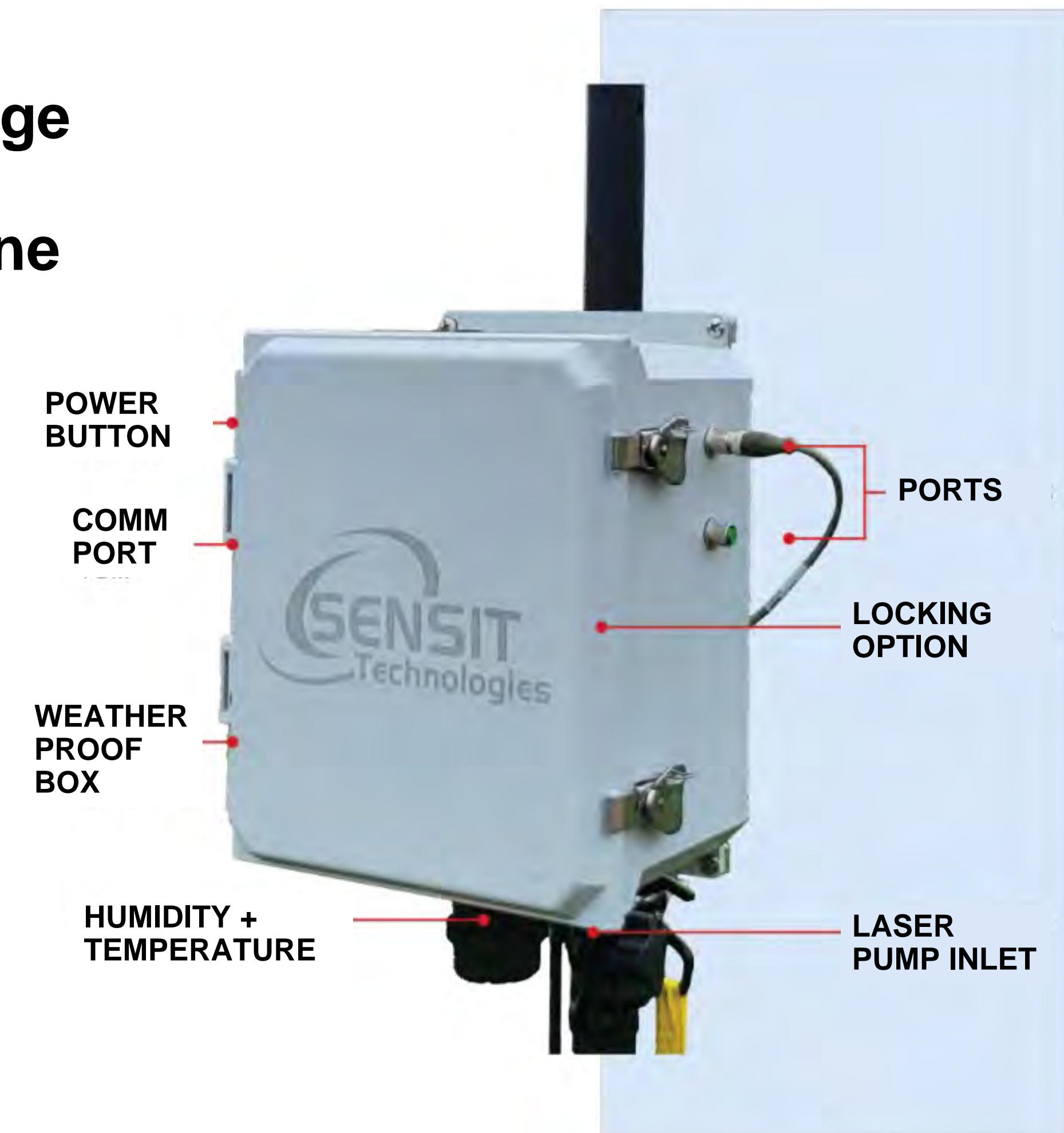


# BACKGROUND

- 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!

