

Aging Infrastructure: An Opportunity to Reestablish Public Trust and Secure Support for the Midstream Industry

Midstream industry has a responsibility to address the increased risks of incidents that cost

previous example more dangerous where help is not readily available. The inability to constantly monitor remote areas with aging infrastructure puts all who come in contact with undetected issues at risk.

To maintain and sustain current midstream infrastructure in the face of uncertainty, a solid maintenance program can be enhanced by adopting advanced monitoring technology. Midstream industry workers have acknowledged monitoring and maintenance gaps that technology can fill. In a survey conducted by True Transition, workers suggest enforcement of inspection schedules, limiting the amount of work one inspector can fulfill, and increasing the number of routine inspections and maintenance (Biven and Lindner, 2023, p. 55). A pipeline

foot searches for leak detection by 5 times (James, 2023). SoCalGas has also seen methane emission reduction through the use of helicopters and drones for monitoring (Bittner, 2024). Adopting monitoring technologies that quickly identify leaks mitigates the impact of emissions and the costs of lost product on the consumer, weighing social cost equally with commodity cost.

The midstream industry has an opportunity to reestablish public trust by being transparent and demonstrating that real action is being taken to improve monitoring of infrastructure for safe and efficient maintenance. To reinforce that all necessary precautions are being taken to safeguard human health and the environment, the public must be educated and involved in midstream monitoring processes. The growth of social media and increased availability of internet access gives corporations the tools to reach out to the public from any location at any

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