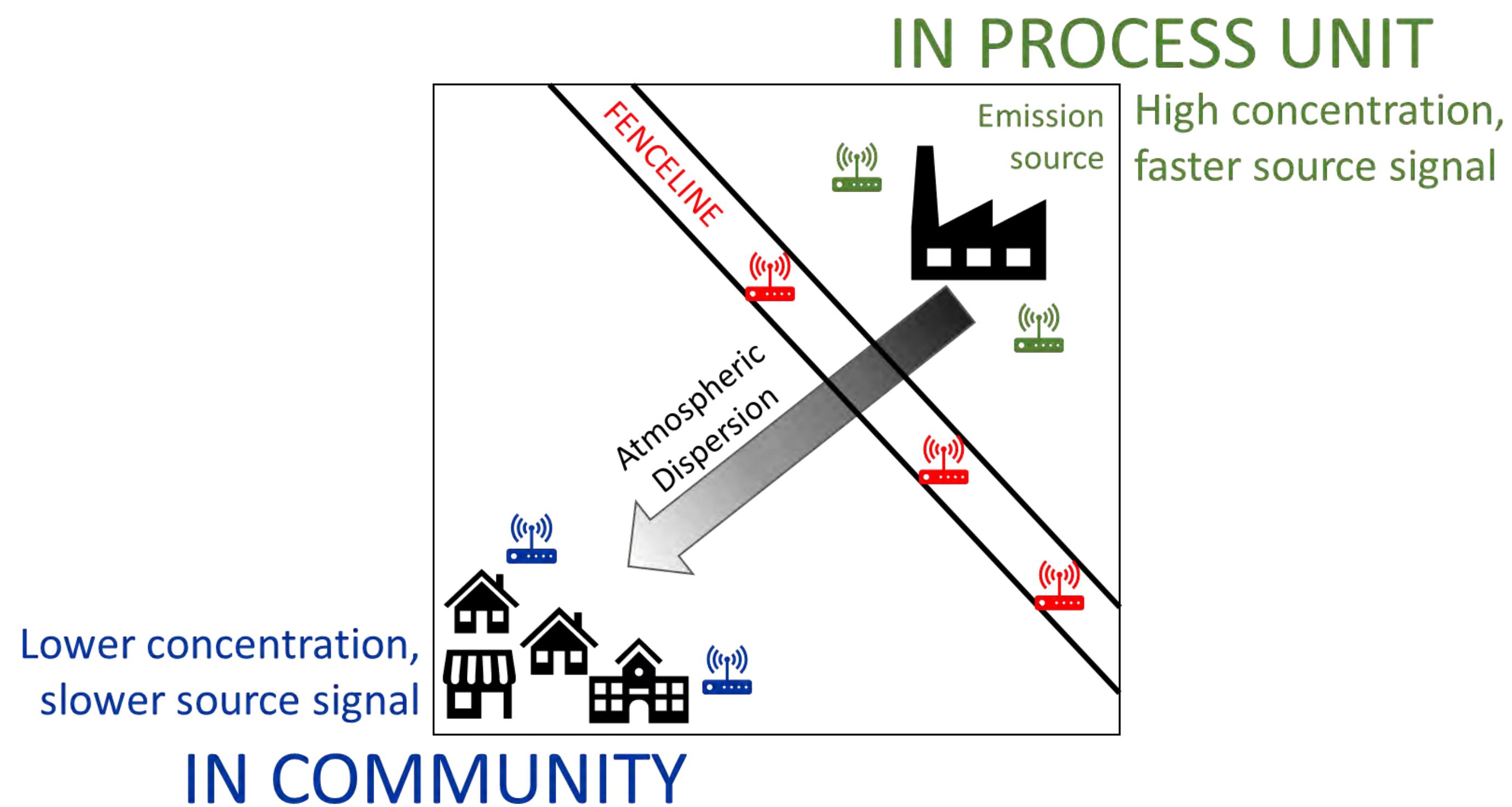


# PROJECT GOALS

## ▪ SENSOR CLASS DEVELOPMENT

Understand the core capabilities and limitations of the technology

Application	Purpose	Sensor/Instrument Needs
In-Process-Unit	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>
In-Community	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>
Fenceline	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>

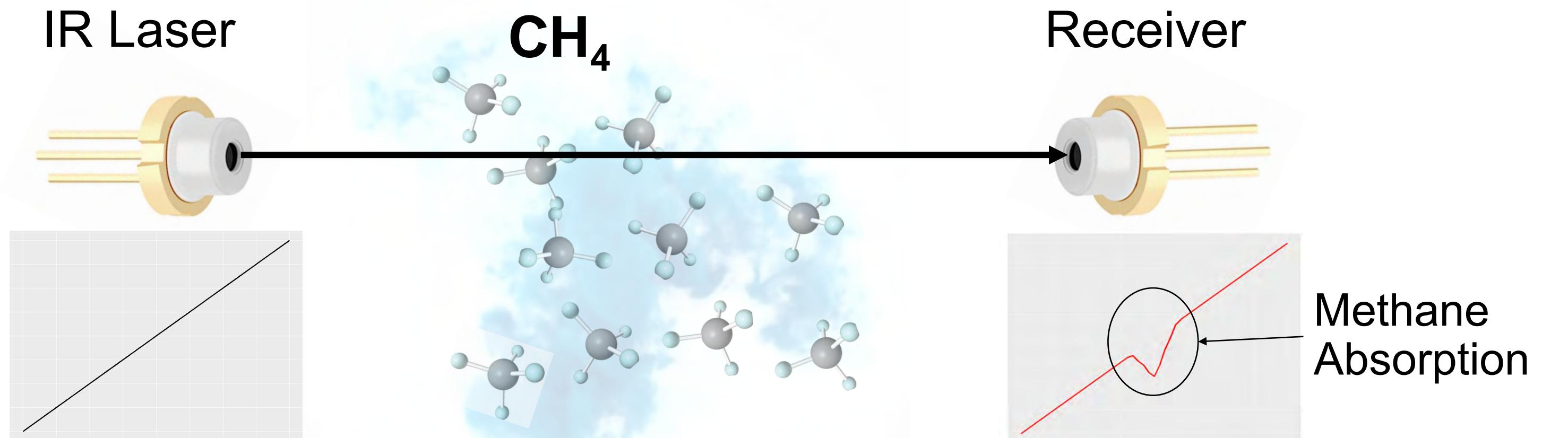


## ▪ OPEN-SOURCE DEVELOPMENT OF METROLOGY AND ALGORITHMS

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

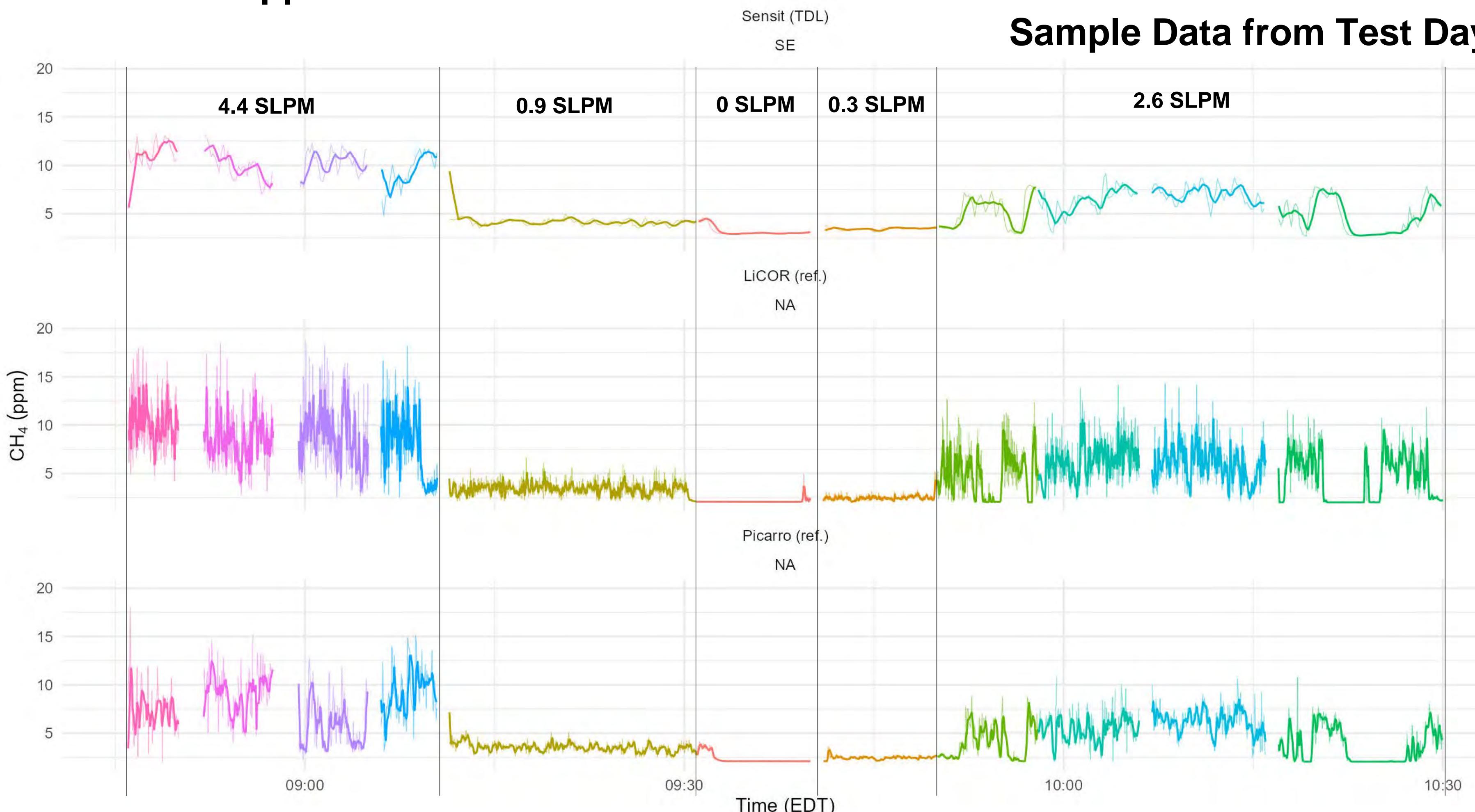
- **SENSIT FMD TDLAS system co-located with other methane detectors and reference instruments (Picarro and LiCOR)**



# U.S. EPA TEST RANGE

Co-located with reference instruments (Picarro and LiCOR)

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



$$\text{Minimum Detection Limit (MDL)} = 3 \times \sigma(\text{St. Dev.})$$

## 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
Avg.	3.14	0.234	0.070

## 10-s Reference Grade [PPM]

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

## 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	-	-	-
Avg.	2.90	0.050	0.150



# 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.

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

Grid # [default: 15]

Min Red [default: 5PPM]

Max

Choose File

230305 aggregate\_data.csv

Generate Wind Rose

 Cluster Analysis

Cluster Limit [default is 5PPM]

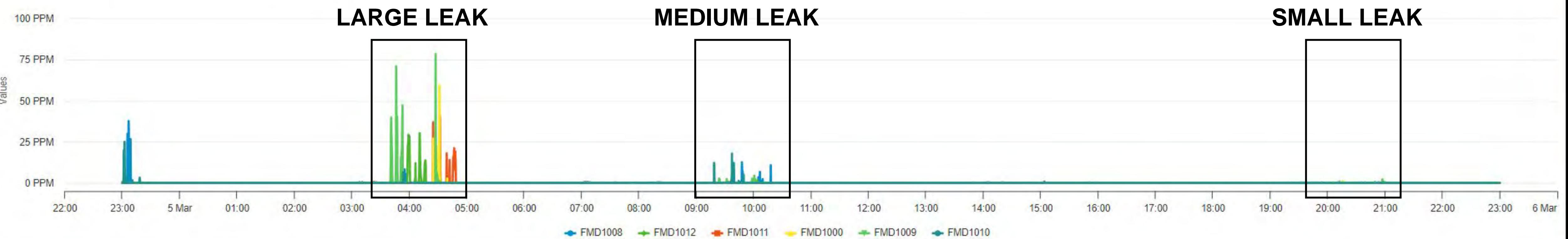
Detection ID

EmissionID



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

≡



Grid # [default: 15]

Min Red [default: 5PPM]

Max

Generate Wind Rose

Choose File

230305 aggregate\_data.csv

 Cluster Analysis

Cluster Limit [default is 5PPM]

Detection ID

EmissionID


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

6 PPM

4 PPM

2 PPM

0 PPM

-2 PPM

Reset zoom

**SMALL LEAK**

17:15 17:30 17:45 18:00 18:15 18:30 18:45 19:00 19:15 19:30 19:45 20:00 20:15 20:30 20:45 21:00 21:15 21:30 21:45 22:00 22:15 22:30 22:45

FMD1008 FMD1012 FMD1011 FMD1000 FMD1009 FMD1010

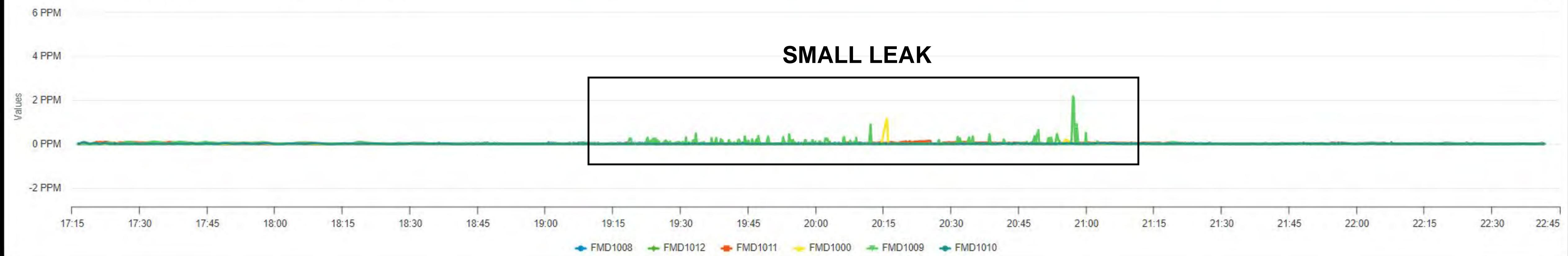
Grid # [default: 15] 1  
Max  
Remove Wind Rose  
Cluster Analysis Cluster Limit [default is 5PPM]

Choose File 230305 aggregate\_data.csv

Detection ID EmissionID

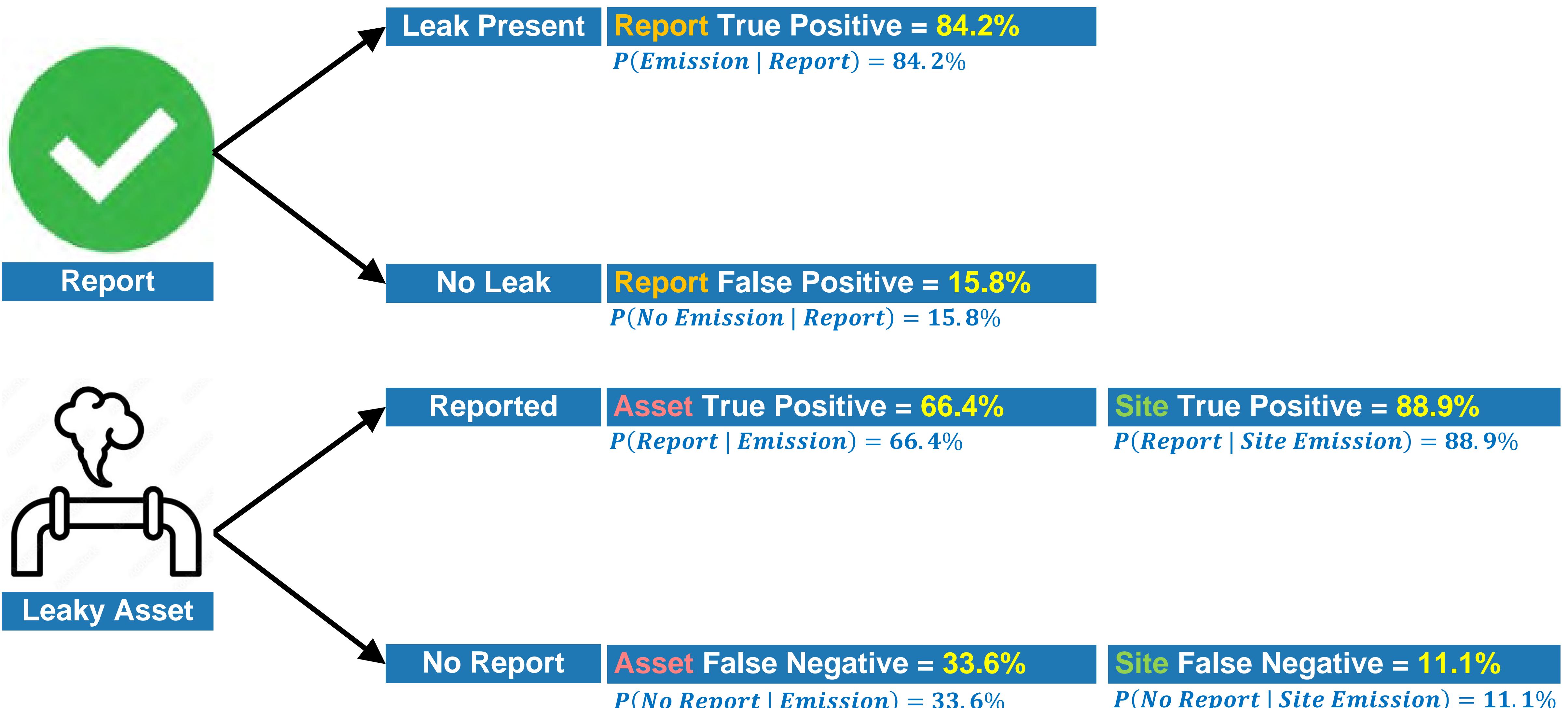


#### Methane by Hour [Wind Rose Active - Map Mode Disabled]



# 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

SENSIT | EPA

FMD 1008

Quantification using open-source methods

FMD 1000

FMD 1009

FMD 1010



FMD 1100

FMD 1012

SENSIT | EPA

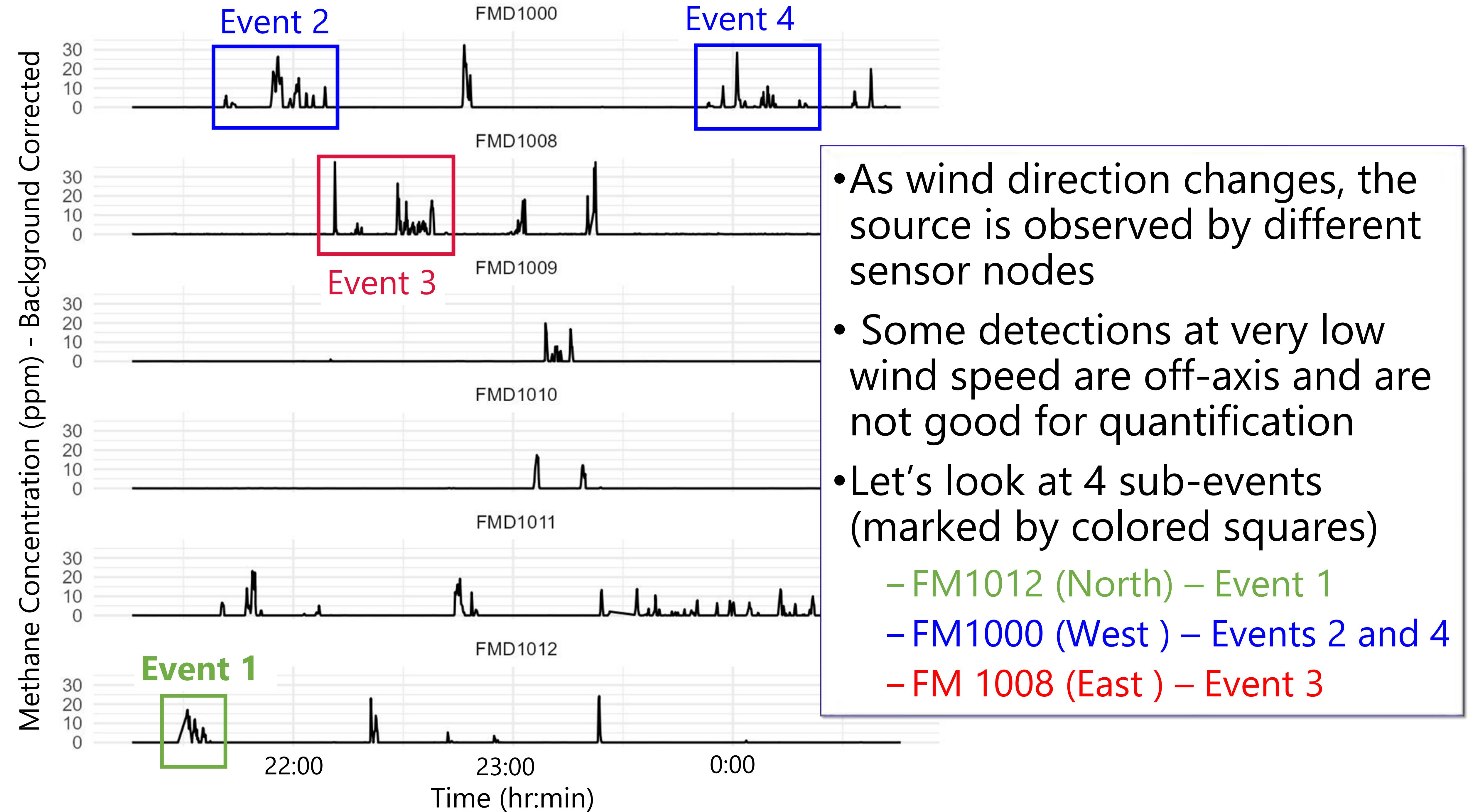
5.24 kg/hr (4T-1)

FMD 1000

FMD 1009

FMD 1010

Source at night observed by multiple sensors as wind shifts



- 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)
  - FMD1012 (North) – Event 1
  - FMD1000 (West) – Events 2 and 4
  - FMD1008 (East) – Event 3

FMD 1100

FMD 1012

SENSIT | EPA

FMD 1000

Changing  
Winds

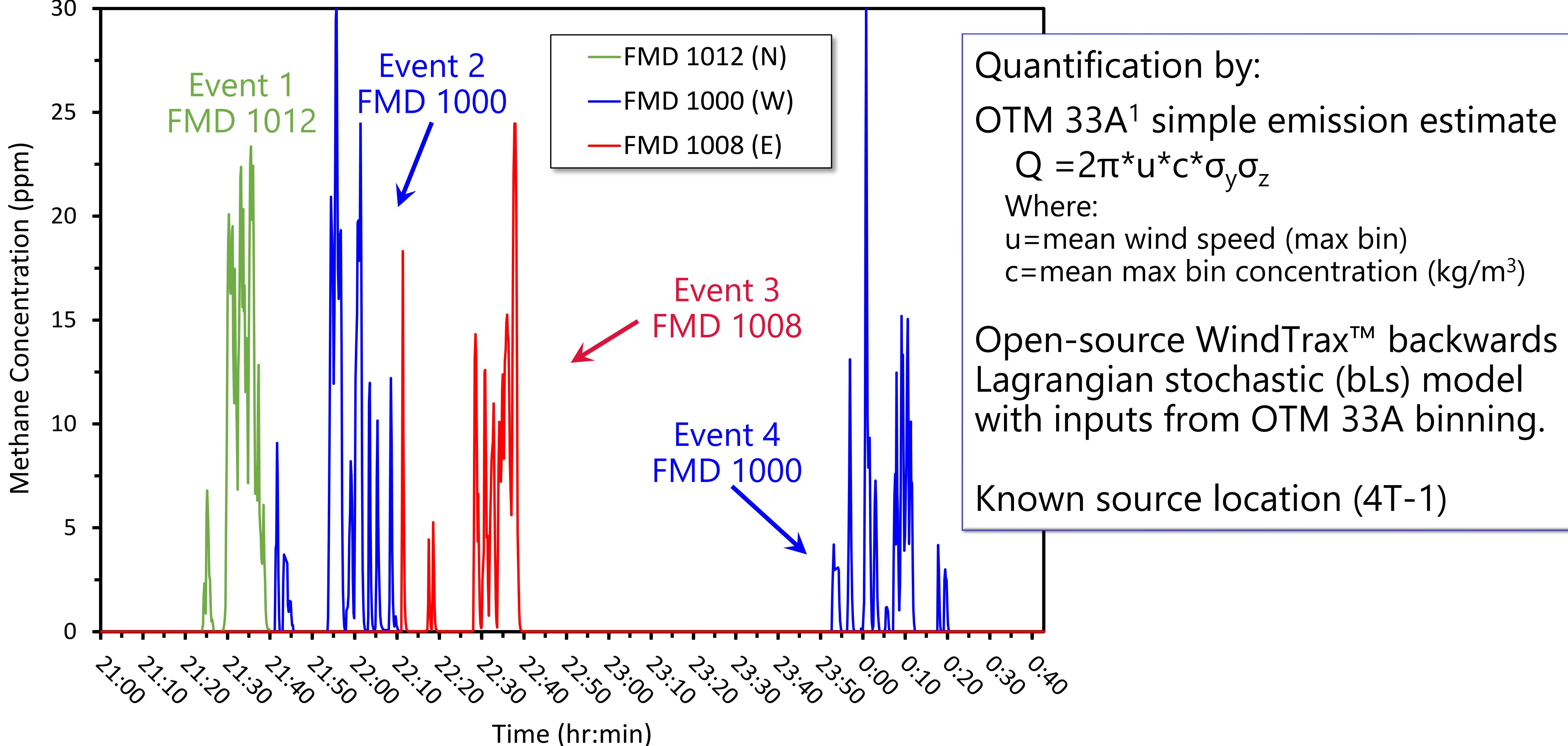
5.24 kg/hr (4T-1)

FMD 1009

FMD 1008

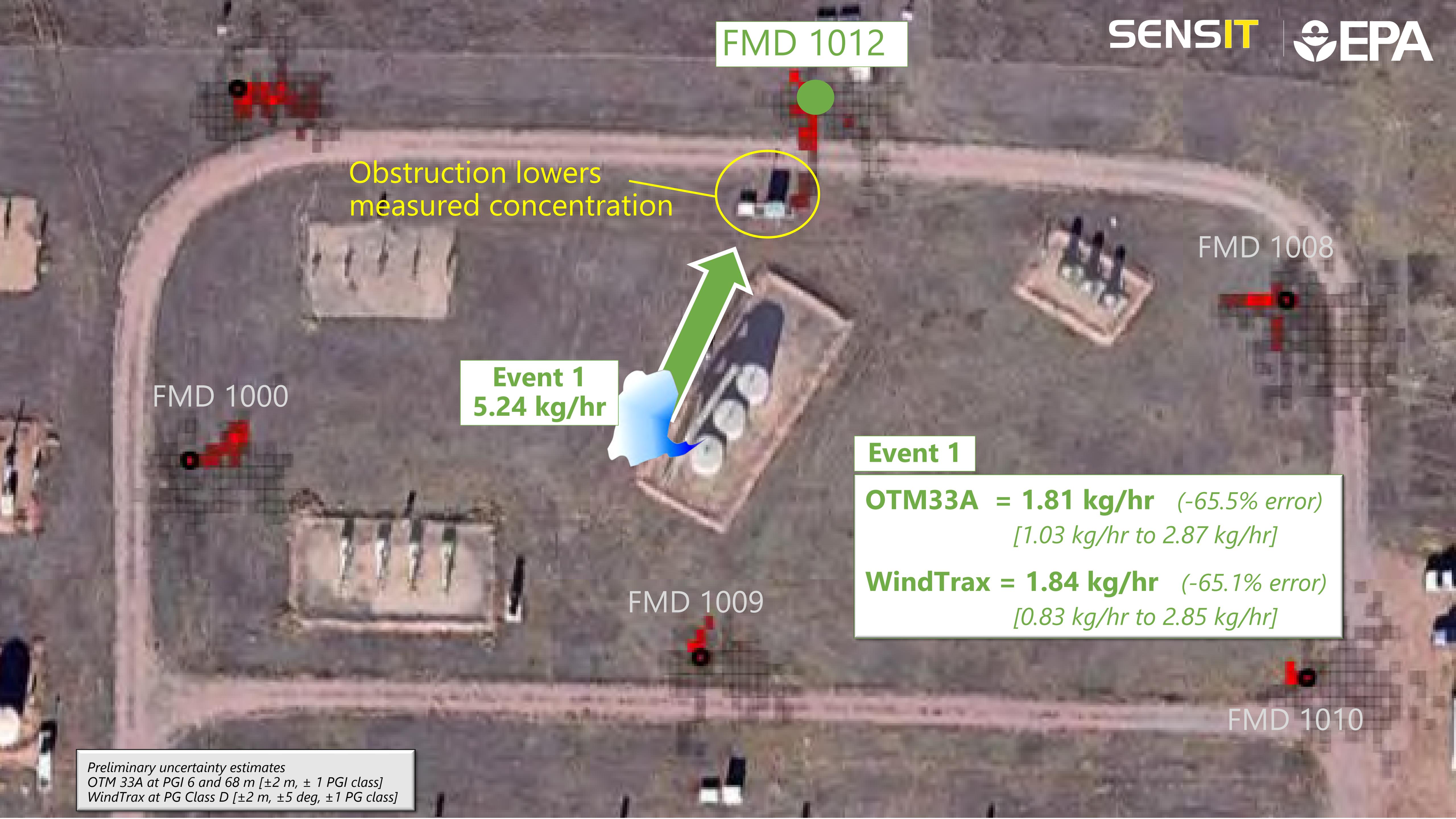
FMD 1010

# Measured Concentrations for quantification trials



<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)

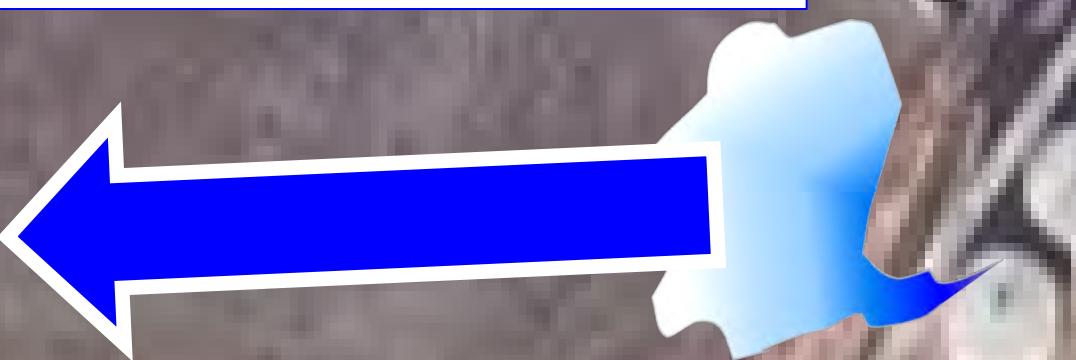
<sup>2</sup><http://www.thunderbeachscientific.com/> - inputs for bLs determined by OTM 33A max fit. Used Pasquil-Giiford (PG) Class D OTM33A PGI index 6



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

FMD 1000

**Event 2 and Event 4**  
**5.24 kg/hr**



FMD 1009

FMD 1012

FMD 1008

**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 1100

FMD 1012

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FMD 1000

Event 3  
5.24 kg/hr



FMD 1009

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]

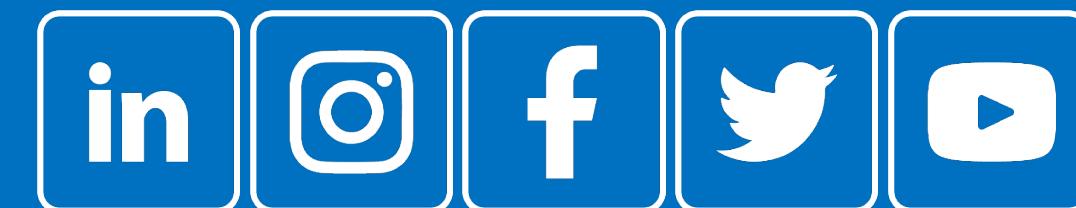
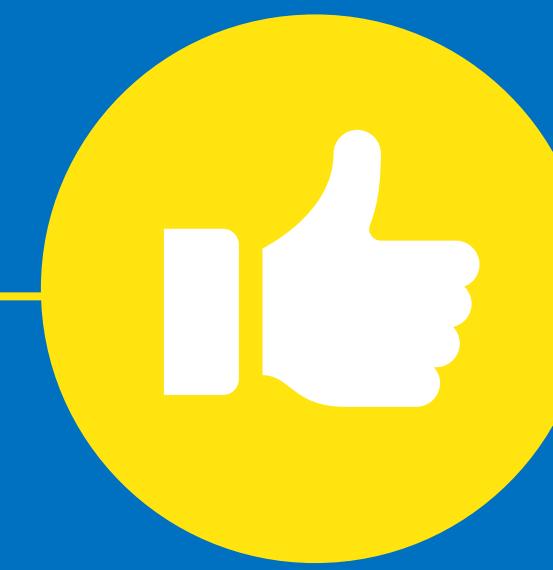
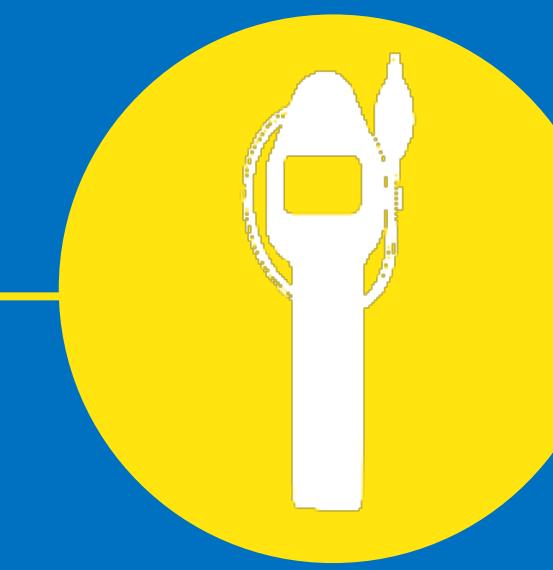
FMD 1008

FMD 1010

# 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)

